

of 1860 to 1864 were surcharged horizontally all in black with the word "Postage," in four different kinds of type. The first had the word all in ordinary Roman capitals 2 mm. long, and followed by a full-stop (.) In the second the initial letter only was a capital, (2 mm. long) and there was also a period (.) at the end. The third was almost the same except that the capital "P" was 2½ mm. long. In the fourth kind the surcharge was in Roman capitals 2½ mm. long, and was not followed by a period. In the same year (1869) the 1 shilling green, type of 1864, was also surcharged in black in all the four different styles above mentioned. Of the first style the surcharge on some of the 1d. stamps was reversed as was that also of some of the 3d. stamps of the second type.

In 1870, to '73 the 1d., 3d., and 6d. of the type of 1860 to '64 were surcharged vertically on each side of the stamps with the word "Postage" (without a period) in block letters, 2 mm. long. This surcharge was in red on the 3d. stamps and in black on the two other values.

In the same years the 1 shilling green, of the type of 1864 was surcharged with the word "POSTAGE" in small block capitals, 1 mm. long in a curve following the inner lower line of the oval, and without a period following. These were surcharged in three different colors—green, black and carmine.

In July 1873 the 1 shilling red-brown fiscal was surcharged in black vertically in its centre with "POSTAGE" in Roman capitals, 2 mm. long (without period.) The same fiscal was also used in 1873 for postal purposes without any surcharge.

On the 1d. carmine, type of 1860, was in 1873 surcharged in black horizontally, the word "POSTAGE" (without period) in block capital letters 1½ mm. long.

In the following year (1874) the same stamp was vertically surcharged on each side with "POSTAGE" (no period) in Roman capitals, 2 mm. long.

In 1875 the 1d. orange and 6d. rose fiscals of the 1870 issue were used as postals without any surcharge.

From 1875 to '79 the word "POSTAGE" (without period) in Roman capitals, 2 mm. long was surcharged horizontally in black on the 1d. carmine, 6d. mauve and lilac, and the 1d. green of the types of 1860 to '64. In some of the 1d. stamps the surcharge was reversed. In 1877 the 1d. orange fiscal was used provisionally as postage with the same surcharge in black. In 1875 the 1d. rose, issue of 1874, was surcharged HALF ½ HALF in

black Roman capitals. The same stamp is also found with the word "HALF" horizontally surcharged in Roman capitals 2½ mm. long. The numeral ½ is found in various positions in different specimens—above the word "HALF," below it, in its centre, and on all parts of the stamp.

In 1877 we find the 1d. orange fiscal of 1870 used for postal purposes, and surcharged in black in two lines—"POSTAGE" in Roman capitals and "Half-penny" with capital "H"—and the original value is obliterated by three black lines. In some cases the surcharge is reversed.

In 1878 and '79 we find the postal 6d. mauve and lilac, type of 1862, and the fiscal 6d. rose, type of 1870, surcharged in black in two lines—"POSTAGE" in Roman capitals and "One Penny," capital "O" and "P"—and the original value in both cases obliterated by three black lines. Of this 6d. rose, fiscal, there are four varieties—the ordinary surcharge, reversed surcharge, double surcharge (ordinary and reversed) and surcharged with "One Penny" the word "Postage" being omitted.

Besides the above there exist the following which are indisputably genuine as well as old though we have not been able to obtain information as to their use:—3d. blue surcharged obliquely, "10d." in black and 1d. carmine with similar surcharge.

These, it will be seen, form no less than forty-four distinct varieties of provisionals and surcharges, besides regular issues that were in use in this colony in the single decade between 1869 and 1879—and the large majority of them for one-penny. Of course if we count as varieties the stamps in which the numeral ½ appears in different positions on the 1d. rose of 1874 as used in 1875, the number may be indefinitely increased.

It really seems, in view of all the facts as if someone in authority in connection with the N. S. Postal Department had exercised his best ingenuity to so complicate this provisional matter as to puzzle the most indefatigable and pains-taking philatelist.

POSTMASTER FAWCETT DEAD.

Right Honorable Henry Fawcett, Postmaster-General of Great Britain, died after a short illness on the 6th of November last. Though he was totally blind he was a thoroughly efficient officer. He was the author of many real improvements in the postal and telegraphs systems of Great Britain which are united in that country—for which the philatelic world owes him a debt of gratitude. His loss is sincerely mourned throughout the entire empire.

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