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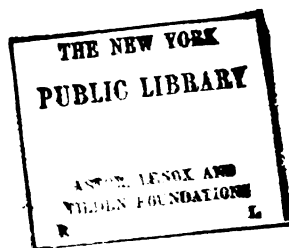
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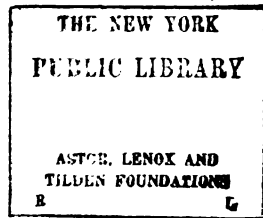
The stamps of Tasmania



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TAS

THE
STAMPS OF TASMANIA.

A HISTORY
OF THE
Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post Cards,
ADHESIVE AND IMPRESSED REVENUE,
AND EXCISE STAMPS OF TASMANIA.

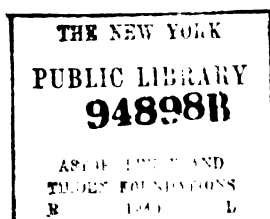
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COMPILED BY A. F. BASSET HULL, HOBART.

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PREFACE.

AT the request of the Author, the Philatelic Society of London has undertaken the publication and revision of this work. As regards the latter, the Committee appointed by the Society to this end have experienced more gratification than labour in their task.

The assiduity and accuracy of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull have acquired a high reputation in philatelic circles on either side of the globe; hence it is scarcely likely that the alterations would be numerous. Further than this it will be seen, that no work on philately has yet appeared in which the history of any country's postal issues has been so absolutely revealed to the public gaze as in the present instance. Almost every step taken—from the inception of the first to the production of the last postage stamp—by the Tasmanian Government has been detailed *in extenso* from official sources. The philatelic community are under a debt of gratitude to the postal authorities of Tasmania for the facilities granted, and to Mr. Basset Hull for the judicious use he has made of his opportunities.

Although the emendations of the Committee have been unimportant, they have added a synopsis at the end of each chapter of the stamps treated on. These lists have been carefully drawn up both from a study of the text and a comparison with the leading collections of Tasmania in this country, but do not include such of the minor differences treated of in the book as size of or position of watermarks, errors of perforation, misprints, and varieties of impression. Although of considerable interest, it has been thought advisable to make the lists as concise and succinct as possible, leaving such amplifications of them to the discretion of the individual collector.

The existence of a Four Penny *green* of the 1855 issue (with star watermark) has been chronicled, but in face of the many clever chemical changes of colour that have appeared of late years, the Committee have decided not to add this improbable *error* to the list of that issue.

The question as to whether the Four Penny (*Plate C*) of the 1853 issue, on laid paper, is a proof, is one that the Committee have been unable to solve. Although it has not hitherto been found postmarked, there is no record of any proofs of the first issue, nor does the impression or general appearance vary from other stamps of the same issue.

Until late years there have remained unsolved many interesting points in connection with the stamps of this country ; but, thanks to Mr. Basset Hull, the complete history of the various and beautiful postal issues of Tasmania is here presented to the philatelic world.

E. D. BACON.

M. P. CASTLE.

September, 1890.

INTRODUCTION.

IN April, 1888, Mr. E. D. Bacon, then Secretary of the Philatelic Society of London, suggested to me that I should forward some remarks upon the Postal Issues of Tasmania for publication in a second edition of the *Catalogue of the Stamps of Oceania*. With a view to obtaining accurate particulars bearing upon the subject, I at once addressed a letter to the Hon. B. S. Bird, Postmaster-General, requesting permission to inspect the records of the Post Office for this purpose. Mr. Bird courteously granted my request, and I commenced the search. So much matter of an interesting nature, however, came under my notice that I resolved to essay the compilation of a more exhaustive work than that contemplated at first, and to include the fiscal stamps in what is intended to be a complete History of the Postage and Revenue Stamps of Tasmania.

It was not long before I discovered that the Post Office contained but a portion of the materials necessary for the completion of my object, and subsequent applications were made to His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. the Chief Secretary, and again to the Postmaster-General, for permission to search in their respective departments, and those of the Auditor-General, the Colonial Storekeeper, and the Government Printer, to all of which offices I was accorded the fullest access. The result has been satisfactory to me, and I trust that the work compiled from the records thus rendered available will be of interest not only to fellow philatelists, but also to the outside public.

I have ventured to add a short historical sketch of the progress of the Colony of Tasmania, and a more detailed one of the Post Office, both of which contain matter bearing upon and explaining some of the references contained in the body of the work itself.

I have to tender my sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor, Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., and the following officials, who have courteously done all in their power to assist me in my search for records and documents, and to whose assistance I owe much of the completeness of my work: The Honourable B. S. Bird, Treasurer and Postmaster-General; The Honourable P. O. Fysh, Chief Secretary and Premier; The Honourable A. T. Pillinger, Minister

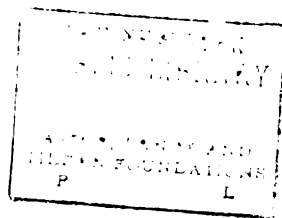
of Lands (who presented the accompanying map); J. H. Magrath, Esq., Secretary to the Post Office; H. W. B. Robinson, Esq., Private Secretary; W. Lovett, Esq., Auditor-General; J. E. Packer, Esq., Under Treasurer; W. T. Strutt, Esq., Government Printer; and Messrs. H. L. Boyes, A. W. Storie, and J. O'Brien, of the Post Office; H. Hull, of the Stores; J. W. Israel and H. L. D'Emden, of the Audit Office; Mr. Bennett, the Government Lithographer; and many others who assisted me on minor points.

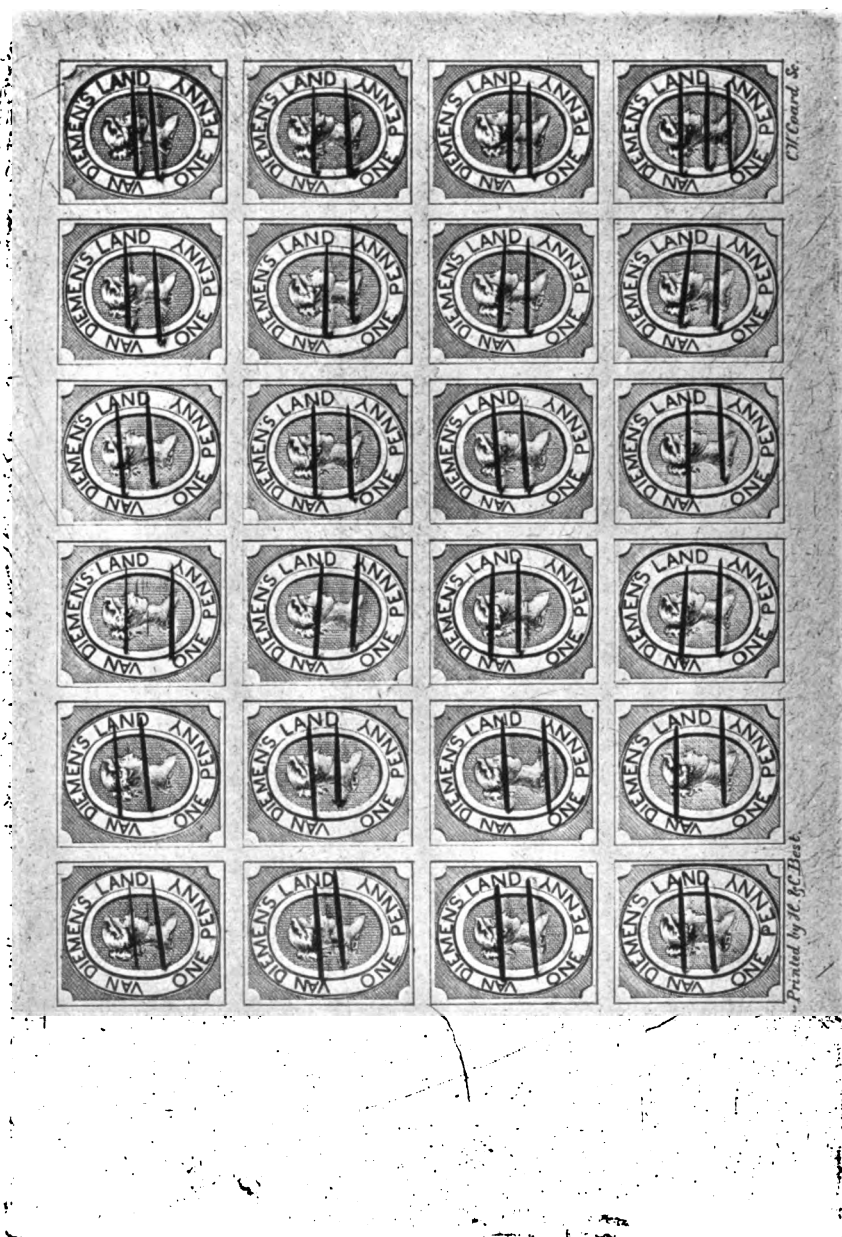
A. F. BASSET HULL.

HOBART, 26th March, 1890.

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THE STAMPS OF TASMANIA.

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

(a) OF THE COLONY.

TASMANIA is an island situated in lat. $40^{\circ} 38'$ to $43^{\circ} 39'$, long. $144^{\circ} 38'$ to $148^{\circ} 22'$, at the southern extremity of the great Australian Continent, from which it is separated by Bass' Straits, 120 miles wide.

The island is 170 miles in length and 160 miles in width, and is about 25,000 square miles in extent. There are a number of small islands, dependencies of Tasmania, the chief of which are Flinder's Island; King's Island; Cape Barren Island, in Bass' Straits; Bruni Island, in the Derwent Estuary; and Maria Island, on the East Coast.

It was during the reign of Charles I. that the Dutch discovered Tasmania. At the time Anthony Van Diemen was Governor-General of Batavia, and by him Abel Jans Tasman was commissioned to explore the "Great South Land," the name by which New Holland (now Australia) was known until 1665, when, by the authority of the Netherlands Government, it received that now obsolete designation.

On the 14th of August, 1642, Tasman embarked at Batavia on board the *Heemskirk*, the fly-boat *Zeehaan*, Jerit Zanzoon, master, in company. On the 24th November, at noon, they found their latitude $42^{\circ} 25'$ south, longitude $163^{\circ} 31'$; in the afternoon at four o'clock they observed land (Point Hibbs) bearing east by north. On the 25th they were within three miles of the shore, and had soundings at sixty fathoms. On this day they named their discovery; "we called it Anthony Van Diemen's Land, in honour of our high magistrate and Governor-General."

The next visit to Tasmania was made by Captain Marion du Fresne with the ships *Mascarin* and *Castries*, who in 1772 arrived from the Mauritius in search of the "Southern Continent," and anchored in Frederick Henry Bay. Captain Marion landed, and had a brush with the natives, one of whom was killed by the French, the first victim of European intrusion.

Captain Tobias Furneaux, second in command of Captain Cook's Expedition of 1772, touched at Van Diemen's Land in the *Adventure* in March, 1773. On several other occasions visits were made by different voyagers, each of whom added something to the general knowledge about Tasmania; but it was not until 1803 that any attempt at settlement was made.

Lieutenant Bowen left Sydney in the *Lady Nelson*, and on the 7th September, 1803, landed at Risdon, on the east bank of the Derwent. His party included a few soldiers and prisoners, and Dr. Mountgarret, the surgeon. This first settlement was followed by a more important immigration.

The difficulty of obtaining pure water at Port Phillip (Victoria) impelled Governor Collins to seek another settlement, and accordingly he left that place in 1804. The *Lady Nelson* and the *Ocean* conveyed the party from Port Phillip to the Derwent. They arrived in two divisions in January and February, 1804, and the settlement at Risdon having been found undesirable, they landed at Sullivan's Cove, on the spot where the city of Hobart now stands. Norfolk Island was vacated in 1805, and the settlers conveyed to Van Diemen's Land, where grants of land were apportioned them.

From this date the Colony made rapid strides in progress. Mercantile houses were established, and trade direct with Great Britain was opened up. The whale fishery and trade in sealskins from the islands in the Straits became very prosperous.

Civil cases above £50 and all criminal cases were tried in Sydney, the only local court being that of the Lieutenant-Governor, for civil cases under £50 in value.

