

Stamp Collecting.

The "Cancell" 5c stamp of New Brunswick, realised £9 15/ at auction in London.

The 2 franc brown on yellow, and the 10 franc red on green stamps of Indo-China have been overprinted for use in the French post offices in China.

The 20c Dutch Indies stamp has appeared in olive green colour, and it is reported that the 2½ guelden is slate colour.

The 1d. stamp of Transvaal on the new multiple watermark paper is described as nearer true scarlet than crimson in colour.

The 8 anna violet and 12 anna purple on red stamps, King's head type, have appeared for use in the Indian State Patiala.

The 9d straw coloured stamp of Great Britain, with hair lines, date 1862, sold for £4 at auction in London, and the £1 brown lilac water-marks anchor, date 1862, unused fetched £25, which is good interest on 20/ even for a quarter of a century.

Sir William Bosby Avery, Bart., possesses a valuable and varied collection of stamps. His British Colonials are arranged in 36 massive volumes, while a larger number are required to accommodate his general collection. He is hon. president of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

A new set is announced for Hyderabad, in which the main difference is the alteration of "Post Stamp" to "Postage." The native inscriptions are also altered. In general appearance the stamps are the same as the old designs, but slightly smaller and also square.

The late Rev. John Archibald Dunbar-Dunbar, of Sea Park, Forres, a great authority on natural history and postage stamps, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £151,192. He bequeathed his collection of stamps to the Museum of Science and Art (now the Royal Scottish Museum), of Chambers-street, Edinburgh.

The "Philatelic Record" states that "The new Swiss stamps of 2, 3, and 5 centimes will bear the portrait of William Tell's son, drawn by the Swiss artist, M. Wetti, of Munich; and the 10, 12, and 15 centimes the head of Helvetia, drawn by Prof. L. Eplatenier, of Chaux-de-Fonds."

With regard to the stamps overprinted for British post offices in the Levant, it is stated that the reason why the 2d. and 5d. stamps exist both with surcharge "Levant" and with value in Turkish money is that the stamps overprinted with value in piastres are used exclusively for letters, whilst those over printed "Levant" are intended for printed matter, post-cards, and parcels, the postage on these being charged in English money, whilst letters are charged for in piastres.

Notwithstanding that the St. Louis Exhibition commemorative stamps did not take well, still another lot will be issued for the Jamestown Exposition next year to celebrate the tercentenary of the first settlement of white men on the American Continent. Perhaps a hundred years hence a commemorative stamp will be issued in honour of the 'Pisco earthquake.

As far back as 1651 a certain Mons. de Velayer, who held the position of Maître des techniques under Louis XIV,

established a private post for the city of Paris, worked under royal letters patent by his own servants. Though intended to operate only within the city limits, the post also carried letters to Paris from members of the royal suite during the King's absences from town. The letters could be posted in boxes erected for the purpose at convenient points in the city. The adoption of street letter-boxes by the English Post Office in 1855, was, therefore, after all only a revival of the idea carried out in France over two centuries before.

The Nelson centenary stamps issued in Barbados all have black centres with the exception of the farthing value, which is all grey. The other stamps are 3d green, 1d carmine, 2d orange yellow, 2d bright violet blue, 6d light mauve, and 1/ lake. The stamp is just double the size of the ordinary issue. The design is the statue of the hero on its old dwarf pedestal and some palm trees and vegetation in the background. Under the statue is the legend "First monument erected to Nelson's memory. 1813." The dates 1805, 1905 are in the bottom corners. In the top border is "Barbados," and the value in the bottom. The side borders bear the names, Nelson, Trafalgar.

Definitions of "A Friend."

The first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out.

A bank of credit on which we can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help, and love.

One who combines for you alike the pleasures and benefits of society and solitude.

A jewel whose lustre the strong acids of poverty and misfortune cannot dim.

One who multiplies joys, divides griefs, and whose honesty is inviolable.

One who loves the truth and you, and will tell the truth in spite of you.

The Triple Alliance of the three great powers, Love, Sympathy, and Help.

A watch which beats true for all time, and never runs down.

A permanent fortification when one's affairs are in a state of siege.

One who to himself is true, and therefore must be so to you.

A balancing pole to him who walks across the tightrope of life.

The link in life's long chain that bears the greatest strain.

A harbour of refuge from the stormy waves of adversity.

One who considers my need before my deservings.

The jewel that shines brightest in the darkness.

A stimulant to the nobler side of our nature.

A volume of sympathy bound in cloth.

A diamond in the ring of acquaintance.

A star of hope in the cloud of adversity.

One truer to me than I am to myself.

Friendship, one soul in two bodies.

An insurance against misanthropy.

A link of gold in the chain of life.

One who understands our silence.

The essence of pure devotion.

The sunshine of calamity.

A second right hand.

In the Depths of the Sea.

Laying along the beds of oceans are about two hundred and twenty-five thousand miles of submarine telegraph cables. More than half of this immense mileage is British, and every year British messages number all told 100,000,000 words.

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Great depths have been conquered by the cable layers.

The greatest known depth of the sea is in the mid-Pacific Ocean, and is recorded as five thousand two hundred and sixty-nine fathoms—thirty-one thousand six hundred and fourteen feet—or sixty-six feet short of six statute miles. This sounding was obtained on the United steamship Nero, and it is greater than any elevation in the world.

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