

our quarterly number of increased size in March. In the meantime it is only fair that we should say at once that we were in error in stating, on the authority of some of our contemporaries, that the Four and Five Dollars stamps could not possibly be used for payment of any corresponding postal rates, as we are assured that parcels bearing postage of considerably higher amounts are admissible under the Canadian postal tariff, and are not so very uncommon, though the actual demand for stamps of such values is hardly sufficient to justify their issue. We may further say that the Canadian Post Office Department, apart from its action in authorizing the issue of a set of stamps, nominally for postal use, but unnecessary for any postal requirement, seems to have tried its best to distribute these labels as widely as possible; but we cannot acquit the Department of an extraordinary want of foresight in issuing a set of avowedly *Souvenir Stamps*, and basing the numbers and proportions of the different values upon the ordinary demand for postal use, which could be no guide whatever. We must add that there is nothing in the history of these stamps to raise them above the level of the ordinary Commemorative Issue, made for the express purpose of increasing the Postal Revenue by taking advantage of the fact that there are persons who collect stamps; and that in our opinion a so-called *issue* of stamps, made under circumstances which call for their sale in entire sets, instead of in the ordinary way, is self-condemned, and that labels thus sold are unworthy of the title of Postage Stamps, from a philatelic point of view.

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MR. BACON tells us that he has changed the stamps shown at the British Museum, and that the issues of Spain from 1850 to the end of 1872 are now on view.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES.

NOTE.—We shall be greatly obliged if our readers will send, for description herein, any new issues or new varieties they may become acquainted with, addressing them to MAJOR EVANS, Glenarm, Longton Avenue, Sydenham, S.E., or to THE EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY JOURNAL, care of MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED, 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PART I.

Great Britain.—Owing to certain concessions in the matter of free delivery of telegrams, made in July last, corresponding changes in the "Notice" on the back of the Telegraph Forms were made. The number of paragraphs was increased from 7 to 8, of which Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 are identical in wording (though not in setting) with Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 on the previous form, which we called 18*b*. The "Notice" on the face of the form has been changed also, and now reads, "This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Telegraph Acts, the Regulations made thereunder, and the Notice printed at the back hereof." A thick sloping line is added in the space headed "Charge," and there are two groups of figures after "Wt." at foot. The form that we have seen is dated "10/97," and stamped with 6d. Die 34.

It is perhaps worthy of note that the "Notice" on the

back of the latest unstamped forms that we have met with is in quite different type from that upon the stamped form, though in the same words; and we are told that a later edition has already appeared with *nine* paragraphs on the back, but we have not yet heard of this with a stamp.

We may add at the same time some further varieties of previous numbers:—

- 18a. Die 34. 2/96; imperf.
- " 40. 6/96; "
- " 19. 1897.
- With eight paragraphs on the back.
- Die 34. 10/97; perf.
- 104. Die 20. 20. 1. 97; imperf.

Barbados.—We give an illustration of the design employed for the Jubilee issue of this colony.



British Bechuanaland.

—The *D. B. Z.* chronicles a series of adhesives, formed by surcharging various values of our current stamps with the words "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE" in black. We are told that the overprint is placed at the top of the ½d., across the centre on the 1d., 2d., and 6d., and at the foot on the 4d.; but whether these variations are designed or accidental we cannot say.

- Adhesives. ½d., vermilion.
- 1d., lilac.
- 2d., green and red.
- 4d., " brown.
- 6d., purple on red.

British East Africa.—The *D. B. Z.* reports the issue of a set of stamps, value 1 rupee and upwards, of similar design to that of 1896, but in a larger size and with the watermark Crown & CC. Perf. 14.

- Adhesives. 1r., ultramarine.
- 2r., orange.
- 3r., dark violet.
- 4r., carmine.
- 5r., black-brown.
- 10r., yellow-brown.
- 20r., yellow-green.
- 50r., lilac.

