

The Halifax Philatelist.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER, 1888.

No. 9.

Some Remarks on the Stamps and Envelopes of the New Republic.

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(From the Philatelic Record.)

THE New Republic was founded about three years ago in a similar way to that of the late Republic of Stellaland, now part of British Bechuanaland, by some filibustering Boers of Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Natal, who assisted Dimzulu, son of the late king of Zululand, Cetewayo, in putting down several Zulu chiefs who had rebelled against his rule. For their services they were paid in land, and after crowning Dinizulu king, they parcelled off the lands taking the greater part of the entire country. The remainder of Zululand and the Reserve (a strip of Zululand bordering on Natal) has lately been annexed by the Imperial Government, and is now under the Government of Natal, so that there is no chance of a second edition of the New Republic in that quarter.

In 1886 postage stamps made their appearance, and I think Jan. 9th of that year may be taken as the date of the issue, as I have never seen or heard of one bearing a prior date. The design is very simple being merely the name, value and date printed in plain type, and a small ornament in each corner. The stamps were printed with a hand stamp in lilac ink on blueish grey and yellow paper, in sheets of 180, consisting of twenty rows of nine. The perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$, but some stamps are found wholly imperforate, while in other cases some rows of perforation only are wanting. The impressions are frequently defective. I have had whole sheets in which there was not one defective impression, while in another case out of a part consisting of seventy-seven stamps, only five were free from defects. As a rule the stamps of the one penny and two pence were not so well printed during the first half of the year 1886 as the higher values, which were probably not so much required. In fact, postage stamps are more or less articles of luxury in this state as they frank only to places in the interior. To other countries Transvaal, Natal, &c., stamps of these countries must be used as was formerly the case in Transvaal and Orange Free State. It is curious at times to see what shifts are resorted to by persons not having sufficient stamps of one kind at hand at the moment. I have a Natal post card posted in Veyheid, and addressed to me, franked with a one-penny stamp of the New Republic, and two half-penny stamps of Transvaal as also envelopes with New Republic, Transvaal and Natal stamps mixed, which all passed through the post unchallenged.