The first newspaper was published in 1810. It was styled *The Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, and consisted of half a sheet of foolscap printed on both sides. The price was two shillings per copy, but notwithstanding its high value it only lived a few months. The press, however, was firmly established by Andrew Bent's publication of the *Hobart Town Gazette* in 1816.

In 1817 the population of the Colony was 3114.

Steps were taken to encourage immigration, and grants of land were given to new settlers; but their early experiences were beset with many difficulties, the hardships of bush life and the harassing encounters with the aborigines tending greatly to discourage them.

St. David's Church was completed in 1822, and the Presbyterian Church was opened in 1824.

The Post Office was conducted chiefly by private enterprise until 1832, but a more detailed history of this branch will be found later on.

In 1824 Lieut.-Colonel George Arthur was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. During the period of his government Van Diemen's Land was proclaimed independent of New South Wales, and Executive and Legislative Councils were appointed.

The aborigines became so aggressive, and committed such frightful outrages on the settlers, that in 1828 martial law was proclaimed. Subsequently a reward of £5 for every adult and £2 for every child captured without injury was offered by Government. Organized parties were formed, and numbers of aborigines were secured; and eventually—in October, 1830—a great movement, called the "Black Line," was set on foot, in which about 3000 persons took part. They formed a line, and thoroughly scoured the island from end to end. The enterprise, public and private, cost upwards of £60,000, and the result was *one man and a boy!* It was left to Mr. George Augustus Robinson, who adopted the method of *suaviter in modo* as opposed to the Government *fortiter in re*, to bring about the desirable result of accumulating the blacks in one spot. Almost alone and *unarmed* this man accomplished what 3000 armed men had failed in doing. An account of his work

would occupy too much space for the purposes of this historical sketch, but it is sufficient to say that towards the close of 1834 the last of the blacks were safely brought to Hobart Town by Robinson, and eventually transferred to Flinder's Island, where an aboriginal settlement was established. The race is now extinct, the last survivor dying in 1876.

Progress, steady though slow, marks the history of Tasmania up to the year 1853, in which year two events occurred, one of which is of the greatest importance from the point of view of this work.

The first was the "Cessation of Transportation," which took place in August; and the other was the issue of postage stamps in November, 1853. Following closely upon these important events came the "Constitution Act" of 1855, which gave Van Diemen's Land a responsible Government, administered by a Governor and two Houses of Parliament; and the Act which altered the name of the Colony from "Van Diemen's Land," with all its gloomy associations, to the bright and hopeful name of "Tasmania."

Since that date the constitution has remained unaltered in any important particular. The colony has steadily increased in population and wealth, and now numbers 145,000 souls, with an annual revenue of £720,000.

(b) OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The history of the Post Office Department of Tasmania is of course one of a development as slow and gradual as that of the Colony itself. The earlier records which are at the present date attainable, are to a certain extent both imperfect and conflicting; but the following facts and statements will at least give some insight into the process of development which has resulted in the present very complete and well-organised postal service.

In the first days of settlement there was no definitely-organised system of carriage even of Government despatches. Mr. J. B. Walker, in his paper on "The French in Van Diemen's Land,"* remarks that "the exigencies of the service compelled Governors to take whatever offered to aid them in accomplishing their plans. Many are the missions of relief or mail despatch that were entrusted to whalers, or even American sealers, and their remuneration was sometimes odd enough. Thus, on one occasion, Governor King desired Governor Collins to pay for the despatches sent to him by a sealing sloop going to King's Island (Tas.) by giving the skipper 30 empty salt meat casks—surely as odd a postage as ever was paid!"

Fenton's *History of Tasmania* also has a word or two on the subject. He says:

"The Post Office department was in an exceedingly primitive condition in those days. Mr. James Mitchell was Postmaster at Hobart Town. A weekly messenger carried letters to Coal River and Pittwater, but no further. In October, 1816, a vast stride was made in this branch of the public service by the appointment of Robert A. Taylor as 'Government messenger' between Hobart Town and Port Dalrymple, the name by which Launceston was then known. The messenger was to leave each place on alternate Sunday mornings. This was a grand undertaking. The places were 120 miles apart, without the vestige of a road. Taylor

* Paper No. 107. House of Assembly, Session 1889.

managed to escape the attacks of hostile natives and bushrangers ; at least, no cases of 'sticking up' the mailman are recorded.

"The arrival of a mail only one week from Hobart Town was an occasion of great joy at Launceston, whose inhabitants now felt that they were living in an age of progress. Hitherto the settlement on the Tamar had been more isolated than either Sydney or Hobart Town, as but few vessels entered Port Dalrymple. Now there was a chance of a fortnightly mail, if it did not miscarry on the way."

The *Hobart Town Gazette* of 3rd May, 1817, contains the following notice :

"Post Office.—As a direct opportunity offers of forwarding a mail by His Majesty's armed brig *Kangaroo* for England which is hourly expected to sail, the inhabitants are hereby informed that a letter bag is now open for the reception of all letters from those who wish to write to their friends in Europe."

In November of the same year Mitchell notifies that another home mail will close in January following, thus giving ample time for writing letters, and also gives a list of letters lying at his office awaiting claimants.

On the 10th January, 1818, further reminder is given in these words :

"POST OFFICE.

"The brig *Spring* affording a desirable opportunity for those who wish to write to their friends in Europe, the Postmaster respectfully informs the public that a mail bag is open for the reception of letters, and will continue so until the eve of her departure.

"JAMES MITCHELL, *Postmaster*."

And on 14th February, 1818, Mitchell states that "all letters which may be received at this office in future from any part of the world will be regularly advertised in the *Hobart Town Gazette*." Post-office notices of 5th and 12th December, 1818, are not signed.

The *Gazette* of the 17th August, 1822, contains the appointment of John Thomas Collicott as Postmaster at Hobart Town.

Collicott was an auctioneer, and his store was situated in Murray Street, where the Derwent livery stables now stand ; in fact, part of the original building is now used as a booking-office in connection with the stables.

Apparently the management of the Post Office was left entirely to these two successive Postmasters Mitchell and Collicott, the Government merely authorising and, where necessary, assisting them in the conduct of their undertaking. All the *Gazette* notices referring to matters postal up to 1828 are merely headed "Post Office," and contain no words or sign that would lead one to believe they were published by direct official authority. On the other hand all notices from the various departments of the Crown are invariably headed "Government Notice." The "Statistics 1824-35," quoted more extensively further on, state that "no records were kept, as until 1832 the Post Office belonged to a private individual," and yet the "appointments" of postmasters were gazetted. However, as everything was managed under Government superintendence in those days, it may be taken for granted that, though conducted as regards the details of routine by private individuals, nevertheless the Post Office was subject to the approval and under the surveillance of the Government.

In 1824 the *Gazette* notices are headed "General" Post Office.

The first legislation with reference to the establishment of a Government Post Office took place in 1828, in the passing of the Act 9 Geo. IV. No. 6—"An Act to

provide for the temporary Conveyance and Postage of Letters"—which, having recited that by an Act of the ninth year of Queen Anne's reign, provisions were made for the erection of one General Letter Office and Post Office for all Her Majesty's dominions, and for the appointment of a Postmaster-General, with power to settle posts for the carrying and receiving of all letters to and from all parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and that no post had been established within this island, and that it was expedient, until such post should be so settled, to make provision for the temporary conveyance and postage of letters; enacted that it should be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor to establish one General Post Office at Hobart Town, and so many Post Offices elsewhere in the island, and to appoint such Principal-Postmaster, and other Postmasters, as to him should seem expedient; to make rules for management, and to fix rates for receiving, despatching, and delivering letters.

Section II. of the Act enacted that the rates of postage should not exceed the following amounts:

"For letters received at the Post Offices of and intended for delivery in Hobart Town or Launceston:	
Not weighing more than two ounces:	Above four, and not more than six:
One Penny.	Three Pence.
Above two ounces, and not more than four:	Above six ounces, and not more than eight:
Two Pence.	Four Pence."

These weights were styled single, double, triple, and quadruple respectively, and no letter was to exceed eight ounces in weight.

For letters for delivery out of the town boundaries the rates were not to exceed:

				Single.	Double.	Triple.	Quadruple.
For distances within	10 miles			3d.	5d.	6d.	8d.
Above 10, and not exceeding	20 "			4d.	6d.	8d.	10d.
" 20 "	30 "			5d.	8d.	10d.	13d.
" 30 "	40 "			6d.	9d.	12d.	15d.
" 40 "	50 "			7d.	11d.	14d.	18d.
" 50 "	60 "			8d.	12d.	16d.	20d.
" 60 "	70 "			9d.	14d.	18d.	23d.
" 70 "	80 "			10d.	15d.	20d.	25d.
" 80 "	90 "			11d.	17d.	22d.	28d.
" 90 "	100 "			12d.	18d.	24d.	30d.

and so on progressively in the same proportion.

Section V. exempted from postage all newspapers published within the island, all letters on public service, and all convicts' letters.

Section VI. charged a uniform rate of one penny on all soldiers' and seamen's letters.

Section VII. fixed the postage on deeds, &c., for registration at half letter rates.

There were several other sections containing directions and regulations as to carriage, &c., of letters, and the last section provided that the sums received for postage were to be applied in defraying the cost of the Department, and that all surplus was to be appropriated for the construction and repair of the roads and bridges throughout the island.

No appointment of officers was made under this Act until 1832, when Collicott was appointed Principal-Postmaster. A committee for the regulation of the Post, consisting of John Montague and George Yeoland, Esquires, with Mr. Stephen

Tunbridge Hardinge as clerk, was also appointed. The clerk to the Principal-Postmaster was Mr. George Milne, and the Postmaster at Launceston was Mr. Arundel Wrighte.

In 1834 the constitution of the Department was changed by 4 William IV., No. 18, "An Act to amend and consolidate the laws providing for the conveyance and postage of letters," which recited the Act of George IV., No. 6, and stated that the Lieutenant-Governor should continue to have the powers of establishing offices and appointing officers until His Majesty's Postmaster-General should exercise his powers under the Act of Queen Anne.

The rates of postage were altered to twopence for each letter not exceeding four ounces in weight, posted at and for delivery in Hobart Town or Launceston.

INLAND POSTAGE :

				Single.	Double.	Triple.	Quadruple.
2 miles and under 15	.	.	.	4d.	8d.	1s.	1s. 4d.
15 "	"	30	.	.	5d.	10d.	1s. 3d.
30 "	"	45	.	.	6d.	1s.	1s. 6d.
							2s.

and so on progressively in the same proportion.

Sea postage on every letter (in addition to its appropriate inland postage) :

Fourpence, if single.	Eightpence, if double.	One shilling, if triple.	One shilling and fourpence, if quadruple.
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Letters not weighing more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. were deemed single; over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., double; over $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz., triple; and over 1 oz. and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz., quadruple; and so on in the same proportion.

Under this Act Mr. James England was appointed Director-General, in place of the Regulation Committee, Mr. Collicott remaining Principal-Postmaster.

The Introduction to the "Statistics, 1824-35," contains the following remarks relating to the Post-office :

"No. 23 gives a return of the Post Office Department, the result of which is exceedingly satisfactory. The number of Post Offices increased from 1824 to 1835 from 9 to 30; the persons employed in it from 13 to 113, and the extent of post roads from 239 miles, over which the Post was carried once a fortnight, in 1824, to 434 miles travelled over by the Post twice in each week in 1835. There was also established, in 1835, a Twopenny Post, having three deliveries a day, for Hobart Town and its neighbourhood to the extent of three miles. The returns of letters and of the income and expenditure of the Post Office cannot be procured prior to the year 1832; but from that year to 1835 the increase in every respect has been quite remarkable, being upon letters and newspapers forwarded from Hobart Town from 22,255 and 13,000 respectively to 93,483 and 118,708 respectively; and in the same period the letters received at Hobart Town have increased from 23,005 to 99,602; whilst the income derived has, in the same period, increased from £1398 to £3852, although the expenditure for that period has only increased from £2283 to £2879.

"It is not unworthy of remark, that in 1824 there was no public conveyance in any part of the island, and that the mail was conveyed between the two principal towns of Hobart Town and Launceston, as well as elsewhere, on foot; whereas the mail is now conveyed, under contract, in a mail-cart twice a week, between those two towns in nineteen hours (121 miles); and there is also a public coach twice a week upon the same road, as well as several public conveyances in other parts of the island, for the accommodation of travellers."