British Honduras.—In reference to the variety of the "2 CENTS" on 6d., of 1888, with a curly-tailed figure "2," to which we alluded in October, Mr. A. Levy has shown us a pair of these stamps, one of which has the normal type of surcharge and the other a figure "2" with what he believes to be a curly tail. But if this is a specimen of the variety about which there has been some question, we can only say that in our humble opinion there should be no question at all about it, as the figures on Mr. Levy's stamps are plainly both from the same fount, but one is either damaged or has failed to print properly. The variety with a real curly-tailed "2," if such exists, is probably a forgery.

Canada.—The various values of the new issue, of which we append an illustration, are making their appearance one by one, as the old supplies are exhausted. We have received the following from various correspondents, to whom our best thanks are due:—



- Adhesives. 1 c., bluish green.
- 2 c., purple.
- 5 c., deep blue.
- 6 c., brown.
- 8 c., orange.
- Letter Card. 2 c., green on blue.

Mr. D. A. King has also kindly sent us a copy of an official "Notice to the Public," containing the "Regulations under which designs, illustrations, portraits, sketches, or other forms of advertisement may be engraved, lithographed, printed, etc., on the 'address' side of the one-cent Post Card." We gather that a card of the current size, 140 × 86 mm., is obtainable (either in sheets or singly) bearing a 1 c. stamp in the right upper corner, and an instruction, "THE SPACE BELOW IS RESERVED FOR ADDRESS ONLY." A margin ¼ inch wide round the stamp, and a space for the address, not less than 3¼ × 1½ in., are to be left blank; the remainder of this side of the card may be covered with the pictorial or other advertisements alluded to in the illustrations. The good old quotation, "Sweet are the uses of advertisement," seems to apply with peculiar force.

We read in *Mekeel's Weekly* that the "3 c., red., envelope on so-called *wove paper* was . . . unceremoniously turned down by the English papers," and we are personally credited with having said that "the regular laid paper envelopes had been stored in a damp place, or something of that kind." Our contemporary has got a little mixed; a small stock of the 3 c. envelopes on undoubtedly *wove paper* "turned up" at Halifax, and they were never "turned down," so far as we know—certainly not by the present writer, who possesses a copy. The envelope on supposed *wove paper*, which we and others found to have been originally *laid*, was one of British India.

Cape of Good Hope.—We understand that the 2d., *brown*, and 4d., *olive*, which we chronicled in April last on the authority of a contemporary, have not yet been issued, and we have accordingly struck them out of the *Addenda*.

Fiji.—*Le T.-P.* reports the 2d. in a new shade.

Adhesive. 2d., bright emerald-green; *perf.* ?

Hong Kong.—We have received the 2 dollars Stamp Duty stamp (which we believe is still available for postal purposes) in a new shade, a *pale green*, and are informed that this is a fresh printing, and that the last of the older stamps were converted into 1 dollar postage. We have since received the new 2 dollars surcharged in the same manner as the previous edition.

We are informed that 39 sheets, of 240 each, of the *sage-green* stamps were surcharged, and that 15 sheets of the *pale green* have since been treated in the same manner.

Stamp Duty Stamp. \$ 2, pale green; *wmk.* Cr. & CC; *perf.* 14.
Postage Stamp. 1 dollar on \$ 2 " " " "

India.—Our readers are no doubt well aware that, during the last year, the 1 anna stamp has appeared in a very different tint from that in which the current design was originally printed. If we have not formally chronicled the new variety, it is partly because we have not hitherto had an opportunity of placing the two side by side, and partly because it is exceedingly difficult to find a name for the new colour. The older one has been termed *purple-brown* or *plum*; the present is a brighter, redder, more cheerful shade, a *gladdened purple-brown* the tintometrist might call it—shall we say "bright marone"?

Adhesive. 1 a., bright marone.



Charkari.—We have received the $\frac{1}{2}$ a. much better printed than before, and in a shade closely resembling that of some of the earlier printings of our current 1d.

