

to a syndicate or company, but while it is probable that more than one individual was interested in the matter, it is not clear that the sale was made to one person. He was not in a position to give any opinion as to whether well known philatelists were communicated with in connection with the disposal of the stamps.

In reply to the question as to the total number of stamps sold, all he had to say was that he was not in a position to give the House any information on that point. He had in his possession a communication addressed to him by the retiring Provincial Secretary, in which the circumstances attending the sale was brought to his notice, and it was said that it was distinctly understood between the government and purchaser, that the exact quantity of stamps sold was not to be made known. This was considered an important condition of the sale, and he understood that it was a condition that would be insisted upon by any purchaser who entered into business negotiations of this character.

In reply to the question as to whether any stamps remained unsold, he would say there were none so far as he knew. This was all the information in his possession in respect to the sale of the stamps.

Dr. McKay said that the question asked was whether the Province realized the amount of money from these stamps that should have been received.

Hon. Mr. Murray said it was considered a remarkably good sale had been made, and he might say to the honorable member that the very people who bought the stamps, would be only too glad now to return them and get their money back, as down to that time they had not realized more than a quarter of the sum that they had paid. Some vendors in New York and London who were told in confidence of the number of stamps for sale, had offered very much less for them than the parties who finally bought them.

Dr. McKay asked whether if the stamps had been placed upon the market in blocks they could not have been disposed of for a larger sum.

Hon. Mr. Murray said that no doubt that a larger amount might have been realized for the stamps if they had been put on the market one by one, but he did not think that would have been good policy, and it was a policy he would not like to see the government pursue.

## FORGERIES.

Divers of our contemporaries give warning on the subject of the following imitations, most of which emanate from an Italian source, and some of which are good enough to be dangerous. They may be met with unused, used, and on the original letter!

Austria and Austrian Italy—envelopes of 1861, reprints with forged addresses and obliterations.

Brazil—1st issue, on original letters.

Cape of Good Hope—triangular, all values.

Gambia—4p and 6p imperf;  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2 and 6p, 1880 issue.

Ionian Islands—the three values.

Italy—with forged surcharges, "Esterro" or "Eritrea."

Mauritius.

Naples—all the engraved stamps, and some of the 1861 issue.

Nevis—1p and 4p.

Nova Scotia—the CENTS issue.

Parma—1859, 80c.

St. Helena—all varieties of surcharge.

St. Lucia—various.

Sicily—1858.

Trinidad.

Tuscany—2 soldi, 3 lire.

Zululand—forged surcharge on 5sh of Great Britain.

Zurich—4 kreuzer.

" 6 " " various types.

A fine list, to which we have no doubt "and others" may shortly be added, if the ingenious manufacturer of them does not receive some attention from the Italian police.—S. G. MONTAGNA.