

SERVICE STAMPS.

Emission (Dec ?) 1871 : Stamps of the issues of 1864, '67, '68, and '69 with the surcharge "Service" in different colors and sizes, white paper, perf. 12½, w. m. k. crown and CC:—

(A.) Black and extended surcharge, size 14 mm. × 2½ mm., white, glossy, paper and white gum.

1d. blue, emission of 1869.

3d. rose, " 1867.

(B.) Black surcharge, high and condensed type, size 13 mm. × 3 mm., stout, rough paper, yellow gum.

2d. dark yellow, emission of 1868.

8s. " brown, " 1864.

1d. light-grey-lilac, " 1871.

(C.) Red surcharge, high and condensed type.

6d. brown.

2s. dark-blue.

Variety 2 s. dark-blue, unperf. i

(D.) Black surcharge, high condensed type.

4d. carmin, emission of 1864 ?

1s. dark-violet " " ?

NOTE.—The existence of the last two named is not authenticated.

LATER.—Since writing the above copies of Moëns' catalogues of 1872 and 1873 came into my hands, and I note that he mentions the service stamps, but he is not explicit. He does not say that they were in two different colors and of two types. I cannot understand how it is, after so much trouble as I took, those catalogues did not reach me sooner, but I feel compelled to make this note now that I have them before me, so as not to give my old friend Moëns reason for offence by omitting it.

 THE LOCAL STAMPS OF RUSSIA.

TRANSLATED FROM "L'ECHO DE LA TIMBROLOGIE," BY M. R. KNIGHT.

THE stamps of the local post offices of Russia, which some time ago excited the liveliest interest among collectors, seem of late to have fallen into disfavor, in my opinion undesuredly.

The explanation of this lies, I believe, in the shameless speculation which has arisen in the so-called local stamps of Norway, of Denmark, and especially of Germany.

By the way let us not forget that the last named country is an old offender, since from the beginning of philately it has inundated the market with the famous private stamps of Dresden and Hamburg, stamps that never existed, except for the use of collectors.

It is altogether different with the local stamps of Russia, and perhaps some information on this subject will be of interest to the readers of this Journal. It is well known that the immense Russian Empire is divided into vice-royalties, and these into provinces or *Semtivos*. Now, the postal