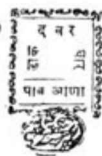
Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ a., dull purple.

Dhar.—We give illustrations showing the designs of the adhesives (also impressed on the envelopes), and of the post card recently chronicled for this State.

DHAR STATE POST CARD

धर दरवार पोस्ट कार्ड

हलतक सिर्फ रंगहि डिखा जाय.



Faridkot.—We have received the 1 anna of India, in its new shade, surcharged with the name of this State, in two lines, in *black*. *Adhesive.* 1 a., bright marone.

Jhind.—Our publishers send us a specimen of the $\frac{1}{2}$ a. of India with the horizontal surcharge, in *black*, upside down and near the top of the stamp.

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ a., green; *inverted surcharge.*

Puttialla.—A correspondent draws our attention to the omission from the Catalogue of the 1 a. "Service" stamp with error "AUTTIALLA," which he says exists and ought to be chronicled.

Jamaica.—We have at last received the 2s., *wmk.* Crown & CA, which was chronicled some time back, but afterwards omitted from our list.

Adhesive. 2s., red-brown; *wmk.* Crown CA; *perf.* 14.

Mauritius.—We have received the Registration Envelope, size F, with the stamp impressed in a kind of *grey* tint with very little *blue* about it; and our publishers have found in their stock two very distinct varieties of size G, one with the stamp in *dull blue* and the other in an *ultra-marine* shade.

Reg. Env. 8 c., grey; size F.
8 c., ultramarine; size G.

All are of the "THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. PATENT" style.



Newfoundland.—The new issue for this colony is coming out piecemeal, as in the case of that of Canada. The 1 c. shows a picture of a lady in a widow's cap, and the 2 c. a gentleman in uniform, intended, we believe, to represent the Queen and the Prince of Wales respectively, but in neither case is either the artist or the victim entirely to be congratulated.

Adhesives. 1 c., carmine; *perf.* 12.
2 c., orange "

New South Wales.—A correspondent sends us a copy of the current 2d. stamp in a different tint from that of the first printing; it appears now to be in a very deep *ultra-marine* instead of *indigo*.

Adhesive. 2d., deep ultramarine.

We have since learnt from *The Australian Ph.* that this is an intentional change, the postmark not showing sufficiently clearly on the *indigo* stamps.

New Zealand.—*The A. J. of Ph.* notes the discovery of a copy of the 6d., of the 1873 issue, on *blued* paper, but does not give the perforation. A correspondent in this colony tells us that the 1d. Life Insurance Department stamp is now *perf.* 10 x 11.

Sierra Leone.—A correspondent has shown us copies of the Revenue stamps of 1884 which are supposed to have been postally used. They are of Types 1 and 2 of the postage stamps, 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1s., printed *uniformly* in *lilac*, with the value in *carmine* on the 1d., in *brown* on the 3d., and in *blue* on the 1s., and are surcharged "REVENUE," in block capitals, in *black*, the word "POSTAGE" at the top of the 1d., 3d., and 1s. being cancelled by a bar. *Wmk.* Crown & CA. The specimens shown us appear to bear postmarks, but this is not quite sufficient evidence of postal use.

Straits Settlements.—*Nagri Sembilan.*—*Le T.-P.* chronicles the following values of the current type, as being now in use:—

Adhesives. 5 c., lilac and ochre.
10 c. " orange.
20 c., green and olive.

Selangor.—We have received two of the high values of the current series. *Wmk.* Crown and CC.

Adhesives. \$2, green and carmine.
\$3 " mustard.

