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NEWS OF THE MONTH.

Few if any events of so great importance in their bearing on philately have ever occurred as the death of the sovereign of the world wide British Empire. Over thirty different colonies and protectorates now issue stamps having Queen Victoria's portrait for design, and as it is now probable that in the near future these stamps will be replaced by others depicting the features of King Edward VII, during the first year of the century, we may see the issue of some 400 or more new colonial stamps. What will be the effect of this wholesale addition to the catalogues and albums it is difficult to tell. Will the new stamps tend to increase or diminish our ranks? When also it is considered, that Victoria's reign was the longest in the history of the British Monarchy, and that in the natural course of events, a reign of equal duration is impossible for several generations, hence changes in the stamps throughout the Empire must be more frequent in the future than in the past, therefore it would seem that collecting on the old lines is about at its end. The truly scientific plan of stamp collecting—the chronological one—seems destined to at last take the place of the prevalent clumsy alphabetical-geographical arrangement. This month there is little of an important character to chronicle in the way of new issues, the new set for Costa Rica, provisionals here and there, and a few odd values added to existing sets, make up the list.

ENTRANCES AND EXITS.

AUSTRALIA.—(*Stamps for the new Federation.*) Many of our contemporaries seem to expect an immediate issue of stamps for the Australian Commonwealth. We imagine that procedure similar to that followed when the provinces of Canada

were confederated will be necessary before the issue of stamps. On July 1st, 1867, our separate provinces were united under the title Dominion of Canada, a premier was chosen by the Governor General, who organized a cabinet or government; appeal to the electors was the next step, and the government having been sustained by the popular vote called parliament together early in 1868. The post office act was passed, and on April 1st the first Dominion stamps were issued; for some months after the old Provincial stamps were accepted on mail originating in the Province of issue, after which they became valueless for postage but could be exchanged for the new stamps. Probably a similar delay of about nine months will elapse before the stamps of the Australian Federation will appear, but as the postal revenue from the date of Federation belongs to the General Government, while much of the fiscal revenue is local, those stamps formerly available for both fiscal and postal purposes will have to be restricted to one or the other objects in order to keep a separate account of the funds collected. For this reason some of these stamps are now appearing surcharged "Revenue" to indicate their restricted use.

BELGIUM.—(*The reported 10c cards, carmine.*) In our August number we reported the forthcoming change of color of the 10c cards from brown to carmine, we learn that the letter cards only have been so changed, the post cards single and reply being still issued in the old color.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—(*1d., 4d. and 6d. in new colors.*) The following changes of colors have appeared in the official collections.

1d	black	and	carmine	formerly	ultra-
					marine
4d	"	"	olive	"	carmine
6d	violet	and	brown	"	green

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