In 1833 the following list of Post Office stations, with the rates of postage and distances from Hobart Town, was published :

	Pence.	Miles.
Hestercombe	2	13
Brighton	2	15
Green Ponds	3	26
Jericho	4	42
Oatlands	4	50
Antill Ponds	5	59
Ross	6	72
Campbell Town	6	79
Snake Banks	8	97
Perth	8	109
Launceston	9	121
George Town	11	152
Westbury	9	122
Norfolk Plains (Longford)	8	105
Lake River	8	95
Macquarie River (Gatenby's)	7	85
St. Paul's Plains	8	99
Fingal	9	112
Waterloo Point	6	74
Bothwell	4	43
Hamilton	4	43
New Norfolk	3	21
Macquarie Plains	3	30
Richmond	2	14
Sorell	2	14
Kangaroo Point	2	2

In 1837 the Post Office was removed to premises belonging to David Lord, situated at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets (now the All Nations' Hotel), which premises were occupied until the removal to the present building, Macquarie Street, in 186-.

In 1840 Captain F. C. Smith was appointed Postmaster-General, which office he held until 1858.

Shortly after his appointment (1842) an Act of some considerable importance was passed, inasmuch as it did away entirely with the old-world system of paying rates of postage varying according to the distance, and fixed uniform rates of inland postage according to weight. The following were the chief provisions of 5 Vict., No. 15, "An Act to amend an Act passed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His Late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, An Act to amend and consolidate the Laws providing for the Conveyance and Postage of Letters"—it enacted that it should be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor by proclamation to alter, fix, reduce, or remit rates of postage; that the rates of postage should not exceed 4d. the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for letters delivered beyond Hobart Town and Launceston, and 2d. in Hobart Town and Launceston; that the postage upon letters forwarded to and arriving from parts beyond the seas should not exceed 4d. for each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and that official franking should be regulated by the Lieutenant-Governor.

No further legislation took place until 1853, when the 17 Vict., No. 6, was passed, "An Act to regulate the Conveyance and Postage of Letters," which

provided for the compulsory prepayment of all letters by means of postage stamps, fixed the rates of postage at 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for town letters, and 4d. for inland and ship letters. It also consolidated and amplified all the provisions of the preceding Acts, all of which were repealed. Further reference to this Act will be found in Chapter II.

18 Vict., No. 13 (October 6th, 1854), "An Act to provide for the better transmission of Letters by Ship," empowered the Lieutenant-Governor to make arrangements for the transmission of letters by ship to and from this Colony and England and foreign countries; fixed the rate of postage on all letters to and from this Colony and the United Kingdom at 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and to and from any of the Australian colonies and New Zealand at 4d.

19 Vict., No. 4 (1855), "An Act to amend 'The Post Office Act, 1853,'" provided for the opening and examining of newspapers, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they contained anything contrary to the provisions of the Act of 1853; exempted from postage all inland letters and packets addressed to or by any member of the Legislature for the time being of the Colony during session; provided for the opening and dealing with refused letters and packets; and contained several provisions with reference to the offence of stealing letters.

19 Vict., No. 20, "An Act to make further provision for Postal Communication by Ship," merely amplified the provisions of 18 Vict., No. 13.

21 Vict., No. 38, "An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Post Office" (February 25th, 1858), commenced March 1st, 1858, fixed the rate of inland and intercolonial postage at 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., instead of 4d., as before. Packets were raised to 1s. for every 4 ozs. This Act reduced the list of exemptions from postage to a few kinds of official packets and petitions to His Excellency; under it the bulk of the official correspondence was franked by adhesive stamps supplied to the various departments for the purpose.

22 Vict., No. 28, "An Act to decrease the Postage on Inland Letters and Packets" (November 5th, 1858), commenced January 1st, 1859, reduced the rates on suburban letters (five miles radius from Hobart and Launceston) to 2d., and inland letters to 4d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

23 Vict., No. 13, "An Act to authorise the Franking of certain Letters and Packets" (September 23rd, 1859), commenced October 1st, 1859, and restored all "On Public Service Only" franking privileges. 24 Vict., No. 21 (October 4th, 1860), extended the franking privilege to letters "On Police Service Only." 26 Vict., No. 1, "The Money Order Act" (September 25th, 1862), introduced the Money Order system into Tasmania. 28 Vict., No. 9 (September 21st, 1864), extended the franking privilege to municipal officers. 29 Vict., No. 31, "An Act to establish Post Office Savings Banks" (September 29th, 1865), was to commence operation on January 1st, 1869, but the system was not adopted until July 1st, 1882.

31 Vict., No. 28 (October 11th, 1867), exempted "Rural Police Rate" receipts from postage.

33 Vict., No. 5, "The Post Office Act, 1869," amalgamated and amended most of the former Acts; fixed rates of postage on town letters at 1d., suburban letters at 2d., inland letters at 4d., and intercolonial letters at 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

34 Vict. No. 4, "An Act to amend 'The Post Office Act, 1869'" (October 18th, 1870), commenced November 1st, 1870, fixed rates of postage on town letters at 1d.,

inland letters at 2d., and intercolonial letters at 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and exempted "Scab Act" notices from postage.

45 Vict. No. 13, "The Post Office Act, 1881" (8th November, 1881), commenced 1st January 1882, provided for transmission of cards by post, fixed rates of postage on town letters at 1d., inland and intercolonial at 2d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and inland postcards at 1d. each. The Act also consolidated all the previous Acts, and is now the principal Act under which the Post Office is regulated.

49 Vict. No. 30, "The Post Office Act Amendment Act, 1885," reduced book-packet rates to 1d. for every 4 ozs.

52 Vict. No. 42, "The Post Office Act Amendment Act, 1888," commenced January 1st, 1889, provided for postage on certain classes of newspapers; fixed the rates on post cards to all the Australian Colonies and New Zealand at 1d., and to Great Britain at 2d. by the long sea route, and 3d. *via* Brindisi. This Act also authorised the issue of postal notes.

In 1858 Mr. Stephen Tunbridge Hardinge succeeded Captain Smith as Secretary of the Post Office, the latter title taking the place of that of "Postmaster-General," which, on the passing of the Constitution Act, was reserved for the Ministerial Head of the Department. Mr. A. C. Douglas succeeded Mr. Hardinge in April, 1869; and on the death of the former gentleman, in 1888, the present secretary, Mr. Thomas H. Magrath, was appointed.

CHAPTER I.

THE NEWSPAPER DUTY STAMP OF 1827.

COLONEL, afterwards Sir George Arthur, fourth Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, arrived in the *Adrian* on the 12th May, 1824. Prior to his arrival the colonial Press existed only in name, the *Hobart Town Gazette* being under the control of the Governor for the time being. It had been established by Mr. Andrew Bent, and its articles represented the views of the ruler, and perhaps at that time those of the people also.

On the arrival of Governor Arthur, Bent determined to throw off official supervision, and claimed a property in the title of the *Gazette*. Money had been lent him by the Government for the purchase of material, but this he was expected to repay. His right to the property, questioned by Arthur, was allowed on reference to the Governor-in-Chief (of New South Wales).

Arthur was at first willing to countenance a newspaper, which, if conducted aright, would be a useful agency in counteracting the social evils that existed, and for a short time he tolerated the liberty of the Press. But this toleration was of short duration.

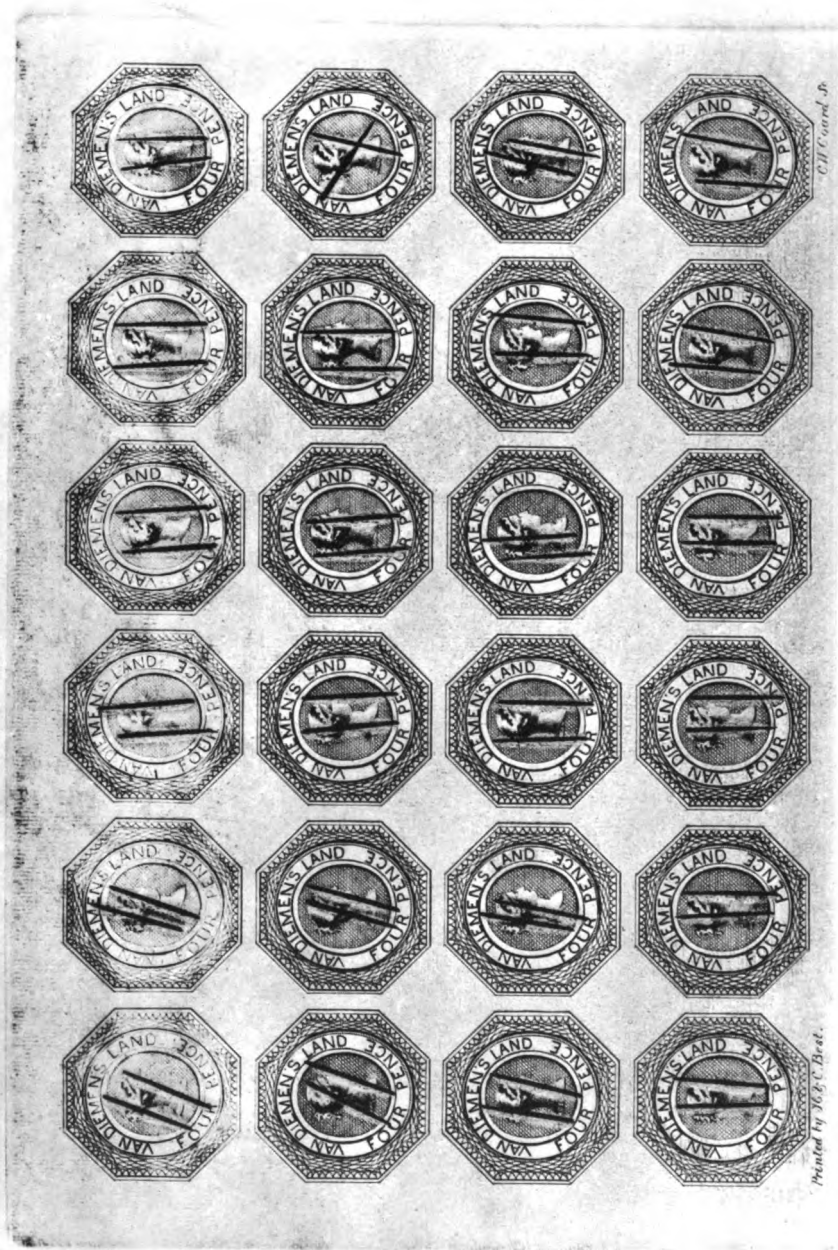
Bent engaged Evan Henry Thomas as editor, and Robert Lathrop Murray as a contributor under the *nom de plume* of "Colonist." The latter addressed his letters to Governor Arthur, whose strict policy he censured, contrasting it with the pleasant indifference of his predecessor. Murray's letters becoming bolder, his patriotic zeal sometimes overstepped the bounds of discretion, and reflecting on the doings of the new ruler, he denounced him as "the Gibeonite of tyranny." Criminal proceedings were taken against the printer for libel, and Bent was fined £100. The Government printing was taken from him, and Arthur resolved to issue a Government *Gazette* (January, 1825). It contained articles of news and politics, as well as Government notices.

Bent appealed against the piracy of his title; and it was decided in his favour; but he did not press his claim, for on August 19th, 1825, his *Hobart Town Gazette* ceased to exist, and he commenced the publication of the *Colonial Times*.

Arthur, however, resolved to put down the liberty of the Press; and to that end, in September, 1827, he passed two Acts, one "The Newspaper License Act," which imposed a license upon the publication of all newspapers within the island, and the other imposing a duty not only upon the licenses, but upon the newspapers themselves. These Acts were published in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of Saturday, 22nd September, 1827. The first is the same as the present Act, to regulate the

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PLATE B.



printing and publishing of newspapers, and to prevent blasphemous and seditious libels; the other was as follows:

“Anno Octavo

“Georgii IV. Regis. [No. 3.]

“By His Excellency Colonel George Arthur, Lieutenant Governor of the Island of Van Diemen's Land and its Dependencies, with the advice of the Legislative Council.

