

by kind permission of Mons. Moens."

The decree creating the postage stamps of that country is as follows :

BUENOS AYRES,

April 9th, 1858.

Considering the necessity of establishing a system of stamps for postal correspondence, and conformably to the proposition of the postmaster-general, the government grants and decrees :

1. That letters shall be franked by means of postage stamps, and that the post office shall not take charge of letters unprovided with such.

2. Supplementary to the decree* of June 27th, 1857, the value of these stamps shall be 2, 3, 4 and 5 pesos, according to the weight of the letters. A single letter shall bear a 2p. stamp on one of the corners of the envelope, a double shall have a 3p., a triple 4p., and a heavier letter a 5p. stamp.

3. (This article settles the weight of all letters under an ounce.)

4. (Provides for those weighing above one ounce.)

5. The sale of these postage stamps shall take place at the principal post office and in other places appointed for the purpose.

6. Whoever shall employ a stamp that has already been used shall be fined 5 pesos in addition to the postage, the first offence ; and 200 for the second, 300 for the third, and so on in proportion.

7. When the guilty party shall be unable or unwilling to pay the penalty, he shall be transferred to the proper official tribunal, for the infliction of

whatever punishment may be judged commensurate with the offence.

8. The stamps shall be fabricated at the Bank or the Mint, in presence of a commission appointed for that end. The manager shall register the number of sheets printed.

9. The forgers of postage stamps and their accomplices shall be liable to all the penalties fixed by the laws.

10. Both stamps and plates shall remain deposited at the Bank under the same restrictions as the plates of bank notes.

11. This decree shall be put in force a week after issue in the city, and a month in the provinces.

12. (Provides for the circulation of the decree.)

"Jose Barros Pazos."

This decree did not provide for the colors of the stamps, but the following were those adopted :

dos	pesos	azul	or 2p. blue.
tres	"	verde	3p. green.
cuatro	"	colorado	4p. vermilion.
cuico	"	amarillo	5p. orange.

They were put in circulation April 29th, 1858.

In consequence of a reduction in the charge, conformably to a decree of October 2nd, 1858, the postal authorities on the 26 day of that month omitted two new values similar to the type in use. These two values were :

: IN PS. coffee colored, or 1 peso dark brown, for letters weighing an ounce.

CUAT^o RS. chestnut, or four reales bright yellow-brown, for letters weighing half an ounce.

There are, moreover, the following varieties met with among these stamps.

* "What was the decree? Was it one approving the *Gaucho* series, which the writer seems to ignore?—Ed. Stamp Collector's Magazine."