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The Philatelic Courier,

AND STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

Vol. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1883.

No. 5.

The Philatelic Courier

—AND—

STAMP COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

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HENRY HECHLER, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR,
184 Argyle Street,
HALIFAX, N. S., CANADA

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1883.

U. S. POSTAL NOTES.

On the 3rd of September the United States Postal Department will issue a sort of fractional currency, not unlike the "shin-plasters" of war times, which will be in the shape of Postal Notes. These notes promise to be a great convenience. They are to be used in the transmission of small sums of money through the mails, but it is possible that, especially in large cities, they may pass into general circulation as a part of the currency. The notes are printed in books of 500 forms each, with the address of the post-office from which they are to be issued printed on each note. The pages of the books are perforated, so that when the notes are torn out stubs remain to show the amounts for which they were issued. A note can be filled out by a postmaster for any amount not exceeding \$5, at a cost to the sender of three cents for each note. The notes are made payable to "the bearer," and they can be used as fractional currency in any place to which they are sent. It is not probable that this idea, quite a new experiment in the United States, can prove other than a great public convenience. In such event we may look for its early introduction into Canada, where it would unquestionably be a great boon.

A NEW HAWAIIAN SERIES.—An attentive correspondent in these islands very kindly gives us advanced notice that a new series of stamps, cards and envelopes will shortly issue for the Hawaiian Kingdom. They will be as follows:—

Stamp, 25 cts., statue of Kamahameha I in profile.

do. 30 cts., portrait of Lunalilo.

do. 50 cts., profile head of dowager Queen Emma.

Reply card, 2 x 2c.; stamped envelope, 2c.; stamped envelope, 5c. The latter three will bear a view of the City of Honolulu as taken from the sea in the upper right-hand corner.

Our friend further writes:—"The colors for these various issues are not yet fully decided upon. Will write you when they are."

From other sources we ascertain that the new issues have been designed and will be executed in New York which is a guarantee that they will artistically and mechanically rival any others in use anywhere. New York designers, artists and printers to-day stand at the head of their professions and Hawaii has, we think, acted wisely in entrusting this work to their hands. She is sure to get something of which she will have reason to be proud.

The Imperial Postoffice of Germany publishes a catalogue of 8,412 newspapers, for any one of which subscriptions can be received at any postoffice in the Empire. Of these, 5,550 are in the German language, 1,022 in French, and the others in nearly all the languages of the civilized world.

TO POSTMASTERS.

THE EDITOR will thank Postmasters for all information they will kindly send, respecting new issues of stamps, cards, and envelopes, or on the subject of changes in important mail routes; and in fact for any news respecting new postal arrangements. Our object is to utilize the large circulation of the COURIER, which goes over the whole world, to make public all change.

AUX MAITRES DE POSTE.

LE REDACTEUR sera bien aise de remercier les maitres de poste que lui feront la bonte de donner de temps a autre les informations les plus recentes sur les nouvelles emissions de timbres, cartes ou enveloppes, et aussi au sujet de tous changements de routes-malles; enfin sur toutes les nouvelles a propos des reglemens postaux. Notre but est de transmettre a tous les quartiers du monde les informations importantes, lequel nous permet la grande circulation du COURIER, couvrant le monde entier.

Les personnes qui aront recu plus d'un exemplaire de ce numero sont prices de les transmettre aux philatelistes de leur connaissance.

SUBSCRIBERS

To the PHILATELIC COURIER may receive back numbers on application, accompanied by a remittance of value.

As our circulation is now so large that it entails a heavy expense in postage, friends abroad ordering extra or specimen numbers will please enclose with their orders a stamp to pay return postage.

