

ed but J, was changed to O. to stand for Charles. A set of 5 values followed in 1874. They are as follows : 2 cts. mauve ; 4 cts. brown ; 6 cents green ; 8 cents, blue, and 12 cents, rose. A revenue stamp was also issued, it was of the value of three cents and was printed in black on slate-colored paper. It is quite scarce in this country.

Costa Rica and its Postage Stamps.

BY J. WITTEMORE HALSEY.

Costa Rica is the smallest and most southern of the Central American republics. Area, 26,040 square miles. Population, 190,000. There are many volcanic peaks, the most important being Turriable, Chiriqui and Los Vostos ; 12,500, 11,265 and 9,840 feet high, respectively.

San Jose, the capital, is beautifully situated in a valley between two ranges of volcanic mountains. Population 30,000. Port Lemon, a thriving town on the coast, is the central point of export. All day long the vessels are loaded with immense quantities of bananas and coffee, which form the staple exports. Manufactured goods from Gt. Britain comprise the chief imports of the republic.

Freight is transported from Port Lemon, to within thirty miles of San Jose by means of an uncompleted railroad, which is in time to connect the two cities ; there it is transferred to mules, who complete the remainder of the journey which is none of the easiest.

The president, Don. Birnado de Soto is in power for four years and is assisted by two vice-presidents.

De Soto is about thirty years of age and commands the respect and confidence of the people.

The first series of stamps were issued in 1862, they were two in number, values

and colors as follows : $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue and 2 r red, were unperforated and of the following designs :—

A ship at harbor in a beautiful bay, overshadowed by lofty peaks and wooded heights, formed the centrepiece ; above, a wreath bearing the words "Correos de Costa Rica," below in label, "Medio real" etc., according to value ; a numeral in circle with labels at sides on which were the words representing value was placed at the extreme top, a wreathed frame surrounded the centrepiece completed the design.

The next issue, that of the following year, consisted of the same design with two new values added, namely a 4 r green and a 1 peso orange, these being perforated are not rare.

In 1881 ? + $\frac{1}{2}$ r blue, 2 r scarlet and 4 r green were surcharged with large numeral of value and the abbreviation, 'cts' in the following manner ; 2c on $\frac{1}{2}$ r blue, 1c on $\frac{1}{2}$ r blue, 2c on $\frac{1}{2}$ r blue, reading 'dos cents' 5c on $\frac{1}{2}$ r blue, with the letters U. P. U. added ; 10c on 2 r scarlet, and 20c on 4 r green, same letters added at the base. The latter values of this set are exceedingly rare.

In 1883 an entirely new design appeared, pattern as follows :—a bust portrait of Gen. Don Prospero Fernandez, whom De Soto succeeded as President, enclosed in oval, formed the centrepiece ; value was placed in the upper left and lower right hand corners, "Union Postal Universal Costa Rica," was enclosed in circle, value and date of issue appeared in broad labels in the two remaining corners and completed the design. Colors and values were 1c green ; 2c carmine ; 5c purple ; 10c orange, and 40c blue.

The envelope stamps issued in 1886 were two in number, the design consisted of the rulers portrait enclosed in circle, with slightly altered wording, they are not rare.