

TRANSVAAL STAMPS.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE)

In the current Transvaal one or two values are getting very scarce, and if they cannot be got in further quantities from the source of supply, they may appreciate considerably in value. The chief of these is the 4d value. Of this stamp the supply either used or unused is apparently very short and must our dealers. Of course there is the chance that supplies may be got via Lourenzo Marques. The 2d and the 1s values are by no means plentiful.

But a much more interesting question is what is happening just now in the Transvaal in the matter of postage stamps. Before the war broke out I heard that some values were all but exhausted, and already reverted to, the 2½d being surcharged 1d.

Then again, Mr. Kruger's portrait was being engraved for a new series. The probability is that the portrait has been completed and put into circulation. Who will be enterprising enough to secure a supply. I imagine a supply of Kruger's portrait stamps would sell like hot cakes.

Meanwhile the Capetown correspondent of the London Daily Mail says the Boers have surcharged Cape stamps "S. A. R." and value, for use in the occupied portion of Bechuanaland. This does not look genuine. It has more the appearance of clever plant or speculation of some stamp speculator. In the first place the Transvaal would be much more likely to overprint their

own stamps with the word "Bechuanaland" as they did in the case of Swaziland than to overprint such old lots of Cape stamps as they might find in the local offices. Again, they certainly would not surcharge "S. A. R." but as before "Z. A. R." for they call their country "Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek," and the initials would therefore be "Z. A. R."

No doubt the war will give rise to some rarities in the way of emergency issues, especially when the British once more occupy Pretoria. And, then what a rush there will be for Transvaal. Then those of my readers who have taken my tip and gone in for Transvaals will not rue the day they did so.

A. J. of P.

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