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# The Philatelic Courier,

AND STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

Vol. 2. HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER, 1883. No. 6.

**The Philatelic Courier**  
—AND—  
**STAMP COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.**  
*IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.*  
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184 Argyle Street,  
HALIFAX, N. S., CANADA.

HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER, 1883.

### OUTRAGEOUS

The *St. John Sun* of a recent date narrates the facts in an affair so extraordinary as to be almost incredible.

It appears that the Sheriff of Gloucester Co., N. B., had the audacity a few weeks since to take from the post-office at Little Shippegan, a registered letter addressed to another person, against whom he held an execution and a bailable writ, and to retain it despite the remonstrances of the postmaster. The same officer took from another post-office, two letters and a newspaper addressed to the same person.

There were other surprisingly outrageous acts performed by this sheriff in connection with this matter, but, as a philatelic journal, we have nothing to do with this.

What we have to deal with is the sanctity and security of the mails while *in transitu* and in charge of the postal authorities. The post-office is the most important adjunct to the business of any community—to say nothing of social intercommunication—and if it cannot be implicitly trusted to safely transmit correspondence secure from raids by officials or others its usefulness is gone.

Another point of importance is that the sheriff's information of the fact that the registered letter was *en route*

must have been obtained from some one connected with the post-office. We have no space in this issue to submit the proofs of this that have already been developed, but will give further details in our next. The point is that a postal official has violated his or her trust and revealed a fact that could only have come to him through his official position. This unworthy person should be ferreted out, and not only dismissed in disgrace but also punished by the laws.

The sheriff has not only tampered with, but has robbed H. M. mails. The law declares this a felony, punishable by imprisonment for a long term, and the sheriff cannot plead ignorance nor shelter himself under his official position to evade the penalty that he has earned. The majesty of the law must be vindicated and the sanctity of the mails must be fully protected.

Hon. John Carling, the Postmaster General, knows his duty and we do not hesitate to express a belief that he will perform it.

Before dismissing this subject we would remark that we are aware of instances in which registered letters sent to the West Indies have not been acknowledged by the persons to whom they were addressed, and repeated enquiries of the postal department have failed to elicit any information as to whether they ever reached their destination or not. Such a state of affairs is anything but creditable to the post-office department and should be at once altered. A radical reform appears to be urgently needed.

**THE POSTAL SERVICE.**—The estimated number of registered letters passing by the post in the Dominion for 1882 was 2,450,000. Of this number 113 were stated to have miscarried from various causes. In 81 cases out of the 113 the letters were stolen from the post office by burglars, lost by mail robberies while under conveyance, or accidentally destroyed by fire with the mails in which they were contained. Of the other 32 letters the loss in 24 cases was traced to officers of the post-office responsible for the negligence or other misconduct which occasioned the miscarriage and the value contained was made good them. In the remaining eight cases this could not be accomplished. The aggregate value of these eight letters was \$235. To the money order offices in operation on 30th June, 1882, were added in 1882-3, 20 new offices, making the total number in operation on the 30th July, 1883, 806 distributed as follows:—Ontario, 495; Quebec, 117; Nova Scotia, 114; New Brunswick, 87; Prince Edward Island, 6; Manitoba, 5; British Columbia, 12.

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

Consignments sent us will be promptly and carefully attended to.

**TWO-CENT POSTAGE.**—The introduction of the two-cent postal rate in the United States has set alive the desire in Canada that a corresponding reduction should at once be made here. It is getting on for half a century since the penny system was adopted throughout the United Kingdom, and each succeeding year has more and more justified the soundness of the policy. It is argued, however, that the geographical conditions are wholly different as between the mother-country and the Dominion. But the same objection was raised on the other side of the line when the rate was reduced there by degrees till it reached three cents. Yet the results even at the latter rate fully justified the arguments of the postal reformers. So, undoubtedly, will the still further diminution to two cents, and the principle that is found good in one country will apply to all. But whether the change will "pay"—whether or not it will result in a surplus of revenue over expenditure or the reverse—is not at all the main question. In proposing additional postal facilities revenue considerations should hold quite a secondary place. If a reduced rate will make both ends meet *quoad* the Departmental treasury, so much the better. If it will not, the Government must be content to make up the deficiency in that portion of the public accounts from the general revenue. It does so in other branches. The expenditure on public works, for example, is largely in advance, and ever will be, of any revenue derived from them, and the same be said of other Departments. But none the less successive Governments continue to go on with new works as the necessities of the country require. The national treasury has in all such cases to be fallen back upon to restore the financial equilibrium. The same policy should be pursued in postal matters. No idea could be more vicious or mistaken, in these days, than to look to the Post-Office Department as a feeder of the public purse. The Post-Office is, or ought to be, primarily maintained, and even solely, for the purpose of developing the interests of trade and commerce, and the greater the reduction in rates the more thoroughly will that end be properly achieved. To propose a one-cent rate would no doubt make the hair—where there is any left—of the Departmental veterans to stand on end. But we venture to think that if any Minister were bold enough to introduce so daring an innovation, he would at the end of one short year find tens required to show the outcoming statistics where units suffice now.