Tasmania.—Mr. Basset Hull tells us:—

"I have seen a set of stamped envelopes which it is proposed to issue for Tasmania. There are only two values, viz., 2d. and 2½d. The stamps are printed in the right upper corner of the envelopes, from *clichés* of the type of the current adhesives, and in the same colours respectively, green and magenta. The paper is white laid, and the size 142 x 80 mm. On the address side of the envelopes there are very artistic views of Tasmanian scenery, produced from Indian ink drawings made by Mr. D. Warry. There are twelve of such views in all, six on the 2d. and six on the 2½d. envelope. The views are in *black*. These envelopes are intended to advertise the charms of Tasmanian scenery, and I do not think that they were issued with any in-

attention to exploit the pockets of philatelists. Of course there are so few comparatively who collect entire envelopes at all that very little harm can be done to collectors by the issue, and they are certainly pretty things for visitors to use when writing home to their friends."

Victoria.—We are informed that a copy, believed to be unique, of the 1d., green, Emblems, watermark Star, imperf., with a clear impression on both sides, was shown at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Victoria some time back. One side only was used. Should this be rejected by the specialist in used or in unused, or by both?

PART II.

Austria.—*The Ph. Chronicle and Advertiser* states that the 2 kr. cards now have a long "f" in the word "Correspondenz," the single card having been issued for all the provinces, and the reply-paid for Austria proper, Bohemia and Poland only.

Post Cards.

2 kr., brown on buff; for Austrian, Bohemian, Polish, Illyrian, Italian, Roumanian, Ruthenian, and Slavonic offices.
2+2 kr. " " for Austrian, Bohemian, and Polish offices.

China.—We have received copies of various Official Notices, too long for reproduction here, but very interesting to file for future reference. One thing, however, we gathered from them before we opened them, which is that packets of printed matter, which would formerly have travelled with a 5 c. stamp of France surcharged "China," now appear to require 2 c. in Chinese stamps, in addition to the French 5 c.

Colombia.—*Panama.*—We are informed that a provisional Registration Stamp was in use at Colon for a few days in November last. It was formed by surcharging the ordinary 10 c. stamp, No. 20 in the Catalogue, "AR—COLON—COLOMBIA," in three lines, in black.

Registration Stamp. 10 c., orange; black surcharge.

France.—In reference to the provisionals employed in July last at the French Post Office at Zanzibar, Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us copies of two letters from persons at that place, who we believe to be disinterested, and who state that these provisionals were really rendered necessary by the exhaustion of the stocks of certain values, and also that they were not sold to collectors, or even to the general public, but were affixed in the Post Office to letters and packets on which the postage was paid in cash. In cases of this kind it would surely be well to temporarily suspend the use of adhesive stamps altogether, and have the letters marked "paid" (or its equivalent) with a hand-stamp; this would save both trouble and expense, and we suspect that if no one collected stamps it would be the course always adopted. The use of an adhesive stamp upon a letter, on which the postage is paid over the counter, is a work of supererogation.

Le T.-P. chronicles the following articles of stationery surcharged with the name "ZANZIBAR," and we presume the value in annas, though that is not stated:—

Envelope. ½ a. on 5 c., green; red surcharge.
Post Cards. 1 a. on 10 c., black on green; blue surcharge.
1 + 1 a. on 10 + 10 c., black on blue; blue surcharge.
Letter Card. 2½ a. on 25 c., black on rose; blue surcharge.

The single card and the letter card have the heading "REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE," the 10 + 10 c. card has the old formula.

La Revue Ph. F. states that there are two distinct sets of the adhesives surcharged in Paris with the name "ZANZIBAR." The first, which is perhaps not a complete series, consists of stamps previously overprinted with the values in annas, to which the name was added in various positions as regarded the original overprint; in the later editions the whole surcharge was printed at once, and the name is uniformly 3½ mm. below the word "ANNA," or "ANNAS."

French Colonies.—*Dahomey et Dépendances.*—We learn from *Le Coll. de T.-P.* that a full series of stamps and stationery is in preparation for this territory, but that the 10 c. post card alone has been seen at present. It seems a curious item to start with, but the natives of Dahomey perhaps require a gradual educating up to the pitch of polite letter-writing, and will commence with the simplest form of communication.

Tunis.—*Le T.-P.* reports two more values (of which type?) with ground of horizontal lines instead of plain tint.