THE first postal law of the United States went into effect in 1792. The rate on a single letter was six cents within 30 miles, increasing proportionately until it was 25 cents for 450 miles and over. In 1810 the rates were lowered slightly by charging eight cents for 40 miles and so on up to 25 cents for 500 miles. In 1816 the rates were six cents for less than 30 miles, ten cents for 80 miles, 12½ cents for 150 miles, 18½ cents for 400 miles and 25 cents for a longer distance. This law remained in force 30 years. In 1845 the rates were greatly simplified, a letter under 300 miles being five cents, and over 300 ten cents. In 1847 stamps were introduced, and the rates fixed according to weight instead of distance. Cheap postage in the United States really dates from 1851 when the rate was made three cents within 3000 miles on prepaid letters.

MONEY ORDER DEFECTS.

Our money order system works well, and is a great accommodation on the whole, to the public. Still, like all human devices, there are little defects that crop up occasionally arising chiefly from differences in currency in different places.

For instance, a person desiring to remit per money order hence to Newfoundland will be assured that his correspondent will receive a certain amount. But the Newfoundland postal authorities will deduct the difference in the currency, and will only pay the remitter an amount reduced by 1 per cent. to equalize the value of the coins of the two colonies. If this principle is carried out in money transmissions to all places, or even to any considerable number of localities outside of Canada, no one can be sure that he sends what he thinks that he does. It would be wise, therefore, on the part of the Department to provide its money order clerks with full and accurate tables, showing exactly what any given amount paid into an office in the Dominion will realize in each foreign country to which money orders can be sent.

Another defect is, that whereas the agreement to mutually accept money orders exists between Canada and all the European nations—except the Danubian Principalities, Turkey, and perhaps a few other inferior states—the postal authorities in this country refuse to grant the sender the option as to what place within the agreement he shall make his order payable, in the event of his desiring to send money to some place outside of said agreement, and insist that the order shall be payable only at London. Thus, if one desires to remit to any, Servia, Bulgaria, etc., he is not allowed to make his order payable in any of the Eastern or continental countries, but is forced to draw upon London. This

is manifestly unfair to the public, as it must inconvenience the receiver as well as the sender. It is evident that the place on which the order should be drawn is that nearest to the receiver, as it does not affect the administration of the postal department, while the probabilities are largely in favor of its being more convenient to the party in whose favor the order is drawn. Again, it is far easier for purposes of identification, that the paying and receiving offices in such cases be situated in as near proximity as possible. It is probable that the smaller states to which we have alluded, have postal arrangements with their neighbors, in which Canada does not share, and that, while they will not directly accept our money orders drawn upon themselves, they are in a position to utilize and pay those drawn upon adjacent countries. This being the case, the local postal officer can more easily and in less time communicate with and be identified by the postmaster at the capital of a country near him, by whom the order may be made payable, than is possible in the case of his being obliged to send to London to get it cashed.

It will be readily seen that this is simply a question of accommodating the public, without in any way burdening the postal department, and we trust that the Hon. Postmaster-General will at once give the matter serious consideration, and issue the necessary orders that the inconvenience complained of be speedily ended.

OUR EXCHANGES.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—"Monitor Des Timbrophiles," "The Stamp World," "El Bogotano," "The New Jersey Philatelist," "The Stamp News," "Welt-Post," "Collectors Bureau," "Giuardel Colleccionista," "Philatelistische Berichte," "Weekly Gazette and Newspaper Reporter," "Erdball Merkur," "Globus," "Lakeside Philatelist," "Old Curiosity Shop," "Granite State Philatelist," "General-Anzeiger Philatelic," "Collectors' Library Table," "Junior Record," "National Philatelist," "Union Exchange List," "Western Herald," "Monthly Echo," "Empire City Philatelist," "Philatelic News," "Universal Penman," "Our Own Fireside," "Diario de Centro-America," "N. S. W. Philatelist," "Canadian Mining Review," "La Patria," "Monthly Utopian," "Our Home," "Monthly Reporter," "Philatelic Headlight," "Shareholder," "Short-Hand Writer," "Natal Mercury," "Curiosity Collector," "New Era," "Feuille Official," "New York Sun" and Philatelic Advertiser."