This matter is of far more importance to business than may at the first blush be apparent. The day is not distant when the necessity for reducing postage—not only internal to each country, but international—will press imperiously upon the statesmen of every nation. The principle of transporting mail matter for 1 or 2 cents has been adopted in the matter of postal cards. One cent will carry a card from the Atlantic to the Pacific or from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Mexico on this continent, and two cents are sufficient to take a card from California to the furthestmost parts of Europe or to many places in Asia or Africa.

In the cases of postal cards, as the government furnishes the stationery, it is evident that it carries the correspondence at a less net than the nominal rate. It is a necessary conclusion that any government can afford

to transport sealed packages at the same rate for the same weight that it can open cards.

If our premise that the Post Office department is really subsidiary to the business of any country, is correct it naturally follows that it should not in any case be looked to as a source of revenue—far less as a profitable investment of government funds—and that while the utmost economy is to be commended in that department, the general revenue of the country will be benefitted by reducing the postal charges to the lowest possible minimum. That the Post Office should bear its own expense is the utmost that should be expected of it. Most of the other departments do not pretend to pay their own way, and it is unjust to require the only vehicle of popular inter-communication to return a surplus to the government.

We earnestly commend a careful consideration of this important matter to the attention of the Post-master General.

Postmaster Pierson of New York has prepared tables from which it appears that 9 tons of postage stamps, 25 tons of envelopes, 113 tons of postal cards, and 17 tons of newspaper wrappers were sold in the year ending December 31, 1882. The value of newspaper and periodical stamps sold was \$438,802.99, and the total receipts of the office were \$4,228,575.29.

✓ **REPLY POSTAL CARDS.**—The English Postmaster-General appears to be giving the Department he administers the fullest development of which it is capable. It is unquestionable, too, that all the recent innovations are greatly to the benefit of the entire people, from the highest to the lowest. The latest novelty is the new postal reply cards, which will commence to circulate at the beginning of October next. The cards are to have an impressed stamp of one halfpenny (one cent) on each half. The address only is to be "written, printed, or otherwise impressed" on that side of either half which bears the stamp, and no part of the address must cross the stamp. The "return half" will be affixed to the other half in such a way as to be easily severed from it. A reply post-card or "return half" will be forwarded through the post which contains any "words, marks or designs of an indecent, obscene, libellous or grossly offensive character," and any card or "half" so posted which shall *prima facie* fall within this prohibition, shall be stopped and submitted to the inspection of an officer duly authorised in that behalf by the Postmaster-General. We understand that the Washington authorities are about immediately to adopt this excellent arrangement.

A neatly-dressed and thirsty individual entered a saloon in Virginia, City Nev., approached the bar-tender and said: "I have no money. Will you accept stamps in payment for a gin cocktail?" The bar-tender smiled answered in the affirmative, and prepared the drink which soon went sizzling down the parched throat of the customer. He smacked his lips, complimented the bar-tender on his ability, walked to the lunch table, regaled himself, and then, giving three resounding "stamps" with his foot upon the floor, smiled sweetly at the proprietor and vanished.

We always welcome exchange correspondence

NOVA SCOTIA STAMPS AND PROVISIONALS

(BY HENRY HECHLER.)

*Continued.*

Since I wrote the article which appeared in the July number of this journal I have received specimens of the 6d. light green, surcharged 5 cents in red to which I then alluded. These specimens are surcharged with the numeral "5" above the centre of the word "cents" which is in small pica, the initial letter only being a capital. There were two distinctly different sorts of type employed. I have only recently obtained the second variety which is now before me and of which I will give the following description:—The figure "5" is larger than in the other kind as above, and the word "cents" is printed in italic capitals. The stamp is surcharged in the 3d. blue and red ink is employed. I have not as yet succeeded in obtaining a specimen of this stamp surcharged in black, but, arguing from the fact that both the 3d. and the 6d. stamps are known to have been (and specimens exist to prove the fact) surcharged in both colors in small pica type, and also in red with the italic caps, it certainly appears reasonable to suppose that if one value was surcharged with both varieties of type and both colors, the other must also have been.