“[An Act for Imposing a Duty upon Newspapers, and upon all Licenses to Print and to Publish the same.]

“Whereas, it is expedient to provide a Fund for defraying the Charges of Printing the Public Acts, Proclamations, Orders, and Notices of the Government of this Colony, by means of a Stamp Duty upon all Newspapers and other Papers, and Pamphlets, containing Public News or Intelligence, or serving the purpose of a Newspaper, printed within the Island of Van Diemen's Land, or any of the Dependencies thereof; and upon all Licenses for Printing and Publishing the same respectively.

“I. BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Island of Van Diemen's Land and its Dependencies, with the Advice of the Legislative Council.—That on and after the Fifteenth day of October, in the present year, there shall be levied, raised and paid to the use of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for every Sheet, Half Sheet, or other piece of Paper, whereof any Newspaper within the meaning of a certain Law or Ordinance, made by His Excellency, Lieutenant Governor ARTHUR, with the Advice of the Legislative Council, in the present year entitled an Act to regulate the Printing and Publishing of Newspapers, and for the prevention of blasphemous and seditious Libels, shall consist, and printed within this Island, or any Dependency thereof, the sum of Three pence sterling; and for every License to any Person or Persons, to Print such Newspaper the sum of Twenty shillings, and for every License to any Person or Persons, to publish such Newspaper, the like sum of Twenty shillings.

“II. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That the Duties hereby granted, shall be under the care and management of the Colonial Treasurer, or Acting Colonial Treasurer for the time being, who is hereby empowered and required to provide and use proper and sufficient Stamps for expressing and denoting upon all such Newspapers and Licenses as aforesaid, the said Duties hereby granted thereon respectively, and to alter and renew such Stamps from time to time as occasion shall require, and also, with the approbation of the Governor, or other Person for the time being, Administering the Government of this Colony, to employ such Person or Persons, as shall be found necessary for the marking and stamping such Newspapers, and other Papers, and Licenses as aforesaid; and for effectually collecting and levying the Duties hereby granted.

“III. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That before any such Newspaper, as aforesaid, to be printed on or after the said Fifteenth day of October, shall be printed, every Sheet, Half Sheet, or other piece of Paper, upon which the same is intended to be printed, shall be brought to the Office of the Colonial Treasurer, to be Marked or Stamped; and before any such License as aforesaid shall be valid, the Paper or Parchment upon which the same shall be written, shall be brought to the said Office, for the like purpose; and the said Colonial Treasurer, or Acting Colonial Treasurer, or such other Person or Persons, as shall be employed in that behalf as aforesaid, shall upon demand made thereof, and without fee or reward, Stamp or Mark such quantity or parcel of Paper, as shall be so brought, upon which such Newspaper as aforesaid is intended to be printed; and also any Paper or Parchment, which shall be so brought, whereon any such License as aforesaid shall be written, the Person or Persons bringing the same first paying the several Duties hereby charged thereon respectively, and for which Duties the respective Stamps thereto belonging shall be a sufficient discharge.

"IV. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That if any Person shall knowingly and wilfully print, or publish, or cause to be printed or published any such Newspaper as aforesaid, the same not being printed upon Paper duly stamped as aforesaid, he or she shall forfeit and pay over and above all other penalties recoverable under or by virtue of this or any other Act, the sum ~~of~~ Twenty pounds for every such Newspaper as aforesaid, so printed upon paper not duly stamped, and proof made according to the provisions of the Law or Ordinance herein before mentioned, that the Party proceeded against is a Printer or Publisher of such Newspaper as aforesaid, which shall be so printed or published upon paper not duly stamped, shall in any Proceeding to recover the Penalty hereby imposed, be deemed and taken to be proof that such Party is a Person wilfully and knowingly printing or publishing, or causing the same to be printed or published contrary to the present provision of this Act, unless he or she shall satisfactorily prove the contrary thereof.

"V. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That if any Person shall knowingly and wilfully take or receive into, and keep in his or her custody, any such Newspaper as aforesaid, not duly stamped as aforesaid, such Person shall forfeit for every such Paper as aforesaid not duly stamped, which he or she shall so take or receive into and keep in his or her custody, the sum of Twenty Pounds.

"VI. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That on and after the said Fifteenth day of October, all and every Persons and Person printing or publishing, or causing to be printed or published, or being concerned either as Proprietors or Proprietor, or otherwise, in printing or publishing, or causing to be printed or published any such Newspaper as aforesaid, upon Paper not duly stamped as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken to owe to His Majesty such sums as would have accrued to His Majesty in case the same had been printed upon Paper duly stamped; and in case any Information or Bill shall be filed, or other Proceeding shall be had, on His Majesty's behalf for the discovery of the matters aforesaid, and an account and payment of such sums, it shall not be lawful for the Defendant or Defendants on any account to plead or demur to such Information, Bill, or Proceeding, but he, she, and they shall be compellable to make such discovery as is thereby required to be made.— PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, that such discovery shall not be made use of as Evidence, or otherwise, in any other Proceeding than that in which the discovery is made.

"VII. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, that the Colonial Treasurer, or Acting Colonial Treasurer, shall keep a separate and distinct account of all Monies which shall be received into the Colonial Treasury in each and every Year, for and in respect of the Duties by this Act granted, or either of them, and that such Monies shall be a Yearly Fund for the Payment and discharge of all Costs, Charges, and Expenses which shall be incurred by the Government of this Colony for Printing the Public Acts, Proclamations, Orders, and Notices thereof, during the current year within which such sum and sums of Money respectively hath and have been received, and be paid applied and disposed of accordingly, and the surplus, if any, which shall remain at the end of every, or any Year, after the Payment of such Costs, Charges and Expenses as aforesaid shall go to, and form part of the Colonial Fund of the said Island, and be applied to the general Public Uses of such Island, and the support of the Government thereof.

"VIII. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed by this Act, shall on proof upon oath of the Offence, before any two or more Justices of the Peace of the said Island of Van Diemen's Land, or any of the Dependencies thereof, be levied by distress and sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of such Justices, rendering the overplus, if any, on demand, after deducting the charges of such distress and sale, to the Person whose Goods and Chattels shall have been so distrained and sold, and for want of sufficient distress,

such Justices are hereby required to commit such offender to any common Gaol within the said Island, or any of the Dependencies thereof for any time not exceeding Three Calendar Months; and the Money arising by all such fines, penalties and forfeitures respectively when recovered, shall be, as to one Moiety thereof, to and for the use of Our Sovereign Lord the King, His Heirs and Successors, and be carried to, and form part of the Colonial Fund of the said Island, and be applied to the Public Uses, and in support of the Government thereof; and as to the other Moiety of such fines to and for the use of such Person as shall inform or sue for the same.

"IX. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That the Justices before whom any offender shall be convicted under this Act, shall cause his or her Conviction to be made out in the manner and form following, or in any other form of words to the like effect, *mutatis mutandis*; that is to say:—

"*Van Diemert's Land* (to wit). Be it Remembered, That on _____ at _____
A.B. of _____, was duly Convicted before us _____
of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for _____ in pursuance
of a Law or Ordinance made by His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Arthur,
with the Advice of the Legislative Council in the Eighth Year of the Reign
of King George the Fourth, intituled an Act [*Title of the Act*] for [*here state
the Offence as the Case may happen to be*] contrary to the form of the said Law
or Ordinance, for which Offence we do adjudge that the said A.B. hath forfeited the sum of _____.

"Given under our Hands and Seals, this _____ day of _____."

"X. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the advice aforesaid, That if at any time during the continuance of this Act, The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or other Person for the time being, Administering the Government of this Colony, shall think fit by any Order to be by him made, with the Advice of the Executive Council, to reduce the Duty of Three Pence imposed by this Act, to any less sum, then from and immediately after such Order made, the said Duty of Three Pence shall cease, and in lieu thereof a Duty of such less sum as shall be mentioned in such Order shall be levied, raised, and paid to the use of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for every Sheet, Half Sheet, or other piece of Paper, whereof any such newspaper as aforesaid, printed within this island, or any Dependency thereof, after the making of such Order shall consist, and from immediately after such Order shall be made, every part of this Act shall operate, and be in force, as if such reduced Duty or less sum had been imposed hereby, in lieu of the said Duty of Three Pence.

"XI. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Authority, and with the Advice aforesaid, That this Act shall continue and be in force until the Fifteenth day of October, One thousand eight hundred and Twenty-nine.

"(Sg.) GEORGE ARTHUR.

"Passed by the Council, this Fifteenth Day of September, 1827.

"(Sg.) JOHN MONTAGU,
"Clerk of the Council."

This Act was framed from a similar one passed by Governor Darling, of New South Wales, on the 3rd May, 1827 (8 Geo. IV. No. 3, N.S.W.), which had imposed a tax of 4d. on every sheet or half-sheet of which any newspaper published in New South Wales should consist. The New South Wales Act however did not impose any duty on licenses to print and publish the newspaper.

Bent at the time was publishing his *Colonial Times*, and in his issue of the 28th September he commented on the Acts at some length. I have a copy of this paper before me, and, considering the limited resources of the Colony at the time, it is a marvellous specimen of typography.

With reference to the first—the “Licensing Act”—Bent, after tracing the history of the freedom of the Press from 1694, continues as follows :

“But yet with all these facts staring them in their face, if they ever happen to open the history of their native country, our Colonial Legislators, in their collective wisdom, HAVE PASSED AN ACT TO LICENSE THE PRESS IN A FREE BRITISH UNCONQUERED COLONY!!!

“WEEP, WEEP, Tasmania weep—the star of thy glory is, ere it has gained its meridian altitude, on its last horizon. Ere you have been permitted to breathe as a nation, you are to be strangled by your nurses; who are jealous, to speak in no stronger terms, of your advancement. . . . If the Government think proper to say that we have written, composed, and published a blasphemous or seditious libel, or have spoken more freely than certain persons like, whether of themselves, of any Public Officer, or of His Majesty, his heirs or successors, ha!!! or of either of the Houses of *Parliament*!!! will the Lieutenant Governor be authorised to SUPPRESS ‘THE COLONIAL TIMES’? We answer, NO! NO!! NO!!! If we are to judge by the examples of SIR B. D’URBAN and LORD CHARLES SOMERSET at Demarara and the Cape of Good Hope, when they suppressed the Independent Papers of MR. STEPHENSON and MR. GREIG respectively, whose property was restored, their expenses paid, and those Gentlemen reinstated in their papers—ARMED WITH AUTHORITY FROM THE BRITISH MINISTERS, to re-commence their publication—we think we may say that all the Governors in the world dare not suppress a Newspaper in a free British Colony—any more than the MAJESTY OF ENGLAND DARE suppress an English Newspaper, because it annoyed his Ministers, or spoke with more freedom than politeness of his Royal Person.”

As to the necessity of providing a fund for the purpose set out in the Act, Bent replied that he had offered to print all the Government Orders, Proclamations, &c., in his paper *gratuitously*, but his communications with the Government had been in effect politely ignored. He also pointed out that the amount to be received from licenses and stamps combined would not exceed £5 per week, which sum would not defray the expense of salaries, &c., of the officers employed in the collection of the taxes.

Of course this sledge-hammer style of attack could scarcely be supposed to influence Governor Arthur in his determination to suppress the obnoxious *Times*.

The *Hobart Town Gazette* was conducted by Dr. Ross, and being the favoured Government organ, it contained all the Orders and Proclamations in addition to editorials and items of news and notes.

When the Acts were published Dr. Ross, of course, had a little to say about them, but his remarks were mild in the extreme, and only humbly trusted that His Excellency would take advantage of the tenth section to reduce the duty to the lowest possible limit.

This suggestion bore fruit; for in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of October 20th, 1827, the following notice appeared :

“16th October, 1827.

“His Excellency the Governor has been pleased, by an order for that purpose made with the advice of the Executive Council, to reduce the stamp duty on newspapers from threepence to twopence sterling.

“By command of His Excellency,

“J. BURNETT.”

This paper also was the first to appear with the stamp impressed upon it. Both the *Gazette* and the *Times* were weekly papers, and consequently, though the Act came into force on the 15th October, the papers of Saturday, the 20th, were the first to be published.