RARITIES.

Dealers desiring varieties at special prices in quantities will please write for our private list.

Special attention is invited to my assortment of Provincial stamps, viz., Newfoundland, P. E. Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

HENRY HECHLER,
Importing Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps,
184 Argyle Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA STAMPS AND ITS PROVISIONALS.

(BY HENRY HECHLER.)

Since writing the article on the above subject that appeared in No. 4 of Vol. I of this journal we have made the fullest efforts by correspondence, and all other available means to obtain precise information and to reach the bottom facts in the matter. The following is the result:—

Previous to the confederation of the British North American Provinces the various local post offices throughout Nova Scotia, received their supply of stamps from the G. P. O. in Halifax. In 1861 a post master in one of these local offices, having run out of their current issue of stamps, and having on hand a small quantity of the obsolete issue of 1850 conceived the idea of surcharging the latter so as to make them available for current use. Thus he surcharged the 3d stamps with "5 cents" (the then regular rate) the figure just on the crown and the word below it. Some of these surcharges were in black and others in red ink. The 6d was similarly surcharged also, but the specimens that we have seen are only of those in black, though we are assured that red ink was also employed.

As these provisionals were only issued from one office and for a very short time they are, naturally, among rarest stamps known to the philatelic fraternity. With much difficulty, almost in fact by accident, I secured a few specimens. They were in the possession of an old gentleman who, though not a philatelist, was struck at the time by their oddity and preserved them.

Learning of my enquiries he offered them to me, being evidently impressed with the idea that he had something of great value to dispose of. Most of them were, however, so badly mutilated as to be almost worthless.

At our first interview I made him so liberal an offer that his estimate of their value rose immensely, and it required considerable negotiations before we could reach a mutually satisfactory basis on which the stamps in question changed hands.

During twenty-four years experience in the science of philately I have inspected many catalogues. I find them all to be in error with regard to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick stamps, in that that they give 1857 as the first date of issue, whereas I have in my possession several entire letters bearing stamps, the postal obliterations on which prove them to have been in use long before that year. For instance, one shows that it was forwarded from Miramichi, N. B., Sept. 20th, 1851, and was received in Halifax two days later. The postal marks on this letter are peculiarly plain. I have several others of 1852, '53, '54, etc. This establishes beyond question the fact that stamps were in use in these provinces at least six, (and I incline to think seven) years prior to the date credited by dealers' catalogues.

In order to thoroughly post my readers as to Nova Scotia stamps I here submit the following chronological and descriptive catalogue of all regular and provisional stamps that have ever been used in this peninsula. This, taken with the article published in a previous number, referred to above, will give our readers complete and correct information on the subject.

In 1850 the first Act authorising the issuance of postage stamps in Nova Scotia was passed by the Provincial Legislature. This Act was in pursuance of a permissive Act of the Imperial Parliament previously passed, and the stamps thus ordered were to comply in their denominations with the currency of the time.

The issue of this year composed a set of four all printed on blue tinted paper and diamond-shaped. The set consisted of a 1d stamp, printed in red-brown color, which bore a bust portrait of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and a 3d, printed in blue, a 6d in green and a 1s in violet. The latter three each bore a crown in the centre in an octagonal space and having on the outer sides respectively the inscriptions "Nova Scotia," "Postage," and the value in words. In each corner also is the value in figures. Just inside this outer band at each corner is a star partially surrounded by a semi-eclipse, each bearing a national emblem, a rose, a thistle, a shamrock and a mayflower, representing the three divisions of the United Kingdom and Nova Scotia. This design was retained till 1860.

In 1858, however, the 3d and 6d stamps were produced on white paper instead of blue as before.