As there have therefore been surcharges, proved to be authentic, in two sorts of type as also in red and black ink on two different values—3d. blue and 6d. green—the series would comprise eight varieties. However as many of our philatelic friends recognise distinctions in shades of the colors of stamps—as of a light and dark shade of the same color—the series might be much further extended. This is, however, a matter of taste and must be left to individual collectors to decide for themselves.

An interesting circumstance in connection with these provisionals is that the very fact of their having existed was nearly forgotten and was only discovered by means of an enquiry in these columns. They were quoted in catalogues, but as no description whatever was given of them a doubt as to their existence prevailed. On mentioning these facts in the PHILATELIC COURIER, I was enabled to unearth the above facts, and thus to settle all doubts on the subject. These make a valuable and important addition to philately and will be gladly hailed by collectors as furnishing a missing link in the history of the science. They must be classified and rated as one of the rarest varieties in existence.

THE requisitions upon the U. S. post office department by postmasters for the new two cent stamps are all so large that contractors are unable to supply the demand and the department consequently is reducing the amounts called for in the requisitions. Contractors at present are able to furnish one and a half million stamps daily, but this is much less than the number demanded.

AN absent-minded woman in Kentucky put a corn-plaster on a letter and stuck a postage stamp on her corn. Neither the letter nor the corn went away, she having neglected to write "in haste" on the left-hand corner of her stamped corn.

THE BRITISH POSTAL SERVICE.

From the 29th annual report of the Postmaster-General, of Great Britain and Ireland we get a succinct idea of the wonderful postal business conducted in that thickly settled empire. Our readers will best appreciate this if we arrange the principal items in a table:—

Letters delivered .....	1,230,636,000	increase 4.2 pc.
Postal cards .....	145,016,000	" 6.4 pc.
Book packets and circulars .....	288,206,000	" 6.8 pc.
Newspapers .....	140,682,000	" "
Registered letters .....	11,265,000	" 3.3 pc.
Telegraph messages .....	39,092,000	" "
Savings bank deposits .....	\$60,000,000	" "
No. postoffices .....	15,480	" "
Postal revenue .....	\$ 47,065,000	" "
Telegraph revenue .....	\$ 8,840,000	" "

In England and Wales the average number of letters per capita of the population was 40, in Scotland 30, and in Ireland 16. The permanent officers of the post offices of the United Kingdom are 44,000, including 2,561 women, of whom 455 are clerks and 216 telegraphists or counter women. A system has been adopted of giving "good conduct stripes" to letter carriers, and has been found to work well. Each stripe entitles the wearer to a special advance of one shilling a week, and the maximum number which can be earned is three.

The department has introduced reply-post-cards, and the change has resulted in a wonderful extension in that line of communication. According to a resolution passed in the last session of Parliament telegraph messages will be sent for sixpence for ten words. This will multiply to a very large extent the business of that department. Altogether the progress shown in the important matters of facilitating the transaction of business and promoting the interchange of social communication among the people has been most wonderful and satisfactory in its results. Compared with the limited and tedious methods of 25 years ago, it is simply marvellous.

POSTAL ORDERS.—The new questions of the parcels post and sixpenny telegrams have not prevented Mr. Fawcett, the English Postmaster-General, from giving his attention to possible improvements in any of his already existing schemes. Next, perhaps, to the "thrift cards," none of Mr. Fawcett's innovations has been more appreciated than that of the postal orders. Four millions and a half of them, representing an amount of £2,000,000, were issued during the first year of their circulation, but the full development of the system is hindered by the hard-and-fast provisions of the Act which sanctioned it, somewhat reluctantly, in 1880. Mr. Fawcett has accordingly introduced a bill the object of which is to give the Postmaster-General discretion to vary the amounts of orders and the rates of poundage, always provided that no order shall exceed 20s., and no poundage shall exceed 2d.