Adhesives. 2 c., brown on straw
75 c., carmine on rose.

Germany.—The Letter Card recently chronicled has already undergone some modification; a correspondent kindly sends us a copy with the instruction on the flap in seven lines instead of two, and giving a list of the places to which it is transmitted without an extra stamp. There is also a variety of the first edition, chronicled by *Le T.-P.*, in which the perforation is of larger gauge than the ordinary—the latter was perf. 14, the new card is perf. 13. Is that the gauge of the variety of the first issue?

Letter Cards. 10 pf., carmine; perf 13
10 pf. " instruction in 7 lines; perf 13.

In reference to the 10 pf. cards surcharged for use in the Navy, Herr H. Fraenkel informs *Le T.-P.* that these cards are supplied at 5 pf. each to the seamen and marines on board the Imperial ships at foreign stations.



The current sets of adhesives and post cards have been surcharged "China," in black, as shown in the accompanying illustration, for use on the estate recently leased to Germany in eastern Asia.

Wurtemberg.—We give an illustration of the Letter Card for use in this Kingdom, and learn from *Le T.-P.* that it is not coloured blue and red inside, but has a kind of granite surface, with blue and red threads.



Guatemala.—Divers of our contemporaries report that the series of oblong plasters issued to advertise the Central American Exhibition, was to be withdrawn from circulation on December 31st last, or on the 15th inst., and to be replaced by the ordinary postal issue. No provision, however, appears to have been made for this, consequently the 1 c. stamps have run out altogether, and a provisional, formed by surcharging the 12 c. of the oblong type, has been brought out—perhaps to facilitate the *écoulement*.

Adhesive. 1 c. on 12 c., black on carmine.

The overprint is "UN-CENTAVO-1898," in three lines, in violet, but the issue must have taken place before the end of December, 1897!

We find that the 12 c., both with and without the surcharge, exists on paper coloured on both sides, as well as on paper with only the face tinted.

Japan.—*The A. J. of Ph.* chronicles Plate 23 of the 2 sen, yellow, of 1874, on laid paper; this has hitherto only been catalogued upon *wove*.

Mexico.—Mr. Chapman sends us the 12 c. and 50 c. with the new watermark, and tells us that the sets printed in black were originally struck off for presentation, as mementoes, to the heads of the various Government Departments. He also sends us a variety of the current 4 c. Letter Card, having the name of the inventor given on the back as "G. F. BIORKLUND," instead of "BIORKLUND & Co."

Adhesives. 12 c., olive; new wmk.; perf. 12.
50 c., mauve " "

We have received a 3c. card for the "SERVICIO INTERIOR," in the type of 1897, with the formula in red.

Post Card. 3c., brown and red on white.

The following letter from Mr. Chapman gives some interesting information on the subject of the Telegraph Cards, which we chronicled in September. We failed to notice the value given at the right hand side. He has since sent us a specimen of the second variety, inscribed "VALOR : CINCO CENTAVOS."

"With reference to the note and illustrations on page 46 of *Monthly Journal* of September, I do not consider the cards in question of any interest from a philatelic standpoint, although I appreciate very much their practical utility. It may, however, be of some interest generally to give a little information respecting the use of these cards.

"They were first issued in 1897. The stamp impressed on the cards is a fiscal, and as the fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th, and the stamps are changed every year, it was necessary on 1st July to commence using the new design, although still in 1897. On the second illustration the dates 1897-1898 are visible. There is a tax of 1 cent on every telegram sent, but the cost of the message is shown at right, "VALOR : DIEZ CENTAVOS" = "Price ten cents." The price, however, has since been reduced to five cents, and as the district covers a radius of nearly twenty miles, and the net revenue to the telegraph service is only 4 cents—about 2d.—I am inclined to think we are better served here than in London! The Telegraph Department is operated under the instructions of the Minister of Communications and Public Works, who also is the supreme authority in the management of the Post Office; but the telegraph revenue is kept entirely distinct from that of the Post Office.