During the ten years that these stamps were in use—between 1850 and 1860—the mail service was dependant on coaches, sailing vessels and other slow and uncertain means of conveyance. In consequence some country offices, that were not largely supplied with stamps from the head office at the capital, were driven at times to adopt the device of halving and even quartering them to meet the demands of persons corresponding by mail. The following cuttings of stamps are known to have been thus used:—

The 1s has been three-quartered, halved and quartered to take the place respectively of 9d, 6d and 3d. The 6d has been halved diagonally to supply the lack of 3d stamps. This makes a direct variety of four provisionals. Of course the variations could be much extended by taking each of the different portions of a so divided stamp as a separate stamp, but this is not necessary as one instance of each is quite sufficient to be shown in a collection. However it is worthy of any collector's notice that the genuineness of more of these provisionals cannot be guaranteed unless enough of the wrapper is retained to show the entire post office obliteration.

In 1860, Nova Scotia having adopted a decimal currency, it became necessary to order a new series to comply therewith. Accordingly in that year stamps of six different values were issued. The first three bore the Queen's head in profile. The latter half of the series had her bust in full-face and wearing a diadem. These stamps were in shape an oblong-rectangle. At the top was the inscription "Nova Scotia" and at the bottom the value. The respective values and colors of this series were, 1c, black, 2c, mauve, 5c, blue (of this there were two varieties; one was on white paper and the other on blue-tinted), 8½c, green, 10c, vermilion and 12½c, black.

We have seen halvings of the 10c stamps of this series made both diagonally and perpendicularly. This makes a possible total of this series of eleven. Added to other provisionals mentioned the entire list of Nova Scotia stamps comprises twenty-nine all told.

In this connection it is proper to remark that shortly after the Act of Confederation was passed, (in 1867,) and a new series of Canada stamps had been issued for the use of the whole Dominion, an offer was made to the Provincial authorities by a certain party to buy the entire lot of unused stamps then on hand for \$1,600 and that this offer was refused. It appears that the powers of the day thought that Nova Scotia had made such a good bargain that she could better afford to burn than to sell her obsolete stamps. If these stamps had been kept till the present day they would be eagerly bought by foreign dealers at their face values at least, and thus would have been a valuable adjunct to the revenues of the province, and proportionally have lessened local burdens. We do not know of a similar want of foresight on the part of officials anywhere.

U. S. MONEY ORDERS.—The official report on the money order business transacted by the Postoffice Department of the United States during 1882 shows a total of \$63,101,347.54, or about 12 per cent. larger than in 1881. The number of money orders issued was 67,170, valued at \$1,401,858.27, paid and repaid, 902,928, valued at \$8,566,796.61; postmasters' deposits, 20,324, valued at \$24,176,372.21; drafts to postmasters, 23,617, valued at \$11,024,269.33; bills of exchange, \$4,765,973.86; Postmaster General's checks, \$1,838,775.15; deposit to Postmaster General's credit, \$1,988,713.09; money orders received and certified to Europe, 467,424, valued at \$8,236,469.06.

POSTOFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—The balance to the credit of depositors in the Canadian post office savings bank at the end of the year 1882 was \$2,998,368 in advance of the sum to the credit of depositors at the end of 1881. The balance on hand on the 31st December last was \$10,840,642.

PERSIAN ENVELOPES.—The government of the Shah has shown for several years a disposition to adopt in postal matters the methods of Western civilization and has met with an agreeable amount of success in introducing them to its people. The postal envelope was introduced some time since but the public have, so far, proved themselves unequal to the task of comprehending its intended mission. They have evidently regarded the corner bearing the stamp as the only valuable part of the envelope as they have clipped that portion out and pasted it upon the wrappers that contain their correspondence. A valued correspondent in that country has, in illustration, sent us specimens of letters bearing three or four of the adhesives that had been cut from envelopes and affixed to letters as above described.

He further remarks that the government, making due allowance for the ignorance of its people in this respect, has allowed these to pass unchallenged. As this state of things cannot long continue wrappers bearing adhesives cut from envelopes must in time become valuable if a sufficient portion of the wrapper is preserved to show the entire postal obliteration.

