

Penny Postage.

From *Mail & Empire*.

To commemorate the establishment of the Imperial penny postage, on Christmas day, it has been decided to issue a special postage stamp of the denomination of two cents. The Postmaster-General has not fully decided upon the design, but several sketches are under his consideration, nearly all of which embody the Imperial idea. It is understood that the stamp will be in use for a limited period only. The reduced postage rates will be on letters passing between Canada and Great Britain and Ireland, British India, Newfoundland, and and the following African protectorates:—British East Africa—Uganda, Zanzibar, British Central Africa—the Niger Coast protectorate and the Niger Co.'s territory, the rate being two cents per half ounce, instead of five cents as heretofore. It is hoped that other portions of the Empire will have completed arrangements for adopting this reduced rate at the same time or shortly thereafter. Due notice will be given to postmasters and the public from time to time as to the countries or colonies to which the reduced rate will apply.

A Condensed Philatelic Encyclopædia.

Continued from Issue of Nov. 2nd.

By OSSEBAVER.

Cancelled. Marked by P. M. or postal clerk so as to be useless for postage. This is usually done by pen and ink, a hand-stamp or by a cancelling machine.

Card-board proofs. The first impression on thin card-board of a selected design as

it will appear when issued

Compound perforations. Perforations at the top differing in numbers from those at the sides.

Continentials. Common stamps from the countries of Europe.

Current Issue. Stamps in use by a country at the present time.

Counterfeits. Spurious stamps. Imitations of genuine stamps.

Diagonally cut. Bisected from corner to corner and each half used on separate envelopes as postage.

Die. The engraving of a stamp. This is usually metal and when the face is inked the impression when taken on paper makes a stamp.

Defective. Not perfect. Cut or mutilated in some way.

Design. A sketch, pattern or model, usually called an essay when applied to stamps.

(to be continued,)

IF I SHOULD DIE TO NIGHT.

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold corpse and
say,
Weeping and heartsick o'er my lifeless
clay—

If I should die tonight
And you should come in deepest grief and
woe
And say, "Here's that ten dollars that I
owe"—

I might arise in my large white cravat
And say, "What's that?"

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold corpse
and kneel

Clasping my bier to show the grief you feel
I say, if I should die tonight
And you should come to me and there and
then

Just even hint of paying me that ten,
I might rise the while;
But I'd drop dead again.—Ben King.