"I enclose a rough sketch map, with the names of some of the places between which these cards are available marked in pencil, the extremes being Guadalupe and Tlalpam. The 5 cents covers a message of ten words, and, in addition, the name of sender and name and address of person to whom sent."

Norway.—*Le T.-P.* reports that the 10+10 öre card has appeared with the stamp of the current type of the adhesives.

Post Card. 10+10 öre, carmine.

Persia.—The Post Office here, we are told, ran out of certain values in November last, and supplied these of course in the usual manner. The surcharge is in two lines, in an oblong frame, the value in Arabic characters above and in European figures and letters below, as shown in the accompanying illustrations. We understand that it is hand-stamped, in violet, in each case.



Adhesives. 5 ch. on 8 chahi, brown.
1 kr. on 5 kran, violet and silver.
2 kr. on 5 " " "

New sizes of envelopes are reported by some of our contemporaries, but 146×92 mm. is not a new size for the 5 ch.—we chronicled it in July, 1895—and 100×108 mm. does not sound right for the 16 ch.

We have received the following values of the new series, of which all up to 12 chahi are of the same design as the lower values of the 1894 issue, while the 1 kran is of larger size and has a portrait of the new Shah. Higher values may be expected shortly.

<i>Adhesives.</i> 1 ch., grey.	5 ch., yellow.
2 ch., brown.	10 ch., blue.
3 ch., purple.	12 ch., carmine.
4 ch., vermilion.	1 kr., ultramarine.

The lower values are all perf. 12½, the highest is perf. 12½×12.

Peru.—We learn from *Le T.-P.* that the 1c. Unpaid Letter stamp, which we chronicled last month as converted into a postage stamp, has now been surcharged "DEFICIT."

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 1c., bistre-brown; black surcharge.

Portugal.—*Macao.*—We understand that a 2 avos on 10 reis stamp has been issued here, as well as in Timor. We do not quite understand why this value has been kept back for so long, but we suppose it is as good as the rest of the set.

Adhesive. 2 avos, in black, on 10 reis, green.

Portuguese India.—We chronicled in March, 1896, on the authority of *La R. Ph. Belge*, a 9 reis stamp of the current type, which was omitted from our publishers' Catalogue, we believe, because the value was not found to be in circulation. We now gather from the *D.B.Z.* that this stamp was originally chronicled in violet and perf. 12½, and has now been found in grey-lilac and perf. 13½.

Russian Locals.—*Bielozersk.*—*Le T.-P.* reports the receipt of the 2 kop., blue, of 1893, imperforate. Is the stamp still in use in this colour, or is this a discovery of an unfinished sheet of an obsolete issue?

Adhesive. 2 kop., blue; imperf.

Koungour.—The same journal tells us of two new stamps for this district of the annexed design, in which the Arms are conspicuous by their absence. There are stated to be five varieties of each value, differing in the numerals in the corners; these varieties are in a horizontal row, repeated four times on the sheet.

Adhesives.
1 kop., deep blue; perf. 11½.
2 " " rose-red "



Ossa.—We have received what is possibly the stamp that we chronicled in November, on the authority of *Le T.-P.*, as 2 kopecs, brown-lilac; the specimen now before us is in a colour that we should rather term rose-carmine, or rose-lake. It may be a new shade altogether.

Adhesive. 2 kop., rose-carmine; perf. 11½.

Ostaschkov.—*Le T.-P.* has received imperforate copies of the two stamps chronicled in May last.

Adhesives. 3 kop., black on rose wove; imperf.
3 " " yellow laid "

Tichvin.—The type that has been in use here for the last few years has appeared with the date altered to "1897"; the design is in blue, with the Sun and Crown in gold, and the background in rose.

Adhesive. 3 kop., blue, gold and rose; perf. 11½.

