

among which were a few  $\frac{1}{2}$ d blue, 1d rose, 3d blue, 4d brown, and 6d mauve. The designs on each being as previously issued.

In 1885 the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green ran short and 1d rose was provisionally surcharged "One-Half-penny" in black in two lines and the original value cancelled by a single bar.

In the same year the rate for colonial postage was reduced to 2d, and prior to receiving a supply of 2d stamps, the 3d, which for this provisional issue was pearl grey, was surcharged "TWO PENCE" with a bar below. There are two lengths of bars, some being longer and others shorter than the surcharge.

In 1887 a supply of 2d stamps came to hand the color being olive green. These stamps are in issue at the present time.

The next year—1888—the color of the 1s was changed to orange and surcharged "Postage" in red in a semi-circle under the head. There is a small variety of the surcharge in which the P of Postage is broken and very much resembles an F. In 1891, on Natal joining the Postal Union, the rate for foreign postage was reduced from 4d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per half oz., and while waiting for a supply of the new value the 4d brown was surcharged "TWO PENCE HALFPENNY" in black in two lines. These provisionals were only in issue a few months.

In the surcharge a few errors occur, "TWO PENCE HALFPENN" without the "Y," "TWO PENGE" with inverted surcharges, and I have also seen a strip of three stamps with the top and bottom stamp only surcharged once while the centre one has a double surcharge.

Towards the end of 1891 the regular issue came to hand, being "Queen's Head" in centre to left, inscription round and value in figures, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  below, color blue on white paper, watermark Crown and C A, perf 14.

In 1895 the supply of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps ran short and to meet the demand the Government made use of the remainders of

the 6d mauve fiscals and surcharged them in red "Postage" at the top and "Half Penny" below, the original value being cancelled by a bar. A few varieties also occur in this type, such as broken types, the most important being broken H resembling an F and reading "Half Penny" and broken V resembling V. These two varieties have been erroneously chronicled in many journals as errors.

On account of the small quantity surcharged and the unprecedented demand, the supply was soon exhausted. A few days later a second surcharge "HALF" on 1d rose was issued, which was in circulation for a few weeks before the regular supply came to hand.

On the 16th of March  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps were unobtainable, and in order to meet the demand the government issued a proclamation authorizing postmasters to frank envelopes "Halfpenny Paid," to denote the prepayment of postage. It is estimated that throughout Natal about 3,000 envelopes were franked in this manner.

The above article recently appeared in the South African Philatelist.

## COUNTERFEITS OF CANADA. NOVA SCOTIA.

THE two counterfeits of this Province in pence issues are looked upon as very dangerous forgeries. In the case of the 1d, the apex of the diamond-shaped centre should be nearer the O than the V of "Nova." In the fake it is at an exactly equal distance from either. In the original the Queen's eyebrows are very faintly visible; in the forgery they are distinctly marked. No other defects are noticed in this part of the stamp, while the beautiful engraving around diamond is skilfully copied. The words "One Penny" are slightly too far apart, and both the N's in the later word are precisely similar, which is incorrect, as the latter one should be slightly more massive than the first. In other respects the forgery