Collectors will, therefore, do well to preserve any such that may come into their hands, i.e. if they are preserved as noted above. They should be classed in catalogues and collections as adhesives.

A THREE CENT STAMP WORTH \$100.—In 1846, while awaiting supplies from the department at Washington, the postmasters of certain cities were authorized to issue stamps temporarily. Among others issuing was the Postmaster of Brattleboro, Vt. Eight hundred stamps were printed, and of these one-half were burned. Collectors have been in search of some of these stamps, and it was considered a hopeless matter to procure one of them. One collector, however, who was shrewder than the rest instituted a search for the engraver, whom he found residing in Springfield, and he had still remaining seven of the precious squares, which he disposed of to the collector for seventy-five cents each, besides furnishing indubitable proof of the genuineness of the issue, the very existence of which was doubted. The fact of the purchase leaked out and a dealer offered \$1 apiece for six of the seven. This was refused by the original purchaser, who demanded five times that sum, and before the money reached him, although it was sent with promptitude, he had an offer of \$10 apiece. Being an honest man, he struck to his first offer, and parted with six for \$30. The most precious of the lot, which bore the engraver's name, he retained possession of, and this is the one he has now sold for \$100.—[Boston Traveller.

THE ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The idea of an adhesive stamp affixed to a letter, as indicative of the payment of postage, is much older than has been generally supposed. It is known that the first suggestion of such an arrangement in modern times came from Rowland Hill, the father of the cheap postal system in England, about the year 1839 or 1840. It was several years, however, before his suggestion was carried into effect. History, however, tells us that the ancient German cities of Thurn and Taxis had such a system, which for some inexplicable reason, fell into disuse or failed to become general among nations. The modern postage stamp was much used in England about the year 1842 or 1841. In 1845 E. A. Mitchell, the then Postmaster of New-Haven, taking advantage of the English idea made use of a postage stamp of his own, which he continued to use until 1847, when the Government of the United States issued the first American postage stamps. They were in two denominations.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.—A cheaper class of stamped envelopes, called "Commercial Envelopes," are now sold to the public at the following prices:—1d. envelope 1½d.; 2, 2½d.; 3, 3½d.; 4, 4½d.; 5, 5½d.; 10, 10½d.; 20, 1s. 9d.; 240, 21s. The existing B and D sizes will cease to be issued by the Controller of Stamps, Inland Revenue, when the present stocks are exhausted.—[English paper.

The heaviest requisition ever drawn for postage stamps was forwarded from the New York Post Office the other day, the number of stamps called for being 21,220,000, representing \$453,000.

The receipts of the United States Post Office Department for the quarter ending September last year were \$10,545,000; expenditures, \$10,183,000. During the same quarter of the preceding year there was an excess of expenditure amounting to \$196,000.

NEW ISSUES
Of Adhesives, Post Cards,
and Envelopes.

Angola has added a new value—40 reis yellow, to its set.

Asora.—The several values of the issue of 1871-80 have been surcharged in small type, with the name of the colony, as have also the envelopes. This was a temporary device. The new type of Portugal has been similarly surcharged, and has superseded the above.

Bavaria.—The new post-cards of this country—5 pf, violet on chamois, and a reply 5x5 pf, violet on olive, have been adopted. The stamp in the upper right-hand corner is of a new design, a large figure 5 occupying the center on a checkered background, surrounded with ornamental scroll-work.

Belgium.—The new "letter card" has been adopted here. It is about the size and shape of a reply card. The interior edges are gummed, and just within the gumming the card is perforated around. The card is creased or folded in the middle. The idea is that a person may write on the inner side of the letter-card, and then seal it. An inscription across the left end of the face of the folded card instructs the recipient to tear off the edges outside of the perforation. This done, the letter may be opened without in any degree injuring the letter. The inside surface on which the letter is to be written is white; the exterior is rose. It has the current 10 centime adhesive in blue on the upper right-hand corner, and the inscription in French, "Carte-Lettre Pour L'Etranger," and below it words to the same effect in Dutch.