Tscherdina.—In 1895 the authorities of this district adopted a system of distinguishing the various values of their stamps by their sizes, as well as by their colours; since then both colours and sizes have got somewhat mixed. We have already chronicled a 3 kop., green, in the size of the 2 kop. (19×26½ mm.), and a 1 kop., orange-yellow, in the size of the 3 kop. (about 20½×28 mm.), and we now have the 3 kop. in green in this latter size.

Adhesive. 3 kop., green; 20½×28 mm.; perf. 11½.

Samoa.—We have received the 2½d. perf. 11, and the 6d. with the same perforation and in a new colour. *The A. J. of Ph.* chronicles the 2d. with colour changed, also perf. 11.

Adhesives. 2d., bright yellow.
2½d., rose.
6d., marone.

San Marino.—A set of "Segnatasse" stamps has been issued here, and although we do not doubt that (like most of the other stamps of this Republic) their principal object is the collection of Revenue, from philatelists and others, still they are not purely fiscal stamps, as has been stated by one of our contemporaries. The following is a translation of an extract from the official regulations:—

"ISSUE OF *Segnatasse*, AND THEIR VALUES.

"ART. 15. The State issues the following eight kinds of *segnatasse*, for use in the offices of the Chancellery of the Law Courts, in the Stamping and Registration Offices, in the Post Office in the case of unfranked or insufficiently franked letters and packets, and in all cases laid down in the postal notices and regulations, as well as for the purposes stated below.

"ART. 16. *Segnatasse* of the value of
5, 10, 30, 50, and 60 centesimi.
1, 5, and 10 lire."

From this it is evident that these labels are to be used as Unpaid Letter stamps, as well as for other purposes. The document from which the above is quoted is dated 29th March, 1897, and took effect from April 1st.

Spain.—*Fernando V.*—We learn from *Madrid Filatelico* that the 5 c. on 6 c., chronicled last month, is overprinted in red, and that the same surcharge, in the same colour, has been applied to the 5 c., green (of the 1891-92 issue). The latter might surely have been made use of, in such an emergency, without any disfigurement.

Adhesive. 5 c., in red, on 5 c., green.

Philippine Islands.—A correspondent in Madrid informs us that he possesses the following varieties of the recent provisionals, with the surcharges *inverted*:—

15 c., in black, on 15 c., carmine.
20 c., in blue, on 20 c., brown.
20 c., in black, on 20 c., violet-brown.

Sweden.—In reference to our note in the November number, a correspondent very kindly sends us a specimen of the current 5 öre card, which he tells us has been in use for some two years past, but had not apparently been chronicled. It has the frame of Post-horns and Crowns, like Type 5, but the inscriptions of the earlier 5 öre cards, though in different type. It is on white card, not yellowish. *Le T.-P.* chronicles the 10 öre card in bright carmine, and likewise on white. Does the 5 + 5 c. card exist with the frame of Post-horns, etc., as hinted by some of our contemporaries? We have not met with it. We are informed that the 30 öre stamp has not been issued in yellow.

Post Card. 10 öre, bright carmine.

United States.—*The A. J. of Ph.* chronicles no less than four hitherto unknown varieties of early issues: The 5 c. and 10 c. of 1847 "on distinctly laid paper," unused copies with full original gum; and the 3 c. of the 1861 type, grilled all over and with the 13 × 16 grille, both in an imperforate condition. We trust they may be all right, but we are always rather suspicious of these *distinctly laid* papers, and it is certainly curious that both values should have turned up at the same time. *Imperforate* varieties are of course matters of faith, unless they occur in unsevered pairs or blocks, and we presume the two grilles are not *se tenant*. However, they are quite possible, as all stamps have existed imperforate.

RAILWAY LETTER FEE STAMPS OF IRELAND.

By T. A. STODART.

