

Formation of the Queensland Philatelic Society

Stenograms.

BY "ALLEGRETTO."

The man who discovers a new want is only less great than the man who discovers the means of supplying an already recognised requirement. A new want means a new object of desire; a new object of desire means a new pursuit; and a new pursuit means a fresh form of happiness. Of course, when a man discovers a want, the want has already been there. What the discoverer does is to make us sensible of it. He simply points it out, and puts a name on it, and straightway we begin to long with all our might. Thus we in Queensland have long been disturbed by an uncomfortable "vacuum in our body corporate." There was the vague trouble of something unfulfilled, like that of a maiden who has not yet awakened to the consciousness of love, and in the meantime doesn't know what is the matter with her." But no sooner had Dr. Ellison diagnosed the case than we at once recognised that what our national system gaped for was a Philatelic Society. As that gentleman pointed out at a meeting of kindred spirits who have now formed themselves into such a body, "Queensland is the only country or colony which has not a Philatelic Society." We have been held up as "the Queen of the Colonies." There is not a writer on Greater Britain that has not singled us out as destined to greatness. We were so great that we were even considering whether we shouldn't divide ourselves into three. Yet we dimly felt that we were incomplete. We wanted something to "stamp" us as a nation, and, lo, here it is—a whole Society of Stamps. Thus, then, do we enter at last into the comity of nations, big people at 10s. per annum, little people at the small charge of a crown. I trust that the society will not be confined to Brisbane, but will ramify over the land until its transactions become so extensive as to attract the attention of the Colonial Treasurer and suggest a new source of revenue in the shape of an impost on stamps.

It may not have been generally known until a week or two ago that Queensland has hitherto existed without a philatelic society. At a meeting recently held this source of shame was removed, the chairman declaring that until that moment Queensland was the only colony or country unblest by a society of stamp collectors. He also indignantly combated the idea that philatelic pursuits formed a puerile hobby, this impression being clearly erroneous, since the Duke of Edinburgh is president of the London Philatelic Society, while the Czar of Russia, the King of Portugal, and the Prince of Wales are all ardent philatelists.

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