

which is about 80 per cent. over catalogue.

We understand Mr. Holland's collection of Haytis, is now complete in blocks.

The Scott & Dieschbourg sale, was also an unqualified success, as far as prices go, the sale netting a little over half catalogue. Some handsome copies of Double Geneva, Vauds, etc., were among the lot.

A WARNING.

BELA SZEKULA AND HIS BUSINESS METHODS.

Last July I received unsolicited from this individual a quantity of worthless, demonetized Servian 1 dinar stamps, for which he wanted a page of advertising space. As my advertisers all pay in cash or its equivalent, I returned this stuff the same day it was received and suggested a cash remittance. In the mean time I wrote to the parties named by him as reference the N. E. Stamp Co. and others, and was informed that such reference was unauthorized, and they refused to permit their names to appear in his ads. Under such circumstances I declined to insert the ad. at any price. I have since received the following impertinent bluff on a post card.

BUDAPEST, Oct. 23, 1901.

SIR:—On July 10th, I sent you stamps value 30/- but up till now you have not responded yet to my demand. If you want to evade a lot of bother please insert my adv. as requested, that I may not be forced to put your name on the black list.

SZEKULA.

I notice that this individual is pursuing the same tactics towards Mr. Wolseffer, and has met with a well merited response from that gentleman. Dealers and collectors should be cautious in any transactions with him.

W. JAMES WURTELE.

CREAM OF THE MAGAZINES.

A PATCHED SHEET OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS.

Fortnightly readers will remember our story of the frugal French postmaster who skilfully patched a torn sheet of low-value postage stamps. That feat is matched by a case just brought to our notice by Mr. Rosenberg, of Woodville, New Zealand. From this gentleman we have received a corner block of four stamps of the New Zealand 3d. "Lina-bird" issue. In this case, for some reason, the perpendicular row of stamps to the left of the sheet has been removed, and a fresh row of stamps of a rather different shade inserted in its place. There is a neat patching at the back of the sheet by means of narrow strips of gummed paper. What the object could have been for this substitution, Mr. Rosenberg is unable to guess. He bought the stamps as sent to us at the Woodville Post Office. What makes the matter still more curious, is the fact that the inserted strip of stamps has been reperforated in order

to make it appear, at first glance, part and parcel of the sheet. None but a philatelist would have given the phenomenon a second thought. It looks as though somebody in the New Zealand postal department, gifted with deft fingers (but not blessed with a very keen eye for colour), had gone to extraordinary pains to make good a damaged sheet of stamps.—*S. C. Fortnightly*.

BANGKOK STAMPS.

The Kingdom of Siam not having a proper postal system up to 1882, all correspondence was sent by trading vessels to Singapore, the nearest port in regular mail communication with all parts of the world, and franked there, a system which was most unsatisfactory and led to the loss of many letters. There were several large rice mills in the city, causing a very extensive trade with Europe and other parts, and it was principally in consequence of the appeal or request made by these traders that the British Consul at Bangkok instituted a regular postal service from Bangkok down the Menam River to Singapore.

Letters had to be taken to the post office, which was within the precincts of the British Consulate, and stamped there, and they were despatched at regular intervals by couriers to Singapore.

The British Consul contemplated using the stamps of the Straits Settlements for the purposes of this service (no doubt considering it as dependant upon that of the Straits Settlements, and following the precedent set in the Levant and elsewhere). The King of Siam, however, is said to have made a representation to the effect that the franking of letters in his dominions with stamps bearing the head of the Queen would apparently signify that Siam was a dependency of the British Empire. As in local circles it was then fully expected that this would shortly happen, the British Consul declined to withdraw the stamps, but met the King's wishes half way by having them surcharged with a "B." showing that they were for special use in Bangkok. It is quite possible that some stamps without this surcharge may have been used at the commencement, but we have failed to obtain any official proof of this.

All the stamps were surcharged at Singapore.

The stamps of Bangkok were superseded on January 1st, 1883, by the stamps of Siam.—*S. G. Monthly Journal*.

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The German Post Office threatens an innovation which will affect correspondence; it is proposed to make it compulsory to use envelopes of a special size. The variety of sizes, especially in letters from Great Britain, causes loss of time to the German postal authorities in the stamping of postmarks, and they intend to put an end to it.—*Pearson's Weekly*.