The stamp was of the following design :

Large Crown in double-lined circle, containing the legend, "VAN DIEMEN'S LAND," in small capitals. Surrounding the outer line are the words "NEWS . PAPER . DUTY" above, and "TWO PENCE" below, in large capitals.



The *Gazette* of the 20th October was by a misprint dated "13th." On this issue the stamp was impressed in black. Some of the impressions of the next week's *Gazette* (27th October, 1827) have the stamp in black, while others have it in orange-red, which colour, varying considerably in shade, was used until the expiration of the Act, on 15th October, 1829, and the *Gazette* is even found stamped on the 17th October of that year.

Immediately upon the application of the Act, the *Gazette*, as a newspaper, gave up its previous thin disguise, and came out as a purely official organ, devoid of any contents other than Government notices and advertisements.

Under the before-mentioned Acts, which made the granting of a license, and consequently the continuance of a paper, dependent on the Governor's pleasure, Bent applied to license his *Colonial Times*. He was refused permission; and in consequence of this restriction, the *Colonial Times* was published, on the 19th October, 1827, without any political or other information, except that furnished by advertisements. It appeared in deep mourning, the columns for leading articles and general news being left blank. By an advertisement it was explained to subscribers that the journal had "neither a stamp nor a license for news." For the publication of this unlicensed advertising sheet Bent was imprisoned for one month!

These arbitrary Acts were not allowed to pass unnoticed by the colonists. An address from the leading magistrates, merchants, and citizens was presented to the Governor, remonstrating against the restrictions to which the Press was subject, denouncing them as "needless, unconstitutional, and debasing—an insult to the Colony, and contrary to the implied engagements of the Crown when emigration was invited." Arthur replied, that "as long as the Colony was a place for the reception of convicts the Press could not be free; that it was dangerous to authority, and calculated to destroy the security of domestic life." The colonists then forwarded a strong appeal to the Secretary of State, who disallowed the Colonial Acts, and the Press was set free, but not before the expiration of the term embraced by the Act 8 George IV., No. 3.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section II. of the Newspaper Duty Act, I am of opinion that no die was prepared to denote the payment of the duties on licenses to print and to publish the newspapers = twenty shillings each.

At the time there were only the two papers in existence—the *Gazette* and the *Colonial Times*—both of which were weekly papers. Owing to the long period that has elapsed since the Act was in force, and the difficulty—in fact, the

impossibility—of obtaining any records of the Department of that date, no certain data can be given on the subject ; but taking into consideration the small number of licenses required, and the limited duration of the Act, it appears to me most probable that the duty on the licenses was expressed by a written receipt. Perhaps this is an unsatisfactory conclusion at which to arrive, but we must under the circumstances rest satisfied with it.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE OCTOBER 15TH, 1827.

Impressed upon each printed copy of a newspaper.

2 pence, black.

October 27th, 1827. 2 „ orange-red (shades).

The stamp became obsolete on October 15th, 1829, the date of the discontinuance of the tax.

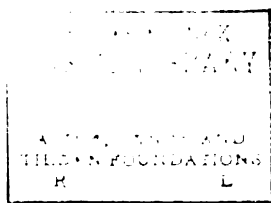
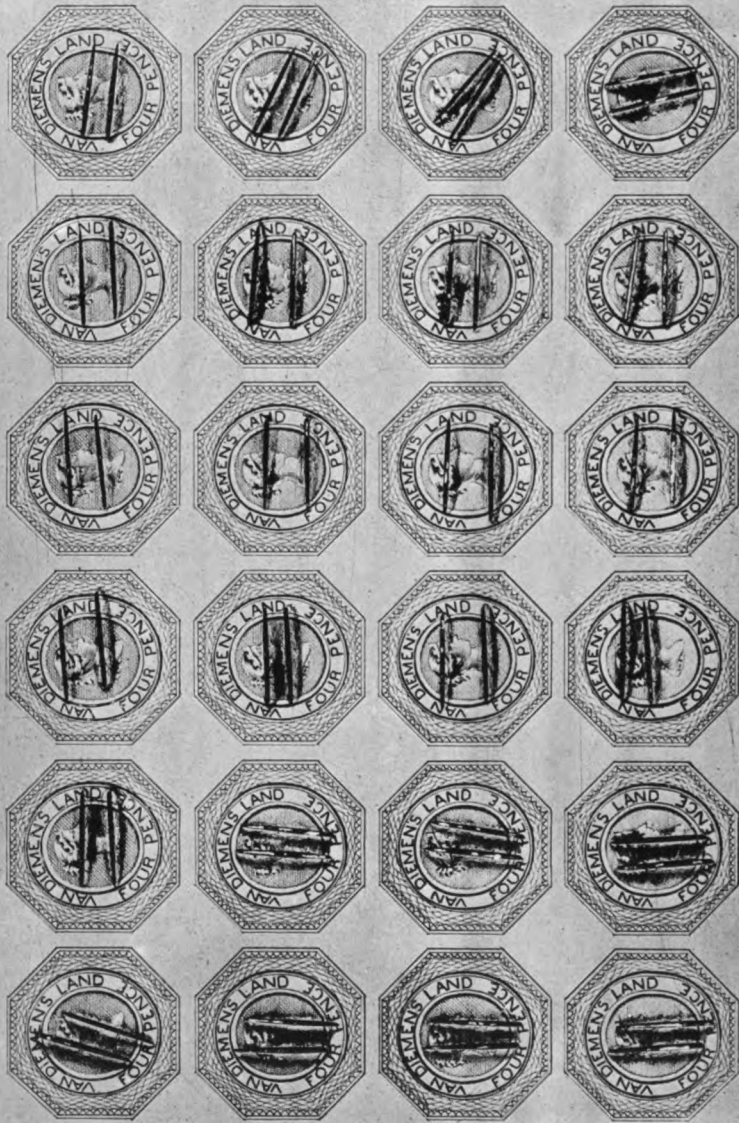


PLATE C.



C. H. Conrad & Co.

Printed by H. G. C. Hart.

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE question of prepayment of postage by means of adhesive stamps received a good deal of attention during 1851-2. New South Wales, the mother, and Victoria, the daughter of Tasmania, had both introduced the system in 1850 with evidently satisfactory results.

The first active movement towards the adoption of the system is found in Paper No. 69 of the Legislative Council of Van Diemen's Land, Second Session, 1852 (13th October, 1852), entitled, "Report from the Select Committee on the Proposed Assimilation of the Postal Arrangements of this Colony with those of the Mother Country, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, and other Papers," which states that "on Friday, July 9th, 1852, the Colonial Secretary, pursuant to notice, moved the appointment of a Select Committee to take into consideration so much of His Excellency's speech as relates to the assimilation of the postal arrangements of this Colony with those of the mother country, by reducing the postage on letters, abolishing the privilege of franking, and making prepayment compulsory."

The Committee brought the leading features of the proposed system into review under the following heads:

1. Reduction of the present rates of postage to one-half.
2. Compulsory prepayment by means of stamps.
3. Mode of dealing with ship letters inwards, considered in relation to prepayment.
4. The privilege of franking.

As to the first consideration, the Committee were strongly in favour of reduction, particularly in the town rate, which at the time was 2d.

Prepayment by means of postage stamps they considered essential to the proper and economical working of the Post Office Department. It would put an end to a complicated system of small accounts, involving great labour to the Department and extensive correspondence between the chief Department and the country Post Offices. It would dry up the source of innumerable abuses; it would cut away almost the whole of the evil of the franking system. The Committee had considered it their duty to examine every possible modification of the system of prepayment, so as to determine whether any portion of the full measure of "compulsory prepayment by means of stamps" could safely be postponed, so as to admit of partial adoption until stamps could be obtained, or until the public became habituated to the system in question, and had come to the conclusion that prepayment must be absolutely enforced in all cases.

As to the third consideration, the Committee recommended the total abolition of the *inward* postage on ships' letters as being necessary for the preservation of the integrity of the rule as to prepayment.

The franking privilege seemed to have been extensively abused. At that time not only did the public officers frank official letters, but they *received* them free. Consequently, any person who pleased to write to the head of a public department complaining of some fancied wrong, or asking for some piece of information for his own exclusive benefit, or even if he were to write an abusive or anonymous letter, he virtually enjoyed the franking privilege. He dropped his letter into his local Post Office without payment; and as the officer to whom it was addressed received it in his official, not his private capacity, it came within the protection of the official privilege. If a man had to stamp his letter, the effect would be to check much frivolous and some malicious correspondence. However, as to the franking of official correspondence by the head of the department, the Committee considered it a matter of indifference whether it were done by means of a stamp or by the signature of the official. The public officer who would write "On Public Service only" upon a private letter would not scruple to use a stamp for the same purpose, so that the mere introduction of franking by means of a stamp would not check that particular abuse; although in the other case of letters addressed to officials it would not only curtail the amount of unnecessary and objectionable correspondence, but would actually add to the revenue. If confined to public departments, the Committee thought that the privilege of franking could be kept within safe limits.

The Committee finally submitted a modified plan, as follows:

1. The present rate of postage on inland letters to be retained (4d.).
2. Except as to the district or town postage, which it was proposed should be reduced to 1d.
3. The franking privilege to be retained as to letters emanating from the public departments.
4. Postage on ship letters inwards to be abolished, and
5. Prepayment by stamps to be required in all cases, except official letters under the third head.

The outcome of the Report of this Select Committee was the introduction and passing of "An Act to regulate the Conveyance and Postage of Letters," 17 Vict., No. 6 (August 31st, 1853), which enacted:

(Sec. 6.) The rates of postage on letters for delivery within the limits of the city or town in which such letters were posted should be 1d. for every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and on all letters for delivery beyond the limits of the city or town, or for transmission by ship to any place beyond the limits of the Colony, 4d. for every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

(Sec. 7.) The rate of postage upon packets containing merchandise, &c., and without any writing, should be 6d. for every 4 ozs.

(Sec. 11.) Newspapers should be conveyed free.

(Sec. 15.) Empowered the Lieutenant-Governor to exempt from postage all letters and packets which should be *bonâ fide* on the public service only, and be addressed to or franked by such public officers of the Government as such Lieutenant-Governor should from time to time for that purpose specify and name. From which last section it will be seen that the recommendation of the Select Committee with regard to letters addressed to public officers was not adopted in its entirety.

(Sec. 16.) The Postmaster-General or Inspector or Inspectors of stamps under the Act should, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor of the island, from time to time cause stamps to be made and sold, indicating such amounts of postage as might in that behalf be directed by such Lieutenant-Governor.

(Sec. 17.) Provided that if any person should fraudulently forge, or imitate, or assist in forging or imitating any stamp made under the authority of the Act; or should offer, utter, dispose of, or put off any forgery or imitation of any such stamp with intent to defraud, such person should be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof should be subject and liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour; or if a male, to be worked on the roads or other public works of the Colony for such term not exceeding seven years, as the court before whom such person should be tried should think fit to award.*

In June, 1853, the Secretary of the Post Office, writing to the Colonial Secretary (who at the time was the ministerial head of his Department) with reference to the estimates of expenditure for 1854, remarks, "The second item—viz., £450—is wholly contingent upon the adoption of the proposed new system of prepaying the postage of letters by means of adhesive stamps."

In the report of the proceedings of the Legislative Council contained in the *Hobart Town Advertiser* of Thursday, 21st July, 1853, under the heading "Postage Bill," the following interesting particulars appear:

"*Time of Act coming into Operation.*—The Colonial Secretary also mooted this point, stating that the Government had sent home for the requisite stamps, &c., and it would be eight or ten months before they arrived; but if the Committee thought it desirable that the Act should come into more speedy operation, he thought he should be able to make arrangements. The stamp could be engraved here without any difficulty, if the Committee desired it; he believed in the adjoining Colonies stamps were made on the spot.

"Mr. Chapman considered that as this was a useful measure, and likely to be acceptable to the community, it should come into operation on the 1st November.

"Mr. Walker wished to know the probable expense of the stamp here.

"The Colonial Secretary said the expense would not be considerable; the proposition he had before him was, that a plate containing twenty heads should be engraved, the expense not to exceed 30s. per head, and the expense of striking them off would be 30s. for every 20,000. It was ultimately determined that the Act should come into operation on the 1st November next, or at such earlier date as His Excellency by proclamation shall appoint."

