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MAY, 1892.

VOL. IV. No. 41.



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No. 41

#### CHRONICLES OF NEW ISSUES, ETC.

Conducted by William C. Stone, Springfield, Mass., to whom all information respecting new issues etc., should be sent.

The figures in parenthesis after the names of the countries refer to the number of this paper containing the last previous notice. Colors in italies represent the colors of the surcharges. All envelopes unless otherwise stated are on white wove paper. All post cards unless otherwise stated are on buff cardboard.

#### ADHESIVES.

BANGKOK ( ).—Le Timbre Poste chronicles the 5 cents brown violet with the surcharge "B" in black, but does not mention the watermark. We have had this stamp with Crown C. C. watermark in our collection for a couple of years at least, and it is listed in the Scott Co's catalogue.

BARBADOS ().—New stamps are to be issued in July, according to the *Stamp News*, which is informed that the values will be as follows:  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, 6, 8, 10 pence and 2s. 6d.

Belgium ( ).—M. Moens has received a 91c, yellow green stamp which does not bear the word "centimes."

British North Borneo ( ).—We have omitted to mention that the recently chronicled 6 on 10 cent provisional can be found on both varieties of the 10 cent stamp, that is with and without the "Postage and Revenue" inscription.

Costa Rica ( ).—The Monthly Journal has received a new set of stamps for this republic which are reported to be very fine specimens of engraving. The national arms are engraved in the centre of each value, but the frame, etc., differs for each stamp. All are inscribed "Costa Rica," "Correosy Telegrafos," and "UPU," in a monogram. Perforate 15. I centavo, chalky blue; 2 centavo, orange; 5 centavo, violet; 10 centavo, green; 20 centavo, red; 50 centavo, ultramarine; 1 peso bionze green on pale yellow; 2 peso, dull red on pale grey; 5 peso, deep blue on pale blue; 10 peso brown on buff. These stamps are the work of Waterlow & Sons we understand.

GRENADA ( ).—The 2½ on 8 penny exists in two types, the difference being in the size of the numerals.

GUATEMALA ( ).—The London Philatelist has seen a 10 cent of the current issue which is engraved instead of lithographed as heretofore.

HOLKAR ().—The stamps listed last month were issued in February according to a letter in the London Philatelist, the two higher values on the 7th and ¼ anna on the 9th. The ½ anna is now printed in what the Monthly fournal calls a violet shade of brown instead of a brown shade of violet. The stamps are perforate 14½, and are manufactured by Waterlow & Sons.

JEYPORE ().—The following letter from the British Resident at Jeypore will be of interest to our readers. We take it from the Stamp News. "There are no Raj Service stamps. The Engineering Department last year had these words overprinted on the British postal labels for the purpose of keeping a check on those used in the service of the

Durbar, but on the representation of the Postal authorities this practice has been discontinued." The above is dated February 17, 1892, and is signedby Colonel H. P. Peacock, Official Resident.

LABUAN ( ).—The 6 on 8 cent exists with reversed, double and reversed double surcharge according to the *London Philatelist*.

LUXEMBURG ().—Le Timbre Poste is informed that the stamps with the head of the Grand Duke have arrived and will soon replace the set now in use with the cost of arms.

NEW SOUTH WALES ( ).—The London Philatelist chronicles the 20 shillings with the "O. S." surcharge. Watermark 5/- perforate 10. 20 shillings, blue, black.

OBOCK ( ).—And now they say that the unpaid letter stamps have received the same surcharge as that noted last month. M. Moens gives the following: 5 centimes, black, black; 10 centimes, black, black; 30 centimes, black, black; 60 centimes, black, black. Three provisionals are chronicled by L'Echo de la Timbrologie. The surcharge consists of the name "Obock" in large letters in a horizontal line in black, with a large numeral in red or black over the old value. 1 on 25c., black on rose, black and red; 2 on 15c. blue, black and red; 4 on 15c., blue, black.