DIO LEWIS' MONTHLY for October is the best that has issued. This magazine has as yet issued but three numbers, and each successive one has been an improvement on its predecessor. The contents of the last number are:—"Our Young Women," by Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, "Idol Worship in India," by a native, "Sandwich Island Sketches," and a large number of other articles as essays, poetry, tales, etc. We heartily commend this valuable periodical to our readers.

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## THE PARCEL POST.

✓ THE introduction of a branch for the carriage of parcels in addition to that for the transmission of letters is certainly a bold innovation, but the English Post-Office Department has, nevertheless, ventured to undertake it, and the new adjunct actually came into operation on the 1st inst. The railway companies, as we showed some months ago, when the project was first before Parliament, made a strong fight against it, but as the Government was determined, and made besides such equitable concessions to the existing parcels' carriers it succeeded in prevailing. When the telegraph system of the country was absorbed by Government all the latter had to do was to step into the offices vacated by its predecessors and continue the work as left to them. The organisation was already complete and in good working order, requiring only such changes as the new proprietary might think it advisable to introduce. But in adding this new parcels' department the Government have an entirely new system to create in the place of finding already an perfected one to succeed to, and they have all their experience to acquire instead of inheriting it. It is too early yet to arrive at any definite idea of the amount of business to be done or the extent to which the facilities offered to the public will develop new business, as the project is yet quite in the experimental stage. In London, where the pressure of business is expected to be greatest, the whole work of parcel collection and distribution is to be divided among twelve central depots, most of which will be set up in the vicinity of the railway termini. These depots will be for the parcel system what the district stations are for the letter post, namely, local centres to which all the parcels of their locality will be conveyed, where they will be assorted, and whence they will be sent to their destination. In order to avoid as far as possible the friction incidental to the initiation of the system, new hands have been practiced in making up and sorting of dummy parcels, and in fact in doing anything that will be required in actual service except the dispatching. In London parcels will be collected and delivered by means of wagons. It is expected that there will be from three to five deliveries in the metropolis during the day, three in some parts of the city and five in others. Each post town in the United Kingdom is charged with the responsibility of elaborating a delivery and collection machinery for itself. If the new system were intended to be confined to the towns and cities alone, the experiment would not only be unjust to the rest of the community, but would start with a fair certainty of failure. It will, however, like the Post-Office proper, penetrate throughout every nook and corner of the United Kingdom, and will thus, we imagine, soon be recognised as a universal benefit. It is said, nevertheless, that country shop-keepers and small traders everywhere are already contemplating the possible effects of its working with no little alarm, as it is feared it will largely still more centralize trade within the great seats of population. The railways, however, have for years past fostered that tendency, and if the present scheme should still further develop it there will be no course but to submit and accept it as one of the inevitable tendencies of the times and of the widened facilities of communication. Intro-

duced into Canada it would at once go far to break down the extortionate monopolies of the existing Express Companies, and transfer from their hands enormous profits to fall into the national treasury. Matters, indeed, seem now to be so arranging themselves that the Government will shortly be compelled into taking into its own hands the whole of the existing methods of inter-communication—postals, parcels and telegraphic. The sooner the better.

THE U. S. MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.—A postal bill was passed by the late Congress, modifying the postal money order system so as to authorize Postmasters of money order offices, under authority of the Postmaster-General, to issue postal notes in denominations of \$5 and under. This is an important bill, and will greatly facilitate the transmission of small sums through the mails. It authorizes the issue of money orders without corresponding advices of \$5 and less, to be on engraved paper, and known as postal notes, payable to bearer, such notes to be invalid after three months, but the holder can after that time get the par value of the note by applying to the Post Office Department at Washington. For issuing a postal note a fee of three cents shall be charged. This bill authorizes the issue of money orders in denominations of \$100 or less, but none for more than \$100 can be issued. The following fees are fixed to be charged for money orders:—For orders not exceeding \$10, 8 cents; from \$10 to \$15, 10 cents; \$15 to \$30, 15 cents; \$30 to \$40, 20 cents; \$40 to \$50, 25 cents; \$50 to \$60, 30 cents; \$60 to \$70, 35 cents; \$70 to \$80, 40 cents; \$80 to \$100, 45 cents.