Bolivar.—A new set has issued. The general design of the various denominations is much alike, but each varies in minor details from the other. The values are as follows:—

5 Centavos.....	Ultra-marine.
10 "	Lilac.
20 "	Carmine.
40 "	Brown.
80 "	Green.
1 Peso.....	Orange.

Bosnia and Herzegovina have run short of the ordinary postals in certain values, have authorized the use of the 1 and 4 novics fiscals (both rose) in lieu of postage stamps.

Ceylon.—Two new provisional cards have been introduced. They are 8 and 12 cents both surcharged on the current 2-cent card, mauve.

Chili.—Two new cards have issued. They are larger than the ordinary postal cards. On the upper right-hand corner is a shield resembling that of the adhesive, and surrounded by a wreath of laurel. The usual instructions and inscriptions occupy the upper part of the cards. The values and colors are 2 centavos, red on grey, and reply 2x2 in the same colors.

Costa Rica.—The following provisionals have been used:—1 centavo on half real, blue and red; 5 do. rect. on half real, blue; 10 do. on 2 reals, black and red; 20 do. on 4 reals, black and green. A new set has superseded the above, viz: 1c., green, 2c., carmine, 5c., puce, 10c., orange, and 40c., blue. These stamps are handsomely designed, and bear a portrait of the President of this State, encircled by the inscription, "Union Postal Universal Costa Rica." The value in large figures occupies each of the three corners, while the date, "Anno 1883" occupies the upper right. The word "Centavos" forms a straight line across the foot of the stamp.

Cruzco.—The 15c. brown post-card has been surcharged 7½c. in black. We have also seen the 12½c. orange surcharged with 7½ in reverse.

Cyprus.—The surcharge, 30 paras, has been in some instances put on a 1 piastre stamp twice.

Ecuador.—The 1 real orange has been surcharged 4 centavos in black.

Granada Confederation.—Of the issue of 1881, the 2 centavo, vermillon, and the 5 do., blue, have been perforated, as have also the same values of those used for the interior. The current 10 centavo, mauve, has been surcharged 2½ in black.

Great Britain.—The registration envelope, 2d. circular, ultra-marine, appears without date. A 1½d. newspaper band has made its appearance. The stamp affixed is pointed, oval in form, color, brown on buff.

Greece.—The values 20 (lake), 40 (purple), and 80 lepta (carmine) appear without figures on back. The following errors are noted:—the 5 lepta, greenish yellow, appears with "55" on its back; the 10 do., orange, with "1"; also others with "0," others again with "00," and some with "01."

Grenada.—We have seen the provisional half-penny, wherein the "P" in the word "Postage" was omitted, making it read "ostage." In the 1s stamp also the "g" in the denomination has been omitted in some cases, and an italic "s" substituted. A fiscal stamp has been surcharged in black, color orange and green, and employed to take the place of the 1d. rect. in the postal service.

Haiti.—The current 2, 3, 5, and 7 cent stamps have been perforated.

Honduras.—The 2 reals, green, and do., rose, have been surcharged with the name of the old capital, "Comayagua," in a rectangle. The 2 reals, green, have also been surcharged with large script type in the City of Comayagua with "Medio Real," bright vermillon, in a large rectangle. Also, "Un Real" in black, same style.

Iceland.—Three new values, 5 ore, green, 20 blue, and 40 mauve, of the old type have been issued.

India.—The 1 rupee stamp has been issued with a design altered somewhat from but still resembling the last.

Jamaica.—The 1d. fiscal, carmine, has been used for postage.

Labuan.—A new value, 40 cents, is here, has been added to the set. Same design as the others.