AN enquiry addressed to me a few months ago by an esteemed English correspondent directed my attention to the published lists of Irish railways issuing what have come to be called "Railway Letter Fee Stamps." On turning to the *Postal Guide* I found, on page 38, a list of the Railway Companies which "have entered into an agreement with the Postmaster-General" to accept and convey "Single Inland Post Letters," either to be called for at the station of address, or "transferred there to the nearest post office letter-box for delivery by postmen." This list contains no less than eleven railways which have never issued fee stamps or, as the *Guide* calls them, "labels." These are:—

Athenry and Ennis Junction.	Fermoy and Lismore.
Athenry and Tuam.	Kilkenny Junction.
Clara and Banagher.	Limerick and Kerry.
Derry Central.	Rathkeale and Newcastle.
Enniskillen, Bundoran, and Sligo.	Southern.
	Tralee and Fenit.

The stamps used over these systems are those of the "Working" Companies. It also includes one line which has long since been absorbed by a powerful neighbour, and does not now issue stamps. The extinct line is the

Kanturk and Newmarket.

Turning to the list in "Stanley Gibbons" Part I., page 13, I find, in addition to nearly all those already given, the Tralee and Dingle, which must be added to the list of non-issuing Companies. The same remark applies to the catalogue of British stamps published by Mr. Walter Morley. There is also one issue which has never appeared in any catalogue—

Finn Valley and West Donegal Railway.

One Company has changed its name, and also its stamps. It was known up till 1896 as the Waterford and Limerick, and is now called the Waterford, Limerick, and Western.

In order to furnish a fairly reliable guide to collectors who may take an interest in these semi-postage stamps, I have gone at some detail into the subject. And here I may express my deep indebtedness to the Managers and Secretaries of the Irish Railway Companies—surely a most courteous and obliging group of public officials—for valuable assistance given in all cases as soon as asked.

When the Post Office authorities decided to put the regulation for the "Conveyance of single post letters by railway" into operation in January, 1891, and fixed the rate at 2d. for all letters under four ounces, there seems to have been a general understanding that the stamps were to be green in colour and of uniform design. This design, although it varies slightly in size in every case, generally measures 30 × 27 mm., and consists in all cases of a large 2^d on a white shield in the centre of a circular band lettered "Fee for conveyance of single post letters by railway," the name of the issuing company being printed along straight labels at the top and bottom. Except in the case of the Donegal and Dundalk, Newry and Greenore stamps, there has been little or no attempt at ornamentation. The spandrels are filled in with converging lines, and the borders at the sides are composed of alternate dots and dashes. So far as I can ascertain the stamp was sent over from the English Railway Clearing-house to the Great Northern Company of Ireland, whose officials took considerable trouble to secure a lithographed drawing approaching the original as nearly as possible in design and colour. From the Great Northern stamps the other manufacturers appear to have got their impressions, except in the two cases already stated. Although the colour was to be green all over the country—a compliment, perhaps, to the Emerald Isle—Ireland herself furnishes no less than three out of the four exceptions to this rule, Waterford and Dungarvan being in vermilion, Cork and Macroom in royal blue, and Londonderry and Lough Swilly in deep blue. Ireland also furnishes the only exception to the universal denomination of Fee stamps, in the case of the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Company, which uses stamps of the value of 1^d, and of course now puts two on each letter. Regarding the colour, a glance at the sheets of the Irish issues reveals the most divergent views as to what really is a green. The shades are as various as the politics of the country. From Cork there come some splendid shades of emerald-green, while Belfast sends nothing but the palest of olive-greens—greens, in fact, which no patriot would have anything to say to. Nevertheless, they look exceedingly well. The size and disposition of the sheets vary considerably, ranging from the small oblong, in two rows of four (8 stamps) of the Cork and Macroom, to the handsome rectangle in ten rows of six (60 stamps) of the Midland Great Western, and Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford. The paper is in every case thick or thin wove, of varying degrees of substance. All the issues are perforated except those of the Finn Valley and West Donegal Railways, Donegal, and Dundalk and Greenore. In some cases the perforation is roughly done, especially in the earlier issues, and will be found to vary almost on every side of the stamp.