A POST-OFFICE STORY.—The post office at Iron Rod, Montana, has been discontinued, and the explanation is thus given by an officer of the department:—"A post office agent, while officially visiting various offices in Montana Territory for the purpose of correcting any irregularities of postmasters, stopped at Iron Rod. Going into the post office he found the room divided into three sections—first a saloon, next the post office, and last a faro bank. The mail bag was brought in, a rough-looking customer opened it, and emptied the contents on the floor. The entire crowd at once got down on their hands and commenced overhauling the letters, among which several were registered, and selected such as they wanted. After they were through, the remaining letters were shovelled into a candle-box and placed on the bar. The special agent, thinking the office needed a little regulating, asked the bar-keeper, who had received and distributed the mail, if he was the postmaster. He answered, 'No.' 'Are you the assistant postmaster?' 'No.' 'Where is the postmaster?' 'Out mining.' 'Where is the assistant postmaster?' 'Gone to Hell's Canon, and by thunder! Bill Jones has got to run this office next week; it's his turn.' The Government official then stated who he was, and demanded the keys of the office. The bar-tender coolly took the candle-box from the bar, placed it on the floor and gave it a kick, sending it out of the door, saying 'There's your post office, and now get.' The agent says: 'Knowing the custom of the country, I lost no time in following this advice, and got.' This is why the post office at Iron Rod was discontinued."

Our approval sheets are the finest in the world—contain 104.

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**NEW ISSUES**  
Of Adhesives, Post Cards,  
and Envelopes.

**Bahamas**—The 6d., current stamps, have been surcharged, 4d. in black.

**Barbados**—A 3d. reply card, (1½d. x 1½d.,) has been added to the set—color, mauve on buff.

**Buvaria**—A 3pf. post-card has appeared. Color green. Also a 3 x 3pf. reply card, violet.

**Belgium**—A new letter card, ultra-marine on pink, value 25c.; design the same as the 10c., described in our last, has issued for foreign postage to countries that are in the Postal Union. Also a provisional 5c. card, green, is in use.

**Brazil**—A 10 reis black adhesive, a 50 reis blue and a 100 reis lilac, of the new design have been introduced. Also the following postcards: 20 reis, brown, 50 reis, blue, 80 reis, orange. The design is similar to that of the last series, except that the border is wavy.

**Chile**—A new 1c. post card, similar in design to that described in our last, has been adopted.

**Costa Rica** has issued, for the first time, a set of postcards the design of which is very handsome. They are 2 centavos, black on drab, and reply, 2 x 2 centavos black on yellow. The obsolete set of stamps, viz:—½, 2 and 4 reales and 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 centavos, have been surcharged, "Oficial" in red ink. These have been in turn superseded by the new set similarly surcharged of the values of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 40 centavos.

**Cuba** has added to its set a variety of the 5 and 10 cent de peso in five different types. The design consists of a fancy scroll with the values in the centre. The reason for this change is that the Post Office was robbed of a large quantity of stamps not long since and it was necessary to make the stolen stamps obsolete.

**Cyprus**—The 1 piastre fiscal stamp, lilac, is used for postal purposes.

**Denmark**—Four new reply cards are in use in this kingdom. The colors and values are as follows:—

- 4 x 4 ore.....blue on white.
- 6 x 6 ".....brown on buff.
- 8 x 8 ".....rose on white.
- 10 x 10 ".....rose on buff.

**Dominica**—This little island has introduced a set of four provisional, ½d. stamps. Some of them were, however, only used for one mail. The designs, colors and surcharges were as follows: The current 1d. is halved perpendicularly and surcharged in black with a small ½. Two other varieties are made by taking half of a 1d. stamp and surcharging it diagonally with the words "Half-penny," in some cases reading from the top to the bottom and in others reversely. The fourth variety is formed in the same way, except that the surcharge is a large ½ in red ink. There was also in use for a short time a provisional 1d. post card. It was of the ordinary size red on white board, and bore the usual inscription with an additional notice, limiting its use to within 300 miles of the island. It had the current 1d. adhesive affixed to the upper right hand corner. They have been superseded by the regular 1d. buff card.

**Dominican Republic**—The following provisionals are in use:—

The 1880 issue is surcharged in black with the new values, viz:—

- 5 centimos on 1 centavo.....green.
- 10 " " 2 centavos.....orange.
- 25 " " ".....blue.
- 50 " " 10 ".....rose.
- 1 franco 20 ".....bistre.
- 1 peso, 50c. 25 ".....mauve.

There are two distinct sets of these, the above are on plain ground. The issue of 1882, which has a ground of net work, has also been surcharged as above. It is worthy of note by our philatelic friends that a curious typographical error has occurred in the surcharges running through both the sets from the 5 to the 50 centimos, both inclusive, and the letter "i" in the letter word is accentuated instead of being dotted.