Luxemburg.—The entire set, from 1 centime to 5 francs has been surcharged with the letters, "P. S." (public service) in small capitals. Four new postal cards have also issued bearing the current adhesive on the upper right-hand corner. Their values and colors are:—5c., lilac, 10c., bistre, 5x5 and 10x10 (reply cards) the same as above.

Mauritius.—The current 17-cent stamp has been surcharged 16.

Mexico.—Four new envelopes are added to the set. The design is the same as that of the preceding ones. They are:—5 centavos, plum; an additional 5 in the upper right-hand corner furnishes a 10 centavos.

Montevideo.—The current 7 cent stamp has been surcharged "Official."

Nevis.—The 1d. revenue, lilac, has been used as postage.

New South Wales.—A new reply post-card, 2d., rose, has appeared.

Orange Free State.—The four pence stamp, has been issued with a surcharge of 3d. in four distinct varieties as to type. A new 3d. adhesive is announced.

Peru.—The unpaid letter stamps have been surcharged in red, "Lima Correos" in a circle, and used for prepaid letters. The values are: 1 centavo, red and bistre; 5, red and vermillon; 10, red and orange; and 20, red and blue. The ordinary current issue has been surcharged,

"Anquilla." Value: 1 centavo, lake and orange; 5, lake and blue; 20, lake and carmine.

Philippine Islands.—A 25 cent. de peso, brown, of the current type has appeared. A typographical error has occurred in the surcharge of the provisionals of the type of 1879, of 8 cent do peso on 100 mil de peso, in that the word "Correos" is spelled "Corrosos." The fiscal of 10 quartos has been surcharged 8 cents de peso, and used for postal purposes. Also the large rect. fiscal, 1 peso, green, has been used for postage without surcharge.

Portugal.—The following values of the new type have been introduced to use:—2 reis, brown; 5, grey; 500, black, and 1000, rose.

Portuguese Indies.—The following provisionals same design as the last, have been added:—6 reis on 40 reis, blue; 1 tonga on 25 reis, violet; 2 do. on 40 do., blue; 2 do. on 4 tongas, green; 8 do. on 25 reis, rose. Two new post-cards are also added to the set, viz:—½ tonga, blue on buff and 1 do., red on dull blue.

Russia.—The following values are added to the current set:—3½ roubles, black and white; 7 do. black and yellow. Two new envelopes, designs similar to the last have appeared. They are 5 copecs, lilac, and 7 do. blue. Newspaper bands, 1 copec, orange, and 2 do., green, are in use.

Sea-Shell Islands.—Two post-cards—4 cents, black and blue, and 6 cents, green, have been announced.

Siam.—The stamps of the Strait Settlements are used in Bangkok, the capital of this country, after being surcharged with a large capital "B." The set comprises the following values:—2 cents, brown; 4 cents, rose; 5 cents, plum; 6 cents, lilac; 12 cents, blue; and 24 cents, green.

Strait Settlements.—*Sunje Ujung*. The British India half-anna adhesive is used in this country with the following surcharge:—An ellipse covering the inscription of India and inside of it a crescent and a five pointed star, with the letters S. U. beneath, all in black.

St. Vincent.—A 1d., drab, and a 4d., bright blue, of the new type have appeared.

Tasmania.—The 3d., and 1s., fiscals have been used as postals.

Transvaal.—The provisional 1d., on 4d., has been seen surcharged reversely in some instances.

United States.—The 1c., 6c., and 10c., have been re-engraved in the old type. Two new values, 2c., and 4c., have been announced to come into use October 1st.

Victoria.—The 1d. post card, lilac, now appears with a smaller coat-of-arms than formerly.

Wurtemberg.—A service stamp, 2 marks, black and yellow, is in use, as are also a post-card, of 5pf., and reply, 5 x 5 pf., both mauve. We are indebted to our many friends in various parts of the world for furnishing us with early information of contemplated or accomplished changes, new issues and provisionals. Such information is always fully appreciated and will be noticed by us. We trust that they may all continue their kind offices.

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