This report brought forth a protest in the form of this letter:

"HOBART TOWN, 21st July, 1853.

"SIR,—I perceive by the *Advertiser* of this date that the Colonial Secretary had suggested in the Council that the arrangement for printing the postage stamps would be to have 20 heads engraved at an 'expense not to exceed 30s. per head, and the expense of striking them off would be 30s. for every 20,000.'

"I beg to offer the following remarks, as I fear the arrangement above mentioned would not answer at all:

"1st. Supposing each plate to print 12,000 impressions (and it must be a good plate to print so many), each plate would only produce 240,000 stamps.

"2nd. If only one plate be engraved with a proportion of 1d., 2d., and 4d. stamps, the whole of the stamps would be printed in *one colour*.

"3rd. As it will of a certainty be requisite to print each separate value of a different colour it will involve (3) *three plates*.

"Supposing the whole of the Post-office Revenue not to exceed £3000 per annum, say £1000 each of 1d., 2d., and 4d. stamps, or only 1205 letters

* See Appendix C.

per diem, the number of stamps required for one year would be 440,000, nearly double that the plate could produce.

"No allowance appears to have been made for coating the stamps with cement, the common gum water not being sufficient.

"By lithography the whole number required for one year could be printed and cemented in two or three weeks at the rate of about £50 for every 500,000.

"I have, &c.

THOMAS BROWNE.

"*The Col. Sec.*"

Mr. Browne presumably was a lithographer!

On the 25th July, in response to a request from the Colonial Secretary, the Secretary of the Post Office furnished the following return of the estimated number of stamps required for one year for the purpose of issue under the new Post Office Act:

Number.	Value.
700,000	Four Pence each.
100,000	Six Pence each.
150,000	One Penny each.

The stamp of Six Pence designed for prepaying packets was never prepared, as the small number required scarcely warranted the expense of an additional plate for that value.

The arrangements for providing postage stamps for use under the new Act appear to have been carried out verbally; no formal contract was entered into, no record exists of tenders for engraving advertised, or of any communication by letter with the printers, Messrs. H. and C. Best, although from the Colonial Secretary's statement in Committee of the Legislative Council on the Post Office Act, he had obtained a written estimate of the probable cost of engraving stamps. The sole exception is a letter forwarding the account of the above firm for engraving and printing for payment, hereafter referred to. Nor was there any record of the stamps having been submitted for the approval of the Governor as required by the Act.

The only letter which can be found bearing upon the subject is the following:

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"31st August, 1853.

"SIR,—Arrangements having been made with Mr. Best of the *Courier* office to print the postage stamps required under the new Postage Act, I am directed to request that you will name a confidential clerk whose duty it will be to attend at the printing office while the stamps are being printed, and to take charge of the plate and impressions after they are struck off.

"You will have the goodness to give him particular orders never to lose sight of the plate, and to take special care that the stamps struck off each day are deposited in a place of security, and it will be your duty to see that these instructions are carried out.

"It will be necessary that the officer appointed to the duty before mentioned should attend at the *Courier* office from 8 in the morning till a late hour in the afternoon, except while the printers are at dinner.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"W. CHAMP, *Col. Secy.*

"*The Secretary, General Post Office.*"

From this letter we ascertain the fact that the stamps were printed by Messrs. H. and C. Best at their office—that of the *Courier* newspaper—and it may fairly be assumed that, being the only engravers and printers of any known ability, besides having performed engraving work for the Government before, they were privately sent for, interviewed, and instructions verbally given for the preparing designs and engraving plates.

In pursuance of the Act the following notice appeared in the *Hobart Town Gazette* (the official organ) of Tuesday, 27th September, 1853 :

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,

“6th September, 1853.

“Notice is hereby given, that the new Post Office Act of 1853 will come into operation on the First day of November next. That on and from that date all Letters and Packets (Newspapers alone excepted) posted at any of the Post Offices of this Colony must be prepaid by means of adhesive stamps.

“That the stamps will be sold at Hobart Town, in large or small quantities as may be required, at the General Post Office; Messrs. Walch and Sons, Elizabeth Street; and Messrs. Huxtable and Co., Murray Street; at Launceston Post Office, and the most respectable booksellers in Launceston; and at the various Post Offices throughout the Island.”

On the 12th October, 1853, supplies of stamps were issued to Postmasters throughout the Colony.

The *Colonial Times* of Saturday, 15th October, contains the following item :

“POSTAGE STAMPS.—The new stamps have been issued, and can be obtained of the different agents. They are very neatly executed. Their use is not to come into operation till the first of November next.”

On Tuesday, 25th October, 1853, regulations for the guidance of the Post Office Department, under Act of Council 17 Vict. No. 6, were published in the *Gazette*. The only item having reference to the stamps was the following :

“PRICE OF STAMPS.—The stamps will be of the following rates; viz. :

Penny Stamps.—1d. each. | Fourpenny Stamps.—4d. each.

The most reliable and interesting record, however, is the printing account of Messrs. H. and C. Best, which I give in full :

“VAN DIEMEN'S LAND,

“THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

No.	“Her Majesty's Government Dr. to H. & C. Best.				
1853.	To engraving plate for 4d. postage stamps, 24 Heads at	£	s.	d.	
Sept. 30.	30/- each	36	0	0	
„	cp. printing 11,100 Impressions of plate in Red ink at				
	4/- per hundred	22	4	0	
„	Paper for do.	2	0	0	
„	Engraving plate for 1d. postage stamps, 24 Heads at				
	30/- each	36	0	0	
„	cp. printing 2749 Impressions of plate in Blue ink at				
	4/- per 100	5	10	0	
„	Paper for do.	0	6	0	
„	Engraving 66 obliterating stamps with turned handles,				
	&c., complete at 10/6	34	13	0	
„	Making 60 cedar boxes (for obliterating stamps) and				
	filling with composition, at 6/- each	18	0	0	
„	Turning 62 handles for balls, and stuffing, lining, and				
	composition for do., at 6/-	18	12	0	
„	60 Tin boxes for Printing Ink for do.	3	0	0	
„	Printing Ink for do.	3	0	0	
„	Re-engraving 4d. plate, 24 Heads at 25/-	30	0	0	
		£209	5	0	

“Amounting to Two hundred and nine pounds and five shillings.

“£209 5s. 0d.

“Received from Peter Fraser, Esq., Colonial Treasurer, the sum of ”

The next accounts from Messrs. H. & C. Best are as follows :

"No. 166.		THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.		
1854.		<i>Her Majesty's Government Dr. to H. & C. Best.</i>		
Feb. 15.	To cp. ptg. 800 impressions of postage stamps from 1d. plate.			
" 18.	" " 1275	do.		do.
" 21.	" " 716	do.		do.
May 4.	" " 3500	do.		4d. plate.
July 6.	" " 400	do.		do.
" 7.	" " 425	do.		do.
" 8.	" " 275	do.		do.
" 10.	" " 425	do.		do.
" 11.	" " 425	do.		do.
" 12.	" " 250	do.		do.
" 13.	" " 150	do.		do.
" 14.	" " 385	do.		do.
" 15.	" " 200	do.		do.
		9226 Impressions at 4/- per 100	£18	9 0
		To paper for do.	1	12 6
"Correct. F. C. Smith.			20	1 6"

"No. 129.		THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.		
1854.		<i>Her Majesty's Government Dr. to H. & C. Best.</i>		
Aug. 19.	To 4 boxes for composition, and composition for do.		1	12 0
Sept.	" cp. printing 1300 Impressions of 1d. and 1750 of 4d. Postage Stamps, 4/- p. 100		6	2 0
Nov.	" do. do. 3480 Impressions of 4d. stamps, at 4/- per 100		6	19 2
1855.				
Jan.	" do. do. 1255 Impressions of 1d. and 850 of 4d. Postage Stamps		4	4 2
Feb.	" do. do. 1815 Impressions of 4d. stamps, at 4/- per 100		3	12 7
March	" do. do. 1077 Impressions of 4d. stamps, at 4/- per 100		2	3 1
April	" do. do. 1325 Impressions of 1d. and 2575 of 4d. Postage Stamps, at 4/- p. 100		7	16 0
May	" do. do. 450 Impressions of 1d. and 1882 of 4d. Postage Stamps, at 4/- p. 100		4	13 3
June	" do. do. 425 Impressions of 1d. and 1590 of 4d. Postage Stamps, at 4/- p. 100		4	0 7
	" Paper for 19,549 impressions of Postage Stamps		3	13 0
			£44	15 10
" 1855.		<i>The Post Office Department Dr. to H. & C. Best.</i>		
July 18.	To cpps. 425 impressions of 4d. stamps at 4/- per 100		17	0
July 19.	" do. do. do.		17	0
July 23.	" do. do. 450 do.*		18	0
	" Paper for do.		6	0
			£2	18 0

From these four accounts it appears that one plate of the One Penny and two of the Four Pence were engraved. It is not necessary to give any detailed description of the type of these stamps, as autotype illustrations of the entire sheets will be found among the plates annexed to this work. (*Illustrations. Plates A, B, and C.*)

* Query 1d.

The twenty-four "heads" of the One Penny plate were separately engraved, and consequently show slight variations of type. The impressions were printed in blue, on ordinary white wove paper, without watermark. This paper varies a little in quality and thickness, and these differences affect the shade of colour of the impression. Those printed on the slightly harder paper are generally of a lighter blue shade, and show the finer lines of engraving very clearly and distinctly; while those printed on the softer paper are deeper blue in shade, and the fine cross-hatching forming the groundwork of the central oval presents a somewhat blurred appearance.

Of the two plates of the Four Pence, *Plate B* is printed on paper somewhat similar to that of the One Penny, but varying more in substance; and there is also a variety on thinner paper, showing narrow laid lines close together. In colour, it is found in shades of orange, deepening to reddish, which sometimes becomes brown by some subsequent oxydizing process. The account of September 30th mentions "red" as the colour of the 11,100 sheets first printed.

Plate C was printed almost uniformly on a thick white wove paper, but a few examples have been met with on laid paper with the lines wide apart. From the fact that this latter variety has only been met with in an unused state, and is printed in a very superior manner, showing all the finer lines with great distinctness, I incline to the opinion that it was a proof impression struck on a better class of paper immediately after the engraving was completed. The colours of *Plate C* are varied from pale to brownish-yellow, and orange to bright orange-red. The laid variety is found in a shade of orange, inclining to yellow. These marked varieties in shade doubtless arose from the careless mixing of colours for the frequent printings, as well as from subsequent fading or oxydizing.

The impressions from *Plate B* were first issued for use, and apparently supplied all demands up to January, 1855, from which date impressions from both plates are found in use contemporaneously until January, 1856, those from *Plate C*, however, predominating. The next issue described had been put into circulation in September, 1855; but many of the outlying Post Offices still held a stock of the octagonal Four Pence, which would account for their use to such a late period.

The gum used on all impressions was very thick; in fact, more like glue than gum. It was manufactured by Henry Hinsby, chemist, and applied at the Post Office in a most lavish manner. It crackled when dry, and occasionally caused fracture of the brittle paper.

All three plates were engraved on copper, the plates being from Messrs. Hugill, 8, Peterborough Court, Fleet Street, London.

On the back of the finer *Plate (B)* of the Four Pence appears the commencement of a fresh plate, which was doubtless intended for a stamp either of Two Pence or Six Pence. It consists of twenty-five unfinished types, in five rows of five, of the following design: Circle in centre, to contain head of Queen, surrounded by circular band, containing the legend "Van Diemen's Land" above, in the type of the Four Pence, and space for value below—all enclosed in single-lined square frame, with hollowed corners, as in the One Penny, but cut deeper; the spandrels were to have been filled in with dots on a fine-lined ground. All the types have the name, but in none is there any trace of a value. There is a very scratchy head to left in one type, evidently inserted by some unpractised hand, subsequently to the abandonment of the plate. One spandrel only is filled in in one type.

It is a matter of some uncertainty as to which plate of the Four Pence was first engraved. Impressions from *Plate B* certainly were the first to be pressed into service, but this is by far the finer and better executed of the two plates; and it seems improbable that the engraver Coard, who executed both, would produce an inferior article in his second attempt, having the completed first from which to take a transfer and improve upon.