PANAMA ( ).—The Stamp News is informed that the stock of the present (map?) issue is nearly exhausted, and that the new issue was expected to arrive from New York on the steamer due at Panama February 27.

Perak ( ).—Der Philatelist reports a new value of the "tiger" set. 8 cent, orange. Portugal ( ).—We learn from Le Timbre that the new stamps are nearly ready for issue. They will bear a portrait of King Carlos in an oval, with the value above, "Portugal" at left, "Correios" at right, "Continente" at the bottom. The values etc., are to be as follows; 2 reis, grey; 2½ reis, black; 5 reis, bistre; 10 reis, violet on red; 15 reis, violet on blue; 20 reis, dark green; 25 reis, dark blue; 50 reis, bright blue; 75 reis, sepia; 80 reis, bright green; 100 reis, lilac; 150 reis, carmine; 200 reis, blue; 300 reis, red; 500 reis, black; 1000 reis, blue. Some of the higher values will be printed either in in two colors or on colored paper. The stamps for the Azores will have the word "Continente" replaced by "Angra" "Harta," and "Ponta Delgada," the names of the districts into which the Islands are divided. We judge from the wording of the paragraph that there is to be a set for each district with a possibility of another inscribed "Funchal's for Maderia.

PUERTO RICO ().—The following are the remaining values of the set noted last month. 4 mil de peso, ultramarine; 6 mil de peso, rose; 2 cent de peso, bistre; 10 cent de peso, bright rose; 40 cent de peso, color not stated.

ROUMANIA ().—The 50 bani unpaid stamp was issued in green on the sixteenth of February. 50 bani, green.

RUSSIA ( ).—Le Timbre Poste reports the discovery of a 14 kopec with reversed eagle and post horns.

SAINT LUCIA ( ).—Another surcharged provisional is reported. The 6 penny lilac and blue has been cut in half vertically, and each half surcharged "½d" in black. Nine thousand six hundred were issued.  $\frac{1}{2}$  on half of 6p., blue and lilac, black; of the provisionals noted last month, the following quantities were issued: 1/ on 3 pence, 4,300, 1 on 4 pence, 6,700.

SAINT THOMAS AND PRINCE ().—The London Philatelist is informed that the 40 reis stamp was surcharged "Rs. 50" in large type in a frame, sometime in August or September, last, on account of a temporary shortage of that value in Prince Island, there being no time to send to Saint Thomas before the Lisbon steamer sailed. Only 180 were issued and 80 of these were used for this particular mail. Who got the rest? 50 reis on 40 r., brown, black.

SARAWAK ( ).—The three cent stamp has received the surcharge "One Cent" across the original value. I cent on 3c., lilac and blue, black.

SHANGHAI ().—We have not noted the fact that the current stamps were issued January 7 with the surcharge "Postage Due" in large gothic type because we have been expecting to receive further information concerning them from our correspondent at that place. We will not delay longer however but give the list which is as follows: 2 cents, brown, black; 5 cents rose, black; 10 cents, black, black; 15 cents, blue, black; 20 cents, lilac, black. The perforation on the 2 cent is 12, while on the other values it is 15. The 2, 10 and 20 cent are watermarked.

STRAITS, SETTLEMENTS ().—Two high value stamps of the Seychelles type are announced by Senf Brothers in their paper. Watermark Crown C. A., perforate 14, 25 cents, brown and green, 50 cents olive and carmine.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ( ).—The 6 cents is the latest to suffer from the surcharge fever. It has been overprinted "ONE CENT" in black in two lines, the old value being erased with a bar. 1 cent on 3c. lilac, black.

TASMANIA ( ).—We learn from the *London Philatelist* that the permanent  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 5 penny stamps are of the same general design as the Leeward Islands. Watermark TAS, perforate 14.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  penny, dull reddish mauve; 5 penny, pale blue and brown.

Tonga ().—The *Philatelic Record* is authority for the soment that the one penny stamp has been surcharged "Four Pence" in two lines of thick capitals, and that the 2 penny value has been similarly outraged with "Eight Pence." The date of issue was November 23, 1891. A change of rates is probably the cause. 4 pence on 1p. rose, black; 8 pence on 2 p. violet, black. The exact date of issue of the first stamps is said to have been September 1, 1886.

