

UNDESCRIBED ESSAYS AND PROOFS OF NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE STAMPS.

THROUGH the courtesy of Mr. Alfred Van Dyk we are enabled to furnish our readers with a descriptive list of the very complete collection of these stamps in the possession of that gentleman.

As the majority have never before been described and as they have been gathered together by a considerable sacrifice of time and money, we venture to think the information will be acceptable to those of our readers interested in the early issues of Australasia.

PROOFS.

1. Sydney view printed on thick card; 4d., deep green.

2. Crowned head of Queen Victoria, to left, stars in upper corners and letters G. L. in lower ones. "Postage" in top and "one penny" in lower label, engine turning at the sides. On white paper; one penny, red, blue, black.

N. B.—There are three of these proofs in the collection of the G.P.O., one red, one blue and one with red centre and blue border, but they have been printed from a lithographic transfer of the original plate. The paper they are stuck on bears the name of Clayton, so that was probably the engraver.

3. (A). Crown in the centre of laurel wreath, stars in corners, "New South Wales" in the upper label and arched underneath (as in the Laureated series), the word "Postage," in the lower label, "sixpence," engine turning at the sides

(B). Crown surmounted with lion in the centre of a large oval garter overlapping the engine turned sides. Stars in corners. The garter is inscribed with "New South Wales." "Postage" in upper and "one shilling" in lower label.

These two proofs, which must have been engraved next to each other on the same plate were probably done by Carmichael; on thick white card paper, 6d. and 1s., black; on white wove paper, 6d. and 1s., red blue, black.

4. Queen on the throne, like the Victorian sixpence stamp of 1856, but labelled "New South Wales," white paper, watermarked 2. 2d. blue, (three shades.)

5. The sixpence of 1854, but of a beautiful purple. Paper watermarked 6; 6d., purple.

6. Issue of 1854.

A.—On thin paper 5d., black, 8d. black.

B.—On card, 1s., black.

7. Diedemed head of the Queen (issue of 1856). On card, 1d., black.

8. (A).—The five shilling stamp printed from the steel die on paper watermarked 5s, and showing the size of the die. 5 shillings, purple.

(B).—Proofs of the five shilling stamps in 12 different colors printed from the steel die on white paper.

(C).—Proofs taken from a lithographic transfer of the steel die. On card, 5s., grey-black; on white wove paper, 5s., gold, 5s., silver; on white paper with blue surface, 5s., black; on white paper with black glazed surface, 5s., gold.

9. Newspaper band of 1865, but with the stamp printed in black.

10. (A).—Proofs of stamps for the first (provisional) registration envelope. The stamp is similar to the embossed one issued on wrappers in 1874, but is marked two pence. In pairs on white wove paper. 2d.+2d. orange red, 2d.+2d. black, 2d.+2d. purple.

(B).—The same, but stamped singly. White laid paper, 2d., dull blue.

11. Proof printed from the die of the present registration stamp and showing size of the die. White paper, 4d., black.

12. Proof printed with electrotype of same on laid note paper, 4d., red,

—From Vindin's Monthly.

—The detectives of France are endeavoring to discover the persons who have been altering the inscriptions of the 10 centimes bronze coins of Napoleon III, by erasing his name and date, and substituting therefor BOULANGER I., 1888. It is believed to have considerable political effect.