There is no record of enquiry made as to the necessity for this second plate and the consequent additional charge of £30, but as the order for engraving in the first instance seems to have been verbal this is not remarkable. It is probable that one plate was found insufficient to print the required quantity within the limited time.

We have seen that arrangements were made with Best to print at the *Courier* office about the 31st August. His account is dated September 30th, but from the following letter it seems evident that it was not paid before January, 1854:

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,

"19th January, 1854.

"SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith an account, amounting to Two hundred and nine pounds and five shillings, from Messrs. H. and C. Best, for engraving the plates, and printing the stamps required for the purpose of supplying the public, in order to carry out the new system of prepayment of all postage on letters forwarded through the Post Office Department of this Colony. And I have to request the favour of your furnishing the Auditor of Civil Accounts with the necessary authority for the payment of the same. (Sd.) F. C. SMITH."

"*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*"

The official return of postage stamps printed under the direction of the Postmaster-General from the 1st of October to the 31st December, 1853, inclusively,* gives exactly the same number of stamps as that charged in Best's account of 30th September, viz., 65,976 (=2749 impressions of 24) of the One Penny and 266,400 (=11,100 impressions of 24) of the Four Pence, and no further printing took place till February, 1854.

The Post Office Act was dated 31st August, 1853 (the date of royal assent by the Governor, Her Majesty's representative), and a supply of stamps was required for issue to postmasters throughout the Colony in time for the first of November, when the Act came into operation; and the Secretary of the Post Office was instructed on the 31st August to provide a clerk to superintend the printing of the stamps. From these data it appears that orders must have been given to Best to prepare the plates on the very date of, or even prior to, the passing of the Act.

A month, however, must have elapsed before anything was done, because Best's first charge was for the Four Pence plate engraved on 30th September, and between that date and the 15th October, little more than a fortnight, a supply of stamps was printed and in the hands of the agents; in fact, the first issue to postmasters took place on the 12th October. From the accounts subsequent to that dated 30th September, the average number of impressions printed per day appears to have been about 430. At this rate it would take a full month to print 11,100 impressions from the one plate without making any allowance for the One Penny, of which 2749 impressions were struck.

* See Appendix A.

Hence it may be taken for granted that the two plates of the Four Pence were engraved between the 30th September and the 31st December, 1853; the second one perhaps was supposed to be necessary for expediting the supply to meet the anticipated demand. But from the fact that impressions from the one plate served all purposes for fourteen months, this idea was doubtless discovered to be erroneous.

Both plates of the Four Pence, as well as that of the One Penny, are still in the Post Office, but defaced in the manner described in the chapter on reprints. Neither plate of the Four Pence shows any marked signs of wearing, which would necessitate the engraving of a fresh one.

From the foregoing accounts it will be seen that Messrs. Best struck off 10,295 impressions in all from the One Penny plate (246,980 stamps), and 33,854 impressions from the plates of the Four Pence (812,496 stamps). The official monthly returns* give the number of One Penny stamps received from Best as 257,880 and 801,696 of the Four Pence. However, the last entry (23rd July) in the second account of 1855 probably means 450 impressions of the One Penny (10,800 stamps), which would balance the number of stamps with the slight discrepancy of 100 One Penny stamps. Mr. Lithographer Browne's estimate of 12,000 impressions as the outside performance of any copper-plate was incorrect, as over 33,000 were printed from the two plates.

I have seen a number of specimens of the One Penny and those from both plates of the Four Pence, showing a small triangular piece punched out; but there seems to be no record that this has any special official significance. It has been suggested that the mark was introduced as a kind of official check, but I have not been able to obtain any information upon the subject. I have a letter bearing two separate stamps of Four Pence, one of which only bears the mark. The barbarous custom of mutilating the Four Penny stamp by clipping it to its octagonal shape was much in vogue. The stamp vendors apparently found time to hang heavily on their hands, and the official scissors being idle like themselves, the result was the mischief that, according to Dr. Watts, is invariably the provision of his Satanic majesty for such cases. This mutilation not only occasionally extended to the One Penny, but later on we find the Six Pence and One Shilling of 1857 similarly treated, while even the strictly rectangular stamps were not always exempt from this process of trimming.

It appears that a stamp of the value of Ten Pence, bearing the name of no country, which was circulated in the philatelic world about 1864, was assigned to the 1853 issue of Van Diemen's Land. Shoals of letters were received at the Post Office, Hobart, applying for specimens of this supposititious Ten Penny stamp; and at first the Secretary was content to repudiate any knowledge of the stamp in question, but as the enquiries came in greater frequency, he became more emphatic in his replies. He writes to the well-known philatelist, Dr. Viner, under date 22 April, 1864: "You must be mistaken in supposing that you have seen any stamp whatever belonging to this country of the value of Ten Pence. I assure you *not one* ever existed. The mania for collecting stamps has, I regret extremely to say, reached this Colony. I do not approve of it, and am of opinion that it ought to be stopped by legal enactments." And yet a little later

* See Appendix A.

(14th January, 1865) we find this same gentleman applying for permission to expend 10s. of the Government funds in the purchase of an album wherein to affix the postal issues of foreign and colonial governments for official reference!

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE NOVEMBER 1st, 1853.

1 penny, light blue (shades), on medium white wove paper, varying in thickness. Brownish gum. Imperforate. 24 varieties of type. (*Illustration, Plate A.*)

4 pence, orange to reddish, on white wove paper varying considerably in thickness. Brownish gum. Imperforate. 24 varieties of type. (*Illustration, Plate B.*)

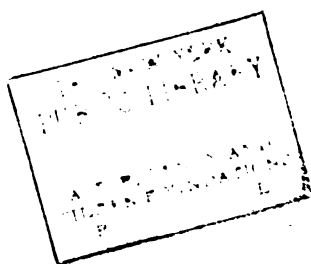
Variety. On thin paper, showing narrow laid lines close together.

4 pence, orange.

4 pence, pale to brownish-yellow, and orange to bright orange-red, on thick white wove paper. Brownish gum. Imperforate. 24 varieties of type. (*Illustration Plate C.*)

Variety. On laid paper with wide vertical lines.

4 pence, orange.





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3



4



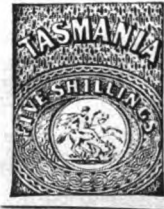
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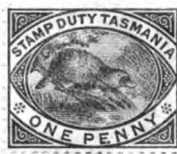
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CHAPTER III.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS FROM AUGUST, 1855, TO AUGUST, 1857.

THE stamps described in the preceding chapter were in reality merely a provisional issue, intended to serve temporarily until the supply referred to by the Colonial Secretary could be obtained from England.

In the beginning of 1853 the Colonial Secretary forwarded a circular letter to the Postmasters-General of the Australian Colonies, Mauritius, and the Cape of Good Hope, intimating the intention of the Legislature of Van Diemen's Land to introduce a new Post Office Act which, among other things, would render the prepayment of postage by means of adhesive stamps compulsory, and requesting information upon several points in connection with the working of the system. The replies from New South Wales were most full and practical, and upon the suggestions thus obtained the following letter was forwarded to the Crown Agent for the Colonies:

“COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

“VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, 9th May, 1853.

“SIR,—I am directed to acquaint you that it is the intention of the Lieutenant-Governor to introduce into the Legislative Council at its ensuing session a Bill for the regulation of the Post Office, in which it is proposed, among other things, to introduce the system of prepaid letters by means of postage stamps, as in the neighbouring colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. His Excellency the Governor therefore desires me, as it will be impossible to obtain the engraving of the plates for those stamps in Van Diemen's Land, to request that you will have the goodness to procure from Messrs. Perkins and Bacon the requisite plates for stamps of the value of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 8d., and 1s., and to forward them with a supply of paper and ink, or inks for printing, together with the material for making the adhesive paste.

“I have, &c.,

“(Signed) W. CHAMP.

“E. BARNARD, Esq.”

The values of the stamps required were those given in the letter from New South Wales as being then in use, or about to be issued in that Colony.

On the 12th May, however, Mr. Barnard (the Tasmanian Government Printer, not the Colonial Agent), in reply to a request from the Colonial Secretary, sent a memorandum *re* the proposed stamps, as follows:

“MEMORANDUM.—There are two courses which may be adopted for supplying the public with prepaid stamps under the contemplated new Postage regulations:

“I. To procure the printed sheets of stamps from England, the plates being engraved from the original dies, and afterwards printed, and the sheets made adhesive and notched for separation, all ready for issue when sent out to the Colony.

"II. To procure the stamp-plates only from England, and to execute all the subsequent processes in the Colony. In this case also paper expressly manufactured for the purpose must be sent out.

The different money values of 1d., 2d., 4d., &c., might be contristinguished from each other, not only by the figures, which would be liable to alteration with the pen, but by being printed in different coloured *inks*—as red, green, blue, &c.—a distinction with which, as it would facilitate the despatch of business, the Post Office authorities and the public would soon become familiar.

"I. Adopting the first of these modes the stamps could be printed at the Stamp Office in London, or by contract at the same establishment which supplies the General Post Office, an arrangement calculated to secure accuracy and other advantages.

"In my opinion this would be the best plan of the two, not only in point of economy, but as presenting an additional guarantee against fraud from the plates not being in Van Diemen's Land.

"Perhaps an objection would be raised that possibly, through the detention or loss of a vessel, or other contingency, the supply being dependent on a foreign source, might suddenly fail altogether, and thus create much embarrassment. Of course it would be necessary to have large supplies in advance, sufficient, say, for six months' consumption; and it might be an understood arrangement that every monthly or bi-monthly packet steamer should bring its quota, which would at all events guard against total failure to a moral certainty.

"As regards *economy*, the cost in my opinion would not exceed *one-fourth* of the expense of manufacturing the stamps in the Colony. In support of this view it is only necessary to refer to the greater cheapness of labour, and the increased facility of production from the larger scale of operations in consequence of the most improved and efficient machinery, steam power, &c., being used.

"II. But it may be desired, upon other grounds apart from mere economy, that these stamps should be manufactured in the Colony (*i.e.* printed at the Government Printing Office. In this case the following enumeration of necessities to be procured from England is submitted; viz.:

"Plates. Paper. Inks of various colours—red, blue, green, &c., corresponding with varieties of money.

"Printing-press expressly adapted for the purpose.

"A man selected thoroughly competent to work the press.

"The machine or contrivance in use for making the stamps adhesive.

"The same for notching or separating the stamps from each other.

"Or, in other words, the complete apparatus for the production of the stamps in the Colony.

"The paper used should be of a *peculiar fabrication*, and it would be necessary that the blank paper should be counted out when issued to the pressman, and the sheets counted again when received back from him printed. This would be an ordinary check upon dishonesty. The additional precaution also, if thought requisite, might be taken of locking the door when the press was at work, and of forbidding ingress or egress without proper sanction.

"On the total cost of the purchase of the whole paraphernalia I must from ignorance be necessarily silent; but the subsequent expense in the Colony would embrace the wages of manual labour, and the prime cost of the materials used.

"Some arrangements would also be necessary for the issue of the blank paper and receipt of the printed stamps, and their distribution to the public, corresponding in some manner with the duties of the stamp distributors in England.

"(Signed) J. BARNARD,
Government Printer."

"12th May, 1853.

In consequence of the hints and suggestions contained in this memorandum, the Colonial Secretary again wrote to Mr. Barnard, the Colonial Agent, on the 20th May, directing him to take no steps until further notice. This further notice was duly sent as follows :

“COLONIAL SECRETARY’S OFFICE,

“VAN DIEMEN’S LAND, 13th June, 1853.

“SIR,—With reference to my letters of the 9th and 20th ult., relative to the proposed Post Office arrangements in this Colony, I am now directed by Lieut.-Governor Sir W. Denison to inform you that the postage stamps required to be procured from England for the use of this Colony are to be of the value of one penny, two pence, and four pence, and to be marked accordingly ; and it has been decided that they shall be engraved after the design which I enclose, leaving, however, to the engraver a discretion as to ornament or elaboration, with the view of preventing forgery. After full consideration it is believed that the most advantageous and economical mode will be to have the whole process of the preparation of the stamps executed in England ; i.e. the dies engraved, the rollers and plates prepared, and the stamps printed, notched, or punctured for separation, and gummed or rendered adhesive in the same manner as is done for the use of the Post Offices of the United Kingdom.