**Dutch Indies**—A new unpaid-letter stamp 10 cts., black on carmine, is in use.

**Ecuador**—The 50 centavos, green, is surcharged in black "Diez centavos" in capitals.

**Finland**—A new reply card, 10 x 10 penny, is in use.

**Grenada Confederation**—The 2 centavos, lake, is in type slightly altered in that the figures "2" in the corners, and also the letters "C" are placed diagonally instead of upright as formerly. The 5 centavos blue is surcharged in black with "Quarto Centavo." An entire new set has been issued. The design is similar to the last except that it is slightly larger, and the figures of value are no longer in the corners but are put at the bottom of the oval that surrounds the arms of the confederation. Values and colors are as follows:—

- 1 centavo.....green.
- 2 centavos.....red.
- 5 ".....blue.
- 10 ".....orange.
- 20 ".....violet.
- 1 peso.....claret.

**Great Britain**—Two new adhesives have been added to the set of this country—a ½d. dull green and a 2s. 6d. mauve. The latter is larger than the rest of the current set.

**Greece** has added the following post-cards for interior use to her set:—

- 5 lepta.....black on buff.
- 5 x 5 do. (reply)....."
- Also for the Postal Union Service:—
- 10 lepta.....blue.
- 10 x 10 (reply)....."

**Grenada**—An entire set of a new type has been produced, viz:—

- ½d.....green.
- 1d.....rose.
- 4d.....slate.
- 8d.....gray.
- 1s.....mauve.

**India**—A service card, green on white, value not indicated, has appeared.

**Jamaica**—The provisional 1½d post-card has been supplanted by a card of a new design gray on buff.

**Montevideo**—The following stamps of a new design are now in use:

- 1 centesimo.....green.
- 2 centesimos.....carmine.
- 5 ".....blue.
- 10 ".....brown.

A letter card of rather neat design has appeared. The color is carmine on white. The stamp is a rather large one, is affixed to the upper right-hand corner and bears a Grecian head. The card has the usual inscriptions. Three post-cards have also issued. Their appearance is striking. They bear the picture of a public building on the left, the coat-of-arms having the value on the right, and between the two on an elaborate scroll the inscription, "Tarjeta Postal." Values are:—

- 2c. black on white.
- 2c. " blue.
- 3c. ultra-marine.

Also reply cards as follows:—

- 2 x 2.....dark brown.
- 2 x 2.....do on blue.

- 2 x 2.....do " yellow.
- 2 x 2.....do " pink.
- 2 x 2.....do " salmon.
- 8 x 3.....green.

**New Caledonia**—The French Colonial stamps are surcharged in black, with a bar across the top and one across the bottom, also in heavy black letters N C E and 05 below them on 40 centimes, red; also 25 on 75 centimes, carmine.

**New South Wales**—The entire set is newly engraved. It bears a water mark of N S W with a crown above them, and is coarsely perforated. The general design is the same as the last.

**Nova Scotia**—Provisionals used in 1861 surcharged on the issue of 1858, were as follows:—

- 5 cents.....black on 3d, blue.
- 5 ".....red on 3d, "
- 5 ".....black on 6d, green
- 5 ".....red on 6d, "

Of the above there were two varieties of type—one in small pica and the other in italic. For further particulars, see editorials in the July No. and in this.

**North Borneo**—Collectors will be pleased to learn that this island has contributed a small set of three stamps to the world. They are, viz:—

- 2c.....brown.
- 4c.....red.
- 8c.....blue.

The design of all is as follows:—The centre is occupied by a shield having a lion at the top and a ship at sea below. Each corner is occupied by a square with a rosette. Over the top is an arched band with the inscription "Postage" on the keystone and "North" on one, and "Borneo" on the other side. A straight band across the bottom bears the value figures and the word cents in capitals. On either side is an inscription in Chinese characters.

**Norway**—A new post-card, 10 ore, rose, on white has made its appearance. Also two reply post cards—6 x 6 ore, green on white, and 10 x 10 rose on white.

**Orange Free State**—The ½d. provisional surcharged on 5s. has become obsolete by the issuing of the new ½d. stamp of the ordinary design. Two fiscal stamps, 6d. grey and 10d. brown, are being used for postal purposes.

**Peru**—The following values have been surcharged with the arms only in the centre:—

- 1 centavo.....yellow and red.
- 2 centavos.....violet and yellow.
- 5 ".....magenta and blue.

