

and would ignore the overprint in the absence of special instructions. The representatives of the British post office employed runners to convey the ordinary mails is not suggested as it would be absurd. No civil department of any government would pay a man, either native or otherwise, £25 to risk his life in such a manner for ordinary postal requirements. It is therefore abundantly clear that such runners as these were were paid by private persons, newspaper correspondents, or were on military service only, in either of which cases the stamps so used had no significance at the Mafeking post office for regular service from Mafeking. When we couple the statement that these runners were not permitted to carry bags of any kind, had the letters secreted in the soles of their boots, to the naive announcement that follows, to the effect that of no single specimen of the twenty varieties are there more than 1,000 copies, it is really too funny for a sober philatelic's understanding. The "head of B.P." and the Cyclist stamps are admitted to be locals, and since permission could be obtained of the general commander for these labels it is not difficult to believe that a proposition to brand the stamps, that would eventually leave the country, in such a manner as to form a memento of the gallant defense they were making, would also meet with the same good-humored approval. We therefore would most strongly urge our friends to indulge in no excitement about these stamps, nor to pay fancy prices for them, at least until some more definite reason is produced for accepting them as anything better than a local issue, which is at the same time a memento of one of the events of this present war, which will most surely be handed down into history.—STAMPS.



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The subjects are :

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All copy to be in by Dec. 20th.  
 MSS. to be clearly written.  
 Successful names in January number.  
 No limit is set to size of article, but brevity and interest will be considered.  
 No MSS. will be returned.  
 All communications to be addressed to  
 The Canadian Philatelic Magazine,  
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Wm. R. ADAMS, Stamp Dept.

TORONTO, Can.