Turker ().—The new stamps are now in use. They are much larger than the previous issues being about the size of the first issue. They have the arms in a circle in the centre with Turkish inscriptions above and below in small labels. The value is expressed in both Turkish and French. The unpaid stamps are of the same design and are all printed in black. The date of issue was March 13, (March 1 old style,) that being the commencement of the financial year. Perforate 13½, 10 paras, dull green; 20 paras, rose 1 piaster, grey; 2 piaster, bistre; 5 piaster, dull lilac. Unpaid, 20 paras, black; 1 piaster, black; 2 piaster, black.

URUGUAY ().—Four new stamps for this republic are chronicled by the *Monthly Journal*. They are said to be narrower than usual, and the arms form the most prominent part of the design, the accessories being different for each value. The stamps are the work of Waterlow & Son of London, and are perforate 15. 1 centesimo, green; 2 centesimo, carmine; 5 centesimo, blue; 10 centesimo, orange.

#### ENVELOPES.

New South Wales ( ).—The surcharged registration envelope has been replaced by the permanent issue. The design is the same as the four penny. 3 pence, red on white. We are not aware of how many sizes are in use.

QUEENSLAND ( ).—Le Timbre Poste chronicles three one penny envelopes but fails to give the design of the stamp. We suppose however that it is the same as the adhesive. I penny, red on white laid, 137x78 mm. I penny, red on blue laid, 137x78 mm. I penny, red on buff wove, 142x78 mm. It seems quite probable that these are all of the printed to order variety. Two different ornaments are found on the flaps of the blue envelopes.

TONGA ( ).—A registration envelope has been issued that is simply gorgeous. The stamp on the flap consists of the arms of the country and include fishes, crowns, stars,

crosses, ship and flags. The value is placed at each side of the arms and "Tonga Registration is curved above. The face of the envelope is inscribed like the British colonials, with the addition of the name. 6 pence, red on bluish. 6 pence red on white. According to the Slamp News the first of the above was issued October 1, 1891, and replaced by the other on January 1, 1892. The size of the first is 117881 mm., while the second exists in two sizes, 151898 mm. and 225x101 mm. The frank stamp chronicled in 1887 which is inscribed "Tonga Government Frank" in a double circle with a crown and 1 a stovepipe hat between two laurel branches in the centre has been printed on white wove envelopes, 221x120 mm. The impression is in black and the envelope inscribed "on his M1jesty's Service" in the right upper corner and "Tonga 189," in the lower left.

#### WRAPPERS.

New South Wales ( ).—*Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* says that "a wrapper has been issued with the current surcharged "Halfpenny" stamp in the same color as the adhesive, printed on the band watermarked "One Penny." The *Philatelic Record* intreprets this to mean that the old 1 penny wrappers have been surcharged with the new value. We think however that it will be found that the stamp referred to is the provisional (?)  $\frac{1}{2}$  printing the 1 p. die in grey and then surcharging. We await confirmation before listing.

QUEENSLAND ( ).—Le Timbre Poste also chronicles a 1p. band on white paper, 280x112mm., without giving the design. 1 penny, red.

#### POST CARDS.

BARBADOS ( ).—The Stamp News has the information that the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  penny was issued March 9th, with the same surcharge as that recently reported on the double card. 1 penny, on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  p. brown; violet.

BAVARIA ( ).—The 5 pfennig is now dated 92. Watermark vertical undulations. 5 pfennig, green, 92.

CYPRUS ().—Three double cards have been issued according to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*. They are of the same type as the single ones.  $\frac{1}{2}x\frac{1}{2}$  piaster, green on white; 1x1 piaster, carmine on light buff;  $1\frac{1}{2}x1\frac{1}{2}$  piaster, brown on dark buff.

