

Private Boxes.—Private Boxes may be rented at any Post Office. The fee is 10 dollars per annum, payable in advance. Boxholders will be provided gratis with an account-book, and a special account may be opened for the transmission to Chinese ports of certain unstamped printed matter of uniform size and weight, such as Market Reports, Circulars, Invitations, Cards, Bills, &c., each not exceeding 2 oz. in weight, and in packets of not less than 10, the postage—at the rate of 1 cent each—being either payable in cash or charged to the sender's account, which must be settled monthly, and, as a rule, no information can be given as to particulars of matter or charge made in the account.

Inquiries.—Inquiries concerning postal business must be made at the Post Office (Custom House).

Complaints.—All complaints and representations which cannot be adjusted by the Postal Officer should be addressed to the Commissioner of Customs.

By Order of the Inspector General of Customs,
H. KORSCH,
Postal Secretary.

Inspectorate General of Customs,
Statistical Department,
Shanghai, 27th January, 1897.

Adhesives. Half cent, red-brown.
One cent, orange-yellow.
Two cents, orange.
Four „ bistre-brown.
Five „ pink.
Ten „ deep green.
Twenty cents, lake.
Thirty „ carmine.
Fifty „ pale green.

Post Card. One cent, carmine on straw.

EGYPT.—Soudan.—The standing of the recent issue—Egyptian issues surcharged “Soudan”—is defended by a correspondent of *Le T.-P.*, who writes as follows:

“These surcharges have been created to meet a real need, the entire administration of the Soudan being completely detached from other Egyptian administrations. The Soudan is governed directly and entirely by the military governor, commander-in-chief of the army. These stamps have as much right to exist as those of Finland in Russia or Bosnia in Austria.

“I believe they are to be replaced shortly, perhaps after the campaign, by a permanent issue of a different type.

“I believe that you have a bad opinion of the administration of the post offices here. They are among the best established, and a very good point in favour of the Director-General is that he has absolutely refused to agree to any carnival stamps.”

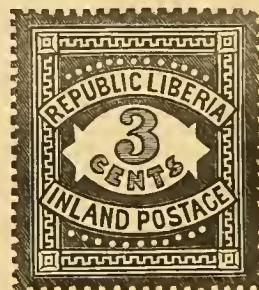
The Egyptian labels past and present are of blameless repute; we trust that the same may be said of the recent Soudan incursion stamps.

FRENCH COLONIES.—Comoro Islands.—We have received a complete set in the current French Colonial type for use on

these Islands, which are off the east coast of Africa.

Adhesives. 1 c., black on *azure*; name in red.
2 c., brown on *buff* „ blue.
4 c., purple-brown on *grey* „ blue.
5 c., green on *pale green* „ red.
10 c., black on *lilac* „ blue.
15 c., blue „ red.
20 c., red on *green* „ blue.
25 c., black on *rose* „ red.
30 c., cinnamon on *drab* „ blue.
40 c., red on *yellow* „ blue.
50 c., carmine on *rose* „ blue.
75 c., black on *orange* „ red.
1 fr., olive-green on *toned* „ red.

LIBERIA.—We illustrate the 3 cents stamp described last month.



ORANGE FREE STATE.—The one shilling value is now printed in brown, in place of orange.

Adhesive. 1s., brown.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—Certain values of the current issue having become exhausted, some of the obsolete issues were surcharged with an upright rectangular frame, in the centre of which is the value in numerals and words, and “Habilitado Correos Para 1897” around the four sides of the frame. *Le T.-P.* gives the following surcharges created:

Adhesives. 5 c. on 5 c., green, blue surcharge.
“ „ „ red „
“ „ „ black „
15 c. on 15 c., carmine „ „
“ „ red-brown „ „
“ „ „ blue „
20 c. on 20 c., violet, black „
“ „ bistre „ „
“ „ „ blue „
20 c. on 25 c. „ black „

ZANZIBAR (French P.O.).—The annexed letter from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., with reference to the recent surcharges, will speak for itself, and we have pleasure in inserting it. Any comments made by this Journal upon issues of a speculative tendency are made in the interests of all, and in accordance with the general desire to see the Philatelic fold kept free from the ravages of the glaringly speculative and unnecessary issues to which we have been treated during twelve months past. We had no intention of doubting the