**Philippine Islands**—The following provisionals have lately been in use:—

The current 5 cent de peso stamp is surcharged in green with a circular inscription, the upper half of which is "Habilitado" and the lower "De un reale" and across the centre, the words "Pa Correos"—all in capitals. The 8 cent de peso, brown, and the 10 quatos (fiscal), bistre, are also surcharged similarly. The first mentioned also has, in some instances, the surcharge reversed. The following values are also surcharged in the same way, except that carmine ink is used instead of green:—

- The red 2 cent de peso.
- The blue 5 " "
- The " (fiscal, 12 4-8 de peso.
- The " (telegraph) 250 mills de peso.

The red 2 cent de peso has also been surcharged (green) in the same manner with the words "Habilitado," "8 C de P," and "Pa. U. Postal." The 12 4-8c. de p. blue, (fiscal) has surcharged with a large capital "T" in black. The 250 mills de peso, telegraph, (blue), and the 200 mills de p. fiscal (green) have been used for postal purposes without surcharge as has also the 1 peso (green) fiscal. The 2 4-8 cent do

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**pezo**—color ultra-marine—adhesive of the current series has also been surcharged in black (in the same manner as those described above) "Dos (2) Reals."

**Portuguese Indies.**—The following provisionals have been uttered:—  
 4½ reis on 40 reis, blue.  
 4½ " 100 reis, green.

**Queensland.**—Two new stamps have appeared, 4d. yellow and 1s purple.

**Roumania.**—Two cards have just issued;—10 bani, red on buff and 10 x 10 (reply) do.

**Samoa.**—A 2d. stamp rose has been added to the set of this colony.

**Salvador.**—Two new post-cards are in circulation:—  
 2 centavos.....red on light brown  
 3 " .....blue

**Servia.**—Four new cards have been added to this country's list. Those for interior use bear arms with a double-headed eagle, value 5 paras, brown on rose and 5 x 5 (reply), same colors. Those for foreign use are similar to the last, but with the arms somewhat larger. Values 10 paras, violet on buff, and 10 x 10 paras, brown on buff.

**South Australia.** has issued a reply card of the same design as the 1d., (1 x 1d.) rose on buff.

**St Vincent.**—The 1d., lake, has been surcharged, 2½d., in black.

**St. Lucia.**—The 4d., yellow, and the 6d., mauve, have been surcharged in black with their respective values. To comply with the arrangements of the Postal Union they have issued three new stamps, viz:—

- ½d.,.....green.
- 1d.,.....carmine.
- 2½d.,.....blue.

**Straits Settlements.**—The following provisionals have been in use, the surcharges being perpendicular, and reading from the bottom to the top:—

- 2 cents in black on 4 cents rose.
- 2 " " " " 8 cents orange.
- 2 " " " " 32 cents vermilion.

The latter is also surcharged with a capital "B," for use in Bangkok, Siam.

The 3 and 10 cts. Revenue stamps have been used for postal purposes.

The new series has issued. Some of the stamps retain the old type but are changed in color. In others the type has been entirely changed. The colors and values are as follows:—

- 2 cents.....rose.
- 5 " .....brown.
- 5 " .....blue.
- 10 " .....slate.
- 12 " .....brown.

**Surinam.**—A reply card 5x5 cts., violet on green, has been issued.

**Switzerland.**—A new set of unpaid-letter stamps, the colors of the entire lot being green and red, has been introduced. Values are 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 centimes.

**Tasmania.**—A 2d. envelope oval, (green) has been added to the set, also a registered envelope, 4d. circular, blue, and of various sizes. The following fiscals have also been employed to pay postage:—

- 2 shillings .....pink.
- 5 do. ....green.
- 40 do. ....salmon.

**Tobago.**—The 6d. brown has been surcharged as a provisional with 2½d. in black.

**Transvaal Republic.**—Since this country regained its independence it has re-adopted the same design of stamps that it previously used. They are—

- Ein (1d) penny.....black on white.
  - Drie (3d) pence .....black on rose.
- Both are largely perforated.

**Victoria.**—A reply card 1x 1d. of similar design to the current 1d. card has been adopted.

**Virgin Islands.**—A ½d. stamp, orange, has been struck for local use.

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The following parties will consult their interests by remitting at once to J. R., St. Thomas, W.I.: G. B., Bournemouth; W. H. R., 105 L—St., New York.

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