JAMAICA ( ).—The 1 penny card is now 140x89 mm. The stamp is of the old type and the inscriptions are somewhat changed. 1 penny, blue.

GREAT BRITAIN ( ).—Messrs. Gardener, Hinton and MacMillan have our thanks for specimens of the new 1 penny cards. The inscriptions are in four lines and are as follows: "Union Postale Universelle—Post Card—Great Britian and Ireland—(Grande Bretagne et Irelande.)—The address only to be written on this side." The stamp is the same as that on the obsolete 3 p. with the value altered. 1 penny, red; 1x1 penny, red.

Hong Kong ( ).—There is a double 3 cent card similar in design to the single one. 3x3 cents, brown.

MONTENEGRO) ).—Again these cards have been slightly changed. The arms and inscriptions are now in black and the stamp in yellow or green, and the borders are omitted. 2 novcics, yellow and black; 2x2 novcics, yellow and black; 3 novcics, green and black; 3x3 novcics, green and black. The reply cards are said to have the inscription "La carte ci-jointe," on the wrong half of the card. The London Philatelist has seen the 2x2 novcics with no stamp on the first half and also with none on the reply half.

NETHERLANDS ( ).—T. Francis Kohler sends us a card with the new stamp on the right hand corner, and says that it was issued April 7. The rest of the design is unchanged, the arms of course being in the left corner. 5 cents, blue on blue.

NEWFOUNDLAND ( ).—We have received a double 2 cent card from A. Lohmeyer. It is of the same size as the other Colonial Postal Union Cards and has a stamp similar to that on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  p. Cape of Good Hope, 2x2c. red.

PILIPPINES ( ).—M. Moens chronicles a 5 cent card with the "baby" stamp. 5 cent de peso, orange on brownish buff; 5 cent de peso, orange on yellow buff.

Servia ( ).—Another change in the cards took place the first of March. The general design is the same, but the top inscription is now 66½x5mm, and the first dotted line is much shorter than before and has a script "T" before it. The notice at the bottom is in the left corner instead of the centre. 5 paras, green; 5x5 paras, green, T. 3. We are indebted to Mr. Lohmeyer for a sight of the above.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ( ).--We understand that the two cent cards are now in use

and that they are similar to the 1 cent. 2 cents, carmine; 2x2 cents, carmine.

SEYCHELLES ( ).—These islands are keeping up with the rest of the procession. Two new cards have just been issued of the usual design. 4x4 cents, carmine; 8x8 cts., brown.

TURKEY ( ).—There are two cards with the new stamp. White card, 132x88mm. 20 paras, dull red; 20x20 paras, dull red.

#### FORGED INDIAN STAMPS.

The report of the Indian Postmaster-General for the past year contains an interesting account of the manner in which a large number of stamps of the value of one rupee each were forged. The forger was a Poona Brahmin, who was formerly in the service of the Trigonometrical Survey. He had prepared a die of the one-rupee stamp in white stone, which was set in wood, and thirty-nine of these dies had been made from time to time before he succeeded in producing a sufficiently accurate representation of the original stamp. This die was thoroughly cleaned with kokam, or mangosteen, and then covered with an oily substance or ink of the colour of the one-rupee stamp, which was carefully spread over it with the finger. A piece of paper was then placed on the die, and rubbed with a shell, and on being removed was found to bear a wonderfully close representation of the genuine stamp. The stamp so produced was then placed with its face down on a piece of metal, moistened with water, and had a watermark die, that had been separately prepared, gently hammered upon it. It was afterwards put upon a small square of tin, of the same size as the genuine stamp, marked with the correct number of holes for the purpose of perforation, and carefully perforated with a small needle-like instrument. The whole process occupied about ten minutes. The number of counterfeit stamps successfully passed by the forger and his accomplices was about 1,000. The forger and his chief accomplice, a stamp vendor, were prosecuted in the Bombay High Court, and sentenced to ten years' transportation each. A few of the counterfeit stamps found their way into the Bombay Post Office through the complicity of some of the clerks, and one of these committed suicide when the forger was arrested. A new one-rupee stam;, combining two colors, was in consequence introduced. It is interesting to notice that only two frauds connected with the telegraphic money order system are recorded in this year's report, and in one of these the person committing the fraud committed suicide before he could be arrested. A curious incident in connection with the Bombay Post Office is recorded. Over 1,100 unpaid covers, all posted at one office and addressed to persons at one town in Khandeish, were received by the Bombay Dead Letter Office as undeliverable, all of them having been refused with one consent by the persons to whom they were addressed. When these strange communications were opened, each was found to contain simply a blank piece of paper. The sender turned out to be a person of unsound mind, who adopted this method of communicating his thoughts to local officials.—From the Times.

#### THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Organized September, 1887.

President, C. E. CAMERON, 2446 St. Catherine Exchange Superintendent, H. F. KETCHESON, St., Montreal. Belleville, Ont.

Vice-President, H. L. HART, Halifax, N.S.

Secretary-Treasurer, T. S. CLARK,

Librarian, A. E. LABELLE, 48 Berri St.,

Counterfeit Detector, L. GIBB, 146 St. James St.

Belleville, Ont. Montreal.

Official Organ, THE DOMINION PHILATELIST.

#### TRUSTEES:

C. C. MORENCY, Quebec, Que. MONTEFIORE JOSEPH, Quebec, Que. Chairman, ERNEST. F. WURTELE, Q. M. & C. R'y Co'y, Quebec, P.Q.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I have to report

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.—C. H. Holden, Port Dover; References: W. A. Buchanan and H. F. Ketcheson. J. S. Wilson, Toronto; References: H. F. Ketcheson and T. S. Clark.

NEW MEMBERS.-None.

STATE OF MEMBERSHIP.—No. per last report, 87; present membership, 87. CHANGES IN ADDRESS.—A. E. Labelle, 48 Berri St., Montreal.

T. S. CLARK, Secretary.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

#### RECEIPTS.

Apl. 15, balance on hand -	_	_	_	-	May 15, 1892. \$23 03
May 15, received to date for dues					4 00
					\$27 O3

#### PAYMENTS.

May 1, H. F. Ketche	eson, qua	arterly	y grai	ıt,	-			
official organ	-	-	_	-	-	\$12 50		
May 15, T. S. Clark,	Postage		-	-	-	2 00		
Com. on cheque -	-	-	-	-	-	15	\$14 65	
		Bala	nce o	n han	ıd	т с С	\$12 38	

T. S. CLARK, Treasurer.

A VISITOR, with whom we have formed a most agreeable acquaintance, is Mr. C. S. Wallis, of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. He is a highly cultured gentleman, and is one among many others who find in the collecting and study of stamps a pleasure, pastime and recreation. His collection numbers some 6,000 or 7,000 and includes many a rare stamp. As with numerous of our most prominent philatelists, his interest commenced with childhood, and its fascinations increased with time. Mr. Wallis travels considerably, and stopped over in St. Louis a day on his way to Southern Missouri, where he is interested in mining property.—Mekeel's Weekly.

# The Dominion Philatelist

Published Monthly in the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

Canada and United States,	50 cts. per year.
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One inch,	3 " 4 00

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H. F. KETCHESON, PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE.

The second secon

I will give this Journal from now to the end of this year free to every person who orders stamps from my advertisements to the amount of \$1.00, or who remits me \$1.00 for stamps taken from my sheets.

#### H. F. KETCHESON, Belleville, Ont.

\* \* \*

MR. T. S. CLARK informs us that he has a specimen of the 1868 2d. in blue on the original envelope.

WE have seen recently specimens of the Canada 1857 ½ penny on paper ribbed horizontally and longitudinally; the latter we consider a great rarity.

MR, EMIL J. RALL, of Savannah, Georgia, leaves in a few days for Europe, where he intends staying for four or five months. He has gone to visit relatives at Hanover, Germany.

