

New South Wales—The 6d has appeared in a new color. 6d orange.

St. Vincent—The pretty set of this colony have been replaced by those of the De La Rue type.

Straits Settlements—The 5c brown has been surcharged '4'—cents in two lines for Imperial 1d rate. 4c in black on 5c brown.

South Australia—The 6d blue has received the current surcharge O.S.

Official stamp—6d blue perf 13.

Notes of Interest.

Philatelic literature collectors are getting more numerous every day, or at least we seem to be hearing more of them than ever before. Every collector would find it to his advantage to keep files of a few of the leading stamp papers. The cost of this branch of our hobby does not come very high.

Neatness in your album shows off your collection, small or large, to good advantage.

There are some collectors who buy few stamps in winter but many in summer. They claim that as the weather gets warmer, prices come down.

The stamp dealers here are buying everything in sight in the line of Canadian maple issue and high value numerals. Not for some time has the dealer experienced such a harvest.

The day when advertising patronage in stamp papers was given out of courtesy to the publisher, more than for business is passed. The dealer nowadays advertises to sell and uses the mediums which are more apt to accomplish this purpose.

One of the beauties of stamp collecting is that there is something in it for everybody and the different channels of study are countless. Either sex, old and young alike can find it useful as a pastime or business.

It takes a brave man to tell his philatelic friend that one of the latter's cherished varieties is a counterfeit.

Some Varieties in the New Canadianians.

BY AMY L. SWIFT.

Our northern neighbor has been doing so much of late in the way of producing new issues that we do not have time to thoroughly search out the varieties in one set before it is followed by another which is in its turn soon obliged to make way for a still later, so in adopting the above title I mean it to take in the issues since the jubilee set of June 1897 down to the Commemorative 2c of December 1898. The regular values have all been duly chronicled as they appeared nadare well known, but there are several minor varieties which the would-be Canadian specialist ought to have in order that no breach or completeness may dispel his pleasure in his treasures, and it is these that I intend to

mention. Of course they have all been referred to before in some one or other of the various publications, but the notices have been so scattered and so far from uniform that there may be some collectors who, missing them, are still unaware that there is need to watch for anything except the different values, and it is for the benefit of these collectors that I have tried to gather up and combine the scattered notices.

In the set which followed the jubilee the "maple leaf" set it is commonly called, there are eight values, 1-2, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 cents, thus giving eight varieties, but it has been discovered that if "sizes of frames" are taken into account there would be a number more, how many I have never seen stated and do not think anyone really knows. By size of frame is meant the exact measurement from the outside edge of the outer line of the design to the opposite outside edge, either vertically or horizontally; taken vertically there are stamps where the measurement with vary fully one-half mm., giving rise to the descriptive term of "long frame" and "short frames." I do not know what horizontal difference is, but hear that there is a difference though not as decided a one in the vertical measurements. Some claim that the two sizes are caused by shrinkage or expansion of the paper used, but the explanation is not deemed thoroughly satisfactory because no part of the design itself seems to suffer any change from the normal, yet to suppose that two sizes of plates were used in the printing seems a supposition even more improbable than the other. Whatever the explanation, however, it is certain that the two sizes exist in at least the four lowest values, and it is also certain that besides appearing in the two measurements the 1-2c has the additional distinction of coming in two very different shades, gray-black and deep-black; curiously enough all the gray-black are found with the long frame, while all the deep black are with the short. What this portends the student is puzzled to decide, but it encourages him to believe that there is more in the two types than just a contraction of the paper, so he considers it best to give them album space until their status is a little better known.

In the "numeral issue," which gained its name from the numerals of value displacing the maple leaves in each lower corner, I have seen no mention of frame varieties nor have I hunted for any, but the 1-2c has been referred to as coming occasionally with the oval band surrounding the Queen's head unshaded as it is in the former set. Whether this is a real variety or one due simply to a surplus of ink in printing is not decidedly known; claim that there is but one such stamp on a sheet and that it is placed there as a guard against any possible forgery, but others pool-pool that idea and pin their faith to the more probable explanation of too much ink, saying that if the variety was intentional it would appear on every sheet of the stamps, something that it does not do. I have not seen this oddity myself and

have small faith in it, but mention it because it has been spoken of elsewhere.

The 2c of this issue comes in three distinct shades, one a reddish-purple, one a very dark rich purple and the other a shade between the two. Shades are hard to describe and are not usually worth much, but the first named two differ as broadly as do pink and carmine, and have in my opinion just as good a claim to be separately listed. Shades have also been mentioned as occurring in the 8c orange and yellow being the titles bestowed upon them, but these I have not seen.

Next, after the 10c special delivery in which no varieties have yet been described, comes the stamp issue in December to commemorate the establishment of penny postage between Great Britain and several of her colonies. The design is a map of the world with the British possessions printed in red, and so far I have seen four varieties of it, the difference lying in the tint of the back-ground, or rather, in that part of the map which represents the ocean. In the first printing this tint is lavender, but changes speedily follow and now in addition to the lavender I have specimens where the ocean part appears in light bluish-green, in much paler bluish-green, and in a deep striking shade of blue, "robin's egg" blue," one collector called it. These different tints are all found in unused stamps, so are in no way due to fading.

The red part of the design was put on so carelessly that hardly any two stamps have it all exactly the same (or in the correct) places; if these varieties were counted as differences there would be almost as many varieties as there are stamps, but they are wholly unworthy of attention and it is not likely that even the most devout of devout specialists will consider it necessary to make a collection of them, for which let us be thankful.—Stamp Talk.

Paic For Stamps With Bogus Checks.

Clarence Hill, a 17 year old lad of Hudson, Miss., has been held under \$500 bail by the Federal authorities for using the mail with intent to defraud. He secured consignments of stamps from dealers and then attempted to pay for them with bogus checks. —Alegheny Philatelist.

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