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The New U. S. Stamp.

For the commemoration of the holding of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha this year, Postmaster General Gay has decided to issue a series of special postage stamps. The denomination of these stamps will be one-cent, two-cent, five-cent, ten-cent and one-dollar. The issue lends the Exposition the prestige of Government recognition and support.

When these new stamps are issued, the present issue will not be withdrawn as at the time of the Columbian stamps but both stamps will be on sale at once. These stamps will be supplied to every postmaster and a large demand is expected from both collectors and the public in general who will prefer them during the Exposition period in place of the regular issue.

The new stamps will be of a marked artistic order, symbolical of the far West. Third Assistant Postmaster General Merritt who who is in charge of the selection of subjects has written to various artists, asking for suggestions in regard to the designs.

Some designs which would be very suitable for the stamps are those closely connected with the West. As the aim of the Post-

master General is to give the Exposition a series of stamps which will not only be artistic, but also to appeal to the people, one of the stamps might have on the face a reproduction of a celebrated painting, Fremont Hoisting the Flag on the Rocky Mountain. Another might be the well-known statue of the distinguished Western statesman, United States Senator Thomas H. Benton at St. Louis.

The colors of the new issue will be different from the regular. In shape they will be like the Columbian and will be twice the size of the regular issue. As was shown by the sale of Columbian stamps, the Government expects to make a nice sum out of these stamps. They calculate that about half a million collectors will seek for these.

When the Cabot issue appeared some speculators decided to buy up the 1c stamps. When this was done no 1c stamps were left to supply the business demand. To bridge over this difficulty, a 3c stamp of the old issue was surcharged 1c. The surcharge was two black bars, one at the top, the other at the bottom and one cent across the face.