

TURKS' ISLAND STAMPS AND PROVISIONALS.

(By Henry Hechler.)

In the year 1866, Turks' Island issued its first postage stamps,—a set of three. They bore the following design, and were nicely engraved:—Head of Queen, crowned, face in profile, turned to the left, value in words beneath in arc, "Turks' Island" in similar arc above head, printed on somewhat coarse, stout paper, with a star above, and two parallel horizontal water lines below. The values and colors were:

1 Penny.....Bright Red.
6 Pence.....Black.
1 Shilling.....Blue.

In 1870, the color of the 1d stamp was changed to lake, and the 1s. was changed to prune.

Ten years later, (1880) a new set was issued. These were printed on thinner and smoother paper than their predecessors, and this gave them a much neater appearance. They also bore a crown as a water mark. The colors were as follows:

1 Penny.....Bright Vermillion.
6 Pence.....Olive Brown.
1 Shilling.....Green.

When Turks' Island, in 1881, entered the Postal Union, she had to adopt new values. In the beginning of that year, consequently, she issued the following provisionals:

(1.) The first issue (1866) were surcharged as follows:—

The 1d, bright red with $\frac{1}{2}$ in black figures in two distinct different types, one being much broader faced than the other.

The 6d of the same issue was surcharged with $\frac{1}{2}$ exactly the same as before described with the two styles of type.

The shilling of the same issue was also surcharged with $\frac{1}{2}$ in the same way, in both types. Of the issue of 1870 the 1s, prune, was surcharged in like manner in the two different types as above described.

We have thus eight varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. surcharges.

The 1d, 6d, and 1s. of the first issue were surcharged with $2\frac{1}{2}$ in figures in two distinctly different types, making four combinations. One being a broad block 2, accompanied by $\frac{1}{2}$ in slim type. The next was the same block 2, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ of the same font as itself. The third was a slim scroll 2 accompanied by $\frac{1}{2}$ of the font used in the first variety named: this was surcharged on the 6d. only. The fourth had 2 like that used in the second kind.

The 1s. prune of 1870 was surcharged in the same way as the first described variety of No. 2.

It would appear that the types of the figure 2, and of the $\frac{1}{2}$ were separate, and that those charged with the duty of stamping the surcharges used either of the fonts indifferently, thus making, at least, eight different varieties of this surcharge, all of which existed and are genuine.

(3.) The 1d. of the first issue (1866) surcharged with figure "4" in two styles of type differing just as did the inferior surcharges, one being a broad, compact figure, while the other was more slender and extended. An error here occurred in that the figure appears inverted on some of the stamps in both the surcharges.

The same figure in the different fonts was also surcharged on the 6d and 1s. of the first issue, and on the 1s. of the 1870 emission. The same errors noted above have occurred in all these. This makes 16 varieties of the "4" surcharged—that is, counting the four different values and and the two errors.

In the present year, 1882, the above provisionals were superseded by the regular British Colonial stamps. The design is as follows:—Diademed head of queen, facing to the left on linear octagonal disk, with ornamental angles, inscription and value in straight letters above and below. Water mark "C. A." surmounted by a crown. Color on white as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.....Green.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.....Brown.
 4 d.....Blue.

A Postal Union Card was also issued. The inscription is in four lines, with the Royal Arms in the centre, and reads as follows:—"Union Postale Universelle, Turk's Island (Iles de Ture). The address only to be written on this side." The color is buff. In the right hand upper corner is the adhesive—value $1\frac{1}{2}$ d,—same type as the current stamps, color of inscription and adhesive both brown.

A full set of the different Turk's Island stamps, therefore, comprises the following kinds:—

Issue of 1866.....	3
" 1870.....	2
" 1880.....	3
Provisionals of 1881 of $\frac{1}{2}$ d....	8
" " $2\frac{1}{2}$ d....	10
" " 4 d....	16 (including errors.)
Issue of 1882.....	3
Post Card ".....	1
Total.....	46

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