By the time this number of our journal reaches its readers, the third edition of Ketcheson's Catalogue of Canadian Stamps will be ready for mailing. Much delay has occurred in getting out this catalogue, but subscribers will be well repaid. It catalogues many varieties of Canadian Stamps hitherto unknown, and gives the various varieties of paper and watermarks.

WE had the pleasure, a few days ago of spending several hours with Mr. Fred. Incson, Carleton West. Mr. Incson is an enthusiastic stamp collector, confining himself to British North American, postage, revenue and British Colonial. He is a charter member of the C.P.A. He was accompanied by his brother, Mr. Farrar Incson, who is as enthusiastic a coin collector as Fred. is of stamps. We were pleased to have them call and enjoyed their visit very much.

THE following C.P.A. members have signified their intention of being present at the C.P.A. convention in August: T.S. Clark, W. K. Hall, Fred. Ineson, H. F. Ketcheson and P. C. Jones. We would like all other members of the C.P.A. who intend attending the convention to drop a card and let us know, as we wish to make the best hotel rates possible for visitors.

THE following item appeared in the May number of the American Philatelist:—"In the Long Island Philatelist for April, "Area" seems to have a rather singular idea of perspective, as applied to philatelic literature. At the same time he is frank and quite welcome to express his opinion. He does not seem to have noticed, however, that Mr. Stone prepares the same chronicle for the American Philatelist, the Metropolitan Philatelist and the Dominion Philatelist. It would not be amiss for him to notice in which of these journals the chronicle appears earliest each month." Several ofour contemporaries have spoken of our Chronicle as though they thought we reprinted same from the American Philatelist. Such is not the case. We made a contract with W. C. Stone to prepare a chronicle for this paper, for which service we pay him chronicle for this paper, for which service we pay him.

#### POST-MASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT.

From the Post-Master General's Report we glean the following: There are now 8061 offices in operation with 58905 miles of Postal Route. The total number of ordinary letters posted during the year was 97,975,000; Post Cards, 20,300,000; Registered Letters, 3,292,000. There were during the year 155 cases of abstraction of contents or portions of contents or loss of registered letters containing money, sent through the Canadian Post Office. This is an increase of only six over last year and is a strong proof of the efficacy of the special measures taken in 1889, to increase the safety of registered correspondence, whilst in transit by mail. Of the 155 cases, the contents or a portion thereof were recovered from the offices responsible in 98 instances; of the remaining 57 cases they were either stolen from Post Offices by burglars or no evidence could be obtained to account for their loss "Inquiries would be much facilitated if persons receiving registered letters would be careful not to destroy the envelope before having fully verified the accuracy of the alleged contents." Complaints of defective mucilage would be far less frequent if the public would kindly bear in mind that it is the envelope of a letter or the cover of a Packet and not the postage stamp which should be moistened when stamps are affixed in pre-payment of postage. When a stamp is passed over the tongue, the mucilage is frequently almost wholly removed. wholly removed.

The following is a list of the stamps issued to Postmasters for sale during the year: ½ cent, 618,010; 1 cent, 43,370,991; 2 cent, 11,059,206; 3 cent, 73,714,182; 5 cent, 3,136,528; 6 cent, 642,945; 10 cent, 250,322; 15 cent, 106,318; 5 cent Registered, 2,475,971; News bands, 551,941; 1 cent Post Cards, 20,794,801; 2 cent P. U. Cards, 59,550; 2 cent Reply Cards, 124,824; 1 cent Stamped Envelopes, 60,500; 3 cent Stamped Envelopes, 256,004. The total value of all the above is \$3,457,793.64.

During the year 974,530 Letters and Post Cards were sent to the dead letter office as undelivered.

The total revenue of the Canada P. O. Dept for the year was \$3,374,887.66, total expenditure \$4,020,739.94, leaving a deficit of \$645,852.28.

The revenue of the Department has increased 5 feld during the last 20 years.

The fourth Universal Postal Union Congress met at Vienna, Austria, on the 20th May, 1891, and continued in session for six weeks. At this Congress Canada was ably represented by the High Commissioner at London, the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., C.B., G.C.M.G.

