

necessary to perforate *before* gumming. The gum then fastened up the holes made by the steel rule. It was impossible to perforate after gumming, and about 3,000 out of the 5,000 sheets printed and issued to the General Post Office were returned to the Government Printing Office, to be perforated in the ordinary way by the comb machine. There are thus four varieties of this latest perforation, viz.:

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Serrated.          | 3. Serrated and perf. 12½.          |
| 2. Serrated in black. | 4. Serrated in black and perf. 12½. |

The explanation given for the existence of the serrated in black variety is that the machinists (this work being done on an ordinary printing machine), in order to get the perforation to register properly, ran several sample sheets through the press and so arranged it that the frame did not perforate, but, with the judicious application of a little printer's ink, simply left a black impression. Where this impression encroached on the coloured design of the stamp, the register was altered, until at last all the lines of the perforating frame fell between the rows of stamps, then the "sampling" was discontinued, and the perforating proceeded merrily."



PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—*Madrid Filatelico* reports surcharges on sixteen stamps of the 1898 issue, but without confirmatory evidence we should regard these about as favorably as the counterfeit surcharges of Porto Rico which are supposed to have emanated from Spain. The surcharge is said to read as follows: "C—1898—Resellado 1899—T." The values seen with this surcharge are the following: 1, 2, 3 and 5m, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 60c, 1, 2p.



VIRGIN ISLANDS.—Two errors have been discovered on the ½d stamp of the new issue. Both are found on the left-hand pane of stamps, the first being an "F" without cross-bar in "HALF," the letter looking somewhat like an inverted L. The second is a distinct "F" in "PENNY," instead of "E."



In our December number we illustrated a new design of Honduras stamps, our illustration being taken from copies shown us by Mr. B. Von Hodenberg who received them on letters addressed to his firm. Mr. Von Hodenberg has since sought further information on the subject and has received the following reply from his correspondent:

"Referring to a letter of yours of some time ago, addressed to our Mr. MacLachlan who is in Europe, we beg to say that the stamps your friend desires are *fiscal* stamps and are still in use, but cannot be used as postage stamps."

It would therefore appear that these stamps are merely revenue stamps, although they were, no doubt, used for postage for a short time, in order to supply a deficiency.



Mr. J. M. Bartels furnishes to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* considerable information in regard to the new stamps and postal stationery to be issued for Cuba. He describes as follows the designs which have been approved for the stamps of the values of 1, 3, 5 and 10c, and states that the designs for the 2c stamp and 10c special delivery stamp are in hand and will be submitted for approval as soon as finished:

"1c green. Statue of Columbus with one hand resting on a globe. At top CUBA in curve; CENTAVO at bottom with figure "1" at each side."