

## Stamp Collecting.

The Empire of Brazil was the second country in the world to put in practice the postal system adopted by Rowland Hill in England.

The £2 King Edward postage stamp has been issued in Victoria. Probably Queen's heads will gradually disappear as values run out.

King Edward stamps are expected to be issued at Cape of Good Hope early in 1903.

An unused copy of a Danish West Indian stamp, 3 cents, perf. 13½, 1872-3, has been found on very thick paper; in fact, almost thin cardboard, and full crimson colour.

The 2 leva Bulgarian stamp is now black and carmine, instead of black and red.

The Cuban Republic proposes issuing a new set of stamps, probably early in 1903. The idea is that stamps shall bear the likenesses of Cuban statesmen. The values are to range from 1 centavo to 10 centavos.

The 3-cent lilac Netherland Indies stamp has been surcharged 2½ in large thick type.

Further sets of "provisionals" are being issued by Portuguese Congo, Guinea, and India.

Owing to a considerable theft of stamps in Persia, of the 1899 issue, the remainders are to be surcharged "Provisoire 1319."

The fact was notified in London stamp journals that the Queensland current 1d red had appeared perf. 9½ by 12. A correspondent, writing to a London philatelic paper, states this was not an official issue. The 9½ machine was sent to New Guinea for commercial purposes. Some of the perf. 12 "spot" 1d of 1892 were passed through the machine unofficially ere it left for New Guinea; also that careful examination will show traces of the original perforation in the fakes.

Malta has issued a new provisional 1d surcharged on the 2½d blue. An error occurs in the sheet, the words appearing "one penny."

Five new provisionals have been issued at Seychelles—2 cents on 4 cents, 50 on 75, 30 cents on 1r, 45 on 1r, and 45 on 2r 25 cents.

Rare stamps still continue to turn up unexpectedly. A correspondent in E.W.S.N. writes: "A schoolboy friend told me how a few years ago he was given a stamp collection by an elder brother, who in his turn obtained it from his uncle, a member of a mercantile firm in the Canary Isles, and who was a collector as far back as 1850. In the book was found a 2d blue 'post paid' Mauritius, unused, with the original gum, which was sold for the lucky youngster in 1896 by Messrs. Ventum, Bull & Co., and fetched £140."

Yet another Guinea is to exist to hush school children, to say nothing of philatelists. Fernando Poo has issued a new set of stamps. The design is stated to be that of 1899, with the date changed, and the series is a comparatively small one. According to "Le C. de T.-P." these stamps are shortly to be replaced by others inscribed "Guinea Española," the island of Fernando Poo being united with Spanish territory on the neighbouring coast to form a colony with the new name.

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**MR. WATSON SHENNAN**, whose name as an agricultural and pastoral authority is well known in most parts of the colony, writes as recently as August 5 from Pōmahaka: "After giving the book careful perusal I am of opinion that the title correctly describes its character. I find that every page contains some useful information, especially for the New Zealand farmer and country settler. It is the best farmers' book of reference I have seen."

The estimate of the late **SIR GEO. GREY, K.C.B.**, of an earlier and altogether less comprehensive edition has been published already, but it will bear repetition. He wrote: "I have tested it in many ways upon a great variety of useful subjects, and am satisfied that it is by far the best work of the kind I have ever seen. I feel that its merits and usefulness in relation to all practical subjects on which a settler's comfort and success depend render it a necessary appendage to every home in New Zealand."

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**MR. ROBT. HALL**, who holds a prominent position in the pastoral and agricultural community of Auckland Province, writes under date of July 7, 1902:—"I have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of a copy of 'Brett's Colonists' Guide,' which I have perused. So far as I have a knowledge of the various matters dealt with in this compilation, I can, without hesitation, assert that throughout it is a most useful and reliable work, and should be in every settler's home, as it deals with the various questions in connection with agriculture in a clear and intelligible form, easily understood, and sufficiently comprehensive."

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