The principal measures agreed upon, which are of practical interest to Canada were (1) the admission of the Australian Colonies to the Postal Union; (2) the issue of reply post cards by every country of the Union; (3) the increase of the limits of size for sample packets; (4) the treatment as unpaid letters of the post cards of one country posted in another; (5) the arrangement that letters posted on board mail steamers when at sea should be prepaid by means of the postage stamps of the country to which the packet belongs, or under whose flag she sails; but that when a mail steamer is in port the letters posted on her should be prepaid with the stamps of the country in whose waters she is.

Other arrangements were made with reference to (1) the exchange of closed mails with ships of war on foreign stations; (2) the treatment of undelivered letters; (3) the establishment of a central clearing house for adjusting the transit postage accounts between the countries of the Union; (4) the repression of attempts to defraud by the use of forged or cleaned stamps.

It was agreed that the meeting of the next Congress should be he'd at Washington, D.C., United States.

A direct parcel post exchange went into operation with Japan on the 18th October, 1890; and with Barbados on the 18th April, 1891. The general regulations governing these exchanges are practically the same as in the case of that with the United Kingdom. Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of a direct parcel post with other islands in the West Indies and with Hong Kong

#### A FEW WORDS ON THE UNPAID LETTER STAMPS OF GREECE.

It is well known that the Greek tax and unpaid letter stamp was approved long after the ordinary stamps were in circulation. At that time the majority of letters were unstamped, or insufficiently stamped, and the unpaid postage was collected by means of ordinary postage stamps. It is believed that letters were posted in this way to guard against their being lost, but at any rate the custom of using postage stamps for this purpose gave rise to many complaints, so that on the 27th September, 1872, a decree was issued, ordering the manufacture of a a special stamp which should be affixed on unpaid letters. This decree was not put into force for some time, on account of modifications and adjournments, and had only began to be made use of during 1875, i.e., at the time of, or following, the reduction of postage and the regulation of the postal service.

The decree of the 27th September, 1872, is composed of nine articles, of which the second gives a description of the new stamps, which were to be similar

in design to the first issue of the French unpaid letter stamps. The following is a copy of the article:

"This special stamp must be square shaped, and each side the length of twenty millimetres, and bear in the lower label the words 'Greek stamp' underneath the value. On each side will be the word 'post.' In the centre and at the top there will be figures of value of equal size to the borders at the side. In the middle the word "Lepta," and underneath this the words 'To be paid at sight.' There will be twelve values, viz.: 1, 2, 5, 10, 30, 40, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200 lepta. They will be printed on yellowish paper. The administration, control, &c., will be under the existing rules."

It will be noticed that the above article does not mention the colour of the stamp. The above decree was not put into force, and on the 23rd January, 1875, another appeared, of which the following is a copy:

"Referring to the decree of the 27th September, 1872, at the suggestion of our home secretaries and financiers:

ARTICLE 1.—The tax stamp, which should be made according to article 2 in in the decree mentioned above, is of rectangular shape; height, 0.02 m.; width, 0.0235 m.

(Here follows the description of the well-known stamps, which are printed in black and green.)

ARTICLE 2.—The stamps are to be of twelve kinds, viz., I, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40, 60, 70, 80, 90 lepta, and I and 2 drachme.

ARTICLE 3.—The rules concerning the tax stamp will be adopted from 1st March, 1875.

