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INTERESTING NOTES.

The local printings of the New Zealand Islands are coming out very slowly. They seem to be in no particular hurry to print from the postage series of plates. Report says they are waiting for watermarked paper. If that be so, then the present printings on unwatermarked paper will be worth preserving, especially unused. So far I have seen local printings of the 2½d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 2s and 5s. They are all perf. 11; that does not exist in the Waterlow printings. Meanwhile, old types, all perf. 11, are being used plentifully, but the shades vary from former printings.

There is to be a new issue of stamps for the French Congo. The work is to be in the finest style, and the set should prove an attractive one. The values from 1 cent to 15 cents will show a design of a panther at bay, watermarked with a whistle; those

from 20 cents to 75 cents will show a female of the tribe of Bakalols, ornamented with a branch of the rose tree; those from 1 fr. to 5 fr. will have as a design an alley of coconut trees in Libreville, and as a watermark a branch of olive.

The Dominican Republic is issuing a commemorative series. The four higher values are the 20 centavos, representing Trocennelli replying to Columbus; 50 centavos, Las Casas defending the Indians; 1 peso, Columbus in the Junta of Salvencia; and 2 pesos, Mausoleum of Columbus in the Cathedral of San Domingo.

All the obsolete stamps of the island of St. Vincent remaining in the hands of the Government with the exception of the 4d. yellow, 6d. lilac, and 5s. lake, have been destroyed. The entire quantity thus disposed of consisted of 809,000 stamps.

A series of Australian stamps surcharged for the Orient has appeared.