The stamps were made according to the design approved of by the Consul General of Trieste, and the Imperial Printing-office of Vienna. They are to be found in three colors—dark green, green, and yellow-green; and the perforation was made by small machines, which were changed from time to time according to the taste of the Austrians. Mr. Glasewald, in his catalogue, mentions 14, 141/2, and 151/2, but I believe there are many others. Of these unpaid letter stamps there are two issues, of which nearly everyone knows the difference In one set the figures representing the value are larger, the letters above the figures are larger. and the figures 1 in 10 and in 100 lepta are quite different. The stamps of the first issue are 21 m. wide, and slightly under 25 mm. high; and although the width of the second issue is also 21 mm., the height is about a millimetre smaller than the others. The circular space in the centre is also different, being 19 mm. in diameter on the first issue, and 18 mm. on the second. In the space between the two white circles the groundwork in green, that on which the inscription is printed is 2½m. on the first issue, and only 2 m. on the second issue. The dividing lines between the stamps are very large and easily distinguished on the early stamps, whereas they are scarcely visible on those of the second issue. Another point is, that all those of the second issue are printed in bright yellowish-green; and a further point of difference is, that the paper of the first is thick, whereas that of the second is thinner, of a much rougher texture, and yellowish instead of white. Ot course, the higher values are easily distinguished, and in the first issue they are described as I and 2 drachme, and in the second as 100 and 200 lepta. almost impossible to obtain official dated, owing to the complicated nature of the

postal service in Greece. The post depends upon the financiers and home ministers. The reason for the change in the two high values can be easily understood; owing to the great similarity in the appearance, those of 1 and 2 drachme were frequently to the great similarity in the appearance, those of I and 2 drachme were frequently mistaken by the clerks for stamps of I and 2 lepta, and consequently caused considerable confusion; but in order to rectify this it was suggested that the higher stamps should be printed in lepta, although no decree was published on the subject. Except that the value were the same, the decree of the 27th September, 1872. was cancelled by another of the 30th September, 1880. The impression of the new values were made from new blocks, which were made for the printing of other values.

The dates at which the second issue took place is not easily fixed, because, as I have before remarked, no official dates can be found, and consequently the as I have before remarked, no official dates can be found, and consequently the date of their coming into circulation can only be approximately fixed. According to this same decree, the obliteration of these tax stamps was to be made by the stamp of each Post-office using them, instead of by the dotted lozenge-shaped post-mark. Obliterated stamps of the second issue with the latter postmark are to be found, but none of this issue had come under my notice before 1878, which is probably the year they were issued, as most catalogues place them between the years 1878-82. The paper of the stamps of the second issue is, as I have before stated, of a yellowish tint, i.e., the same as decided upon by the decree of 1872. Perhaps these stamps were printed before those of the so-called first issue, in which case, what we now call the second issue would really be the first, and vice versa. Although I do not accept this theory, it is the only solution I can give for the time being.—Stamp News.

WE have received letters from two prominent collectors in the Sandwich Islands, from which we gather with pleasure that the inhabitants of Hawaii have determined that their country shall not be a party to any transactions such as came to light during the Assmus trial. Mr. W. F. Reynolds informs us that the result of a conversation between himself and another collector was a decision to interview the Postmaster-General who is a business man of sound principle, and who agrees that it is improper for the Government to destroy or disarrange values of stamps which are long obsolete, and have therefore assumed a value which could not otherwise accrue. The result of this conversation is, that the Postmaster-General has decided that all the result of this conversation is, that the Postmaster-General has decided that all the stamps, viz.: 2c., rose, 1855; 5c., blue, 1883; and 13c., rose, 1883, are hereafter to have the word "reprint" stamped on them, and that none of these will be sold without this word, so that the value of the originals will at once be established. Mr. Reynolds points out a matter which is not generally known. In 1866, when the new rate of postage to America came into effect, the dark 5c. was used, and the 5c. and 13c. of 1853 then became useless. Mr. Brickwood, who was Post-master-General at the time, had every sheet of 5c. on 13c. surcharged with the word "specimen," which is consequently a proof of their being genuine originals. Mr. Reynolds favours us with reprints and originals of this issue, the latter, of course, being surcharged with the word "specimen," as stated above. There are certain differences between the two, the chief one being that the paper of the reprint is much whiter, and that the gum is also lighter in the reprint than in the originals. But when we come to examine the types of the so-called reprints, we find that even these differ slightly, which is probably due to the plate having been touched up. Seeing the two side by side, the differences are very easy to detect, but even otherwise we do not think the reprints would be difficult to distinguish.—Stamp News.

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