“Sir W. Denison has addressed a despatch to the Secretary of State on this subject ; and should the plans I have mentioned be approved of by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and found to be practicable, I am to request that you will have the goodness to take the requisite steps for procuring the stamps and sending them out periodically, so as to meet a probable annual demand of 100,000 at one penny, 100,000 at two pence, and 800,000 at four pence.

“Should, however, His Grace not sanction the proposed arrangement, I am to request that you will procure and send out as speedily as possible the plates for stamps of the above values ; paper which should have a watermark of a peculiar character ; inks of three colours—say red, blue, and green ; a printing-press, adapted for the purpose ; the machine or contrivance for making the stamps adhesive ; and the same for notching or separating the stamps from each other—in fact, a complete apparatus for the production of the stamps in the Colony.

“It would also be desirable that some person thoroughly competent to work the press, and who might make himself useful in the Government Printing Office, should be engaged for the service of the Colony at a fair rate of wages ; and a free passage might be provided for him at the cost of the Colony by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, upon his undertaking to engage himself for three years.

“I have, &c.,

(Sd.) W. CHAMP,

“Col. Sec.

“E. BARNARD, Esq.,

“Colonial Agent.”

In order to obtain an approximate estimate of the cost of production by these two different arrangements, the following note was forwarded to the Government Printer :

“17th June, 1853.

“MY DEAR SIR,—The Colonial Secretary desires me to send up to you the enclosed rough draft of a letter which has been sent to the Colonial Agent-General, and to enquire what, in your opinion, will be the cost of the two arrangements for the ensuing year—the one adopting your own recommendation of having the stamps sent out periodically—the other of having

the whole machinery and materials (the plates only being engraved in England) forwarded in order that the stamps might be manufactured in the colony.

"Pray return the draft, as it is our only one at present, and let me have the information as soon as possible, as it is required for the estimates.

"JAMES BARNARD, Esq.,
"Government Printer."

"Faithfully yours,

JAMES KNOX.

Mr. Barnard's reply was in the form of

"MEMORANDUM 2.—As to the cost of the Postage Stamps, I regret that I do not possess the means of making an accurate calculation; and that the following, in the absence of all specific data, must necessarily be regarded as a very rough estimate; viz.:

Under First Arrangement.

Engraving three plates and printing one million Postage Stamps
with subsequent processes, complete, 240 on a sheet (say) . £150 0 0

Stamps. sheets. qrs. rms. stamps.
240 × 24 × 20 × 10 = 1,152,000.

Engraving three plates (say)	£100
Paper 10 rms., say at 45/-	22 10
Prepared (i) 10 rms. at 50/-	25 0
Gumming, notching, &c., say at 15/-	7 10

Under Second Arrangement.

Apparatus complete (say)	£100 0 0
Engraving three plates (say)	100 0 0
Paper, 10 rms.	22 10 0
Inks, three colours	10 0 0
Gumming materials and sundries (say)	20 0 0
Wages of Pressman, at £3 per week	150 0 0

Say £400

£402 10 0

"The preceding estimates are for the first year only. In the second and subsequent years the cost would be decreased, under the *first* arrangement, in the saving of the expense of the plates, and under the *second* in the saving of the expense of the plates and of the apparatus, reducing the total cost to £50 by the *first* plan, and to £200 by the *second* plan.

"The plates would probably require to be renewed every *five* years, causing a corresponding increase at those periods to the expense.

"The services of the pressman could also be made available in some other department of the Government Printing Office when not actually employed in printing the stamps; and on this view of the case, supposing this second arrangement acted upon, it might be better to omit from this estimate the expense of the pressman, and add it to the amount of 'wages' estimated for the general service of this establishment.

"Should this be concurred in, the best entry in the estimates, under the present uncertainty as to which arrangement will be adopted, might be something like this; viz.:

"To cover expense of manufacture of prepaid Postage Stamps for 1854	£250 0 0
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"(Sd.) J. BARNARD,

"June 18/53.

Government Printer."

The Colonial Secretary's letter of the 13th June was forwarded to His Excellency Sir William Denison, Lieutenant-Governor, who sent it, with the following despatch, to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies :

"VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

"13th June, 1853.

"No. 133. MY LORD DUKE,

"I have the honour to forward herewith a communication addressed to the Colonial Agent, containing directions for his guidance in procuring the machinery, etc., necessary to enable the Government to modify their present postal arrangements, and to introduce a system of prepayment by means of stamps as in England.

"I have departed from the ordinary mode in forwarding this communication in a despatch, but I have done so for the purpose of ascertaining whether arrangements might not be made for printing the stamps in England, under guarantees similar to those by which the Post Office is secured against fraud or forgery; for it is obvious that in a small community like this the number of stamps required will be so small as to make the cost of the machinery for producing them, and the working of that machinery, bear heavily upon the Post Office revenue.

"Could, then, arrangements be made for printing them in England? The only cost of any importance would be that of engraving the plates, the presses and the power for working them being already provided; a comparatively trifling charge would be sufficient to cover all the annual cost, and a regular supply might be sent out monthly by the mail.

"Should your Grace be disposed to think favourably of this arrangement, might I request that the necessary instructions should issue to the Colonial Agent to put himself in communication with the proper authorities?

"I need hardly say that in such case the form of the stamp and all the particular details may be left to their discretion.

"I have, &c., (Sd.) W. DENISON.

"His Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

"(Enclosure Colonial Secretary to Colonial Agent, 11th June, 1853.)"

No duplicate of the design referred to in the Colonial Secretary's letter was retained.

On receipt of the foregoing despatch the following correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Colonial Agent ensued :

"DOWNING STREET,

"1st December, 1853.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you the copy of a despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Van Diemen's Land respecting the proposed modification of the present postal arrangements in that Colony, with a letter to yourself from the Colonial Secretary, containing directions for your guidance in procuring the machinery requisite for the stamps, &c.

"The Postmaster-General, to whom these papers were first communicated, having stated that the postage stamps used in this country were supplied by the office of Inland Revenue, a reference was made to that Department in a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy. I am also to annex a copy of the reply, and to desire that you will place yourself in communication with the Commissioners of Inland Revenue respecting a supply of the requisite number of stamps, and that you will report the arrangements which may be made on the subject.

I have, &c.,

"(Sd.) H. MERIVALE.

"E. BARNARD, Esq., Colonial Agent."

(2)

"DOWNING STREET, 17th November, 1853.

"GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch, with its enclosure, from the Lieut.-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, relative to the postal arrangements of that colony; and I am to state that His Grace would be glad if it should be found practicable to assist the Colonial Agent in carrying out the instructions which have been addressed to him with reference to this service. Before communicating on the subject with the Colonial Agent, his Grace will await a reply to the present communication.

"I have, &c., H. MERIVALE.

"The Commissioners of Inland Revenue."

(3)

"INLAND REVENUE, SOMERSET HOUSE,
"18th November, 1853.

"SIR,—I have laid before the Board your letter of the 17th instant, transmitting a copy of a despatch, with its enclosure from the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land relative to the postal arrangements of that Colony.

"In reply I am directed to acquaint you for the information of the Duke of Newcastle that the Board will be ready to afford every assistance in their power in providing the Colony with the necessary supply of the stamps required, of course on the understanding that whatever expenses the Board may be put to in the matter shall be reimbursed to this revenue by the Colonial Agent.

"The Board will be glad to confer with Mr. Barnard, the Colonial Agent, and they suggest that he should put himself in communication with this office on the subject.

"I have, &c., (Sd.) THOMAS KEOGH,
Secretary."

"HERMAN MERIVALE, Esq."

(4)

"5, CANNON ROW, 18th January, 1854.

"SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st ultimo, and in reply to acquaint you that I have submitted to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue a tender for supplying the postage labels, &c., for the Government of Van Diemen's Land, which has been made to me by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., and in reply I have been informed that the same has been approved of; the amount exclusive of packing being £408 6s. 8d.

"With regard to the perforation of the sheets of postage stamps, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue have informed me that the same will be done at their office at a trifling expense.

"I have accordingly to request the favor of the instructions of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle on the subject.

"I have, &c., EDWD. BARNARD.

"H. MERIVALE, Esq."

(5)

"DOWNING STREET, 6th February, 1854.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acquaint you that under the circumstances there stated His Grace approves of your accepting, at the estimated cost, the tender which has been made to you for the supply of the postage labels, &c., required by the Government of Van Diemen's Land, and for defraying the expense of packing the same.

"You are also authorised to incur the additional expenditure for the perforation of the sheets of postage stamps.

"I have, &c., H. MERIVALE.

"E. BARNARD, Esq."

A copy of the foregoing correspondence accompanied the following despatch, and was sent to Hobart :

"DOWNING STREET, 6th February, 1854.

"SIR,—With reference to your despatch, No. 133, of the 13th of June last, relative to the future postal arrangements of the Colony under your government, I herewith transmit for your information copies of a correspondence which has passed on the subject between this Office and the Colonial Agent-General, which will place you in possession of the steps which have been taken for meeting your wishes in the matter.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

"(Sd.) NEWCASTLE.

"LIEUT.-GOV. SIR W. DENISON."

And the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Postmaster-General :

"22nd May, 1854.

"SIR,—I am directed to acquaint you that the Lieut.-Governor has been honored with a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle relative to the postal arrangements of this Colony, from the enclosures to which it appears that the necessary instructions have been given for procuring and forwarding to this Colony the postage stamps required.

"I have, &c.,

"W. CHAMP.

"The Postmaster-General."

This despatch was received on the 19th May, 1854 ; and on the 13th September following the Colonial Agent wrote, forwarding the "Invoice for Post Office Stamps, &c.," which together with the covering letter was forwarded either to the Post Office or to the Accountant of Stores, but no trace of it can be found now. However, attached to returns of stamps printed and sold for February, 1857, is a copy of the invoice, headed "Triplicate," and dated March 3rd, 1855, six months after the Colonial Agent had written forwarding the original invoice. This is a curious discrepancy in dates, but there can be no doubt that long before the date of this invoice, a copy of which follows, the case containing the stamps was well on its way to Hobart.*

* This statement is inaccurate, as Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., Limited, inform us they only delivered the case containing the stamps to Fishmongers' Hall Wharf on March 5th, 1855, in accordance with the instructions they received. The Colonial Agent seems to have been under a misapprehension with regard to the shipment of the case when he wrote on September 13th, 1854 ; and he certainly could not have forwarded any invoice of the stamps, as we see, on reference to the note on page 36, that the plates were not completed until the end of February, 1855. Mr. Barnard may have expected that the case was to be shipped by the *Kangaroo*, and wrote accordingly to the Colony, and thereupon the correspondence ensued which is given at the foot of page 34 and on page 35. What the case of "Post Office stamps" was that turned up at Port Adelaide in January, 1855, it is impossible to imagine ; but it certainly did not contain Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co.'s stamps. It is probable that, as the case could not have been shipped until March, 1855, and the Four Pence was issued in August of that year, the stamps were sent direct to the Colony from England.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

"LONDON. No. 69, FLEET STREET.

"Edward Barnard, Esq., Dr. to Perkins, Bacon, & Co.

"Government of Van Diemen's Land.

		£	s.	d.
" 1855.				
" Mar. 3.	For Preparing, Softening, Engraving, and Hardening flat and circular dies, and Preparing, Softening, and Transferring to Steel Plate 240 "One Penny" Postage Labels .	125	0	0
"	a 2nd Plate as above for "Twopenny" .	125	0	0
"	a 3rd Plate for "Fourpenny" .	125	0	0
"	Watermarked paper, printing and gumming :—			
	417 sheets = 100,080 1d. <i>red or lake</i> .			
	417 " 100,080 2d. <i>green</i> .			
	3334 " 800,160 4d. <i>blue</i> .			
	1,000,320 labels at 8d. per 1000 .	33	6	8
"	Tin and Deal Packing-case .		16	10
		409	3	6

"LONDON, 3rd March, 1855.

"Errors excepted.

"Per proc. PERKINS, BACON, & Co.

"J. P. BACON."

On the back of this invoice are the following particulars of the

"Issue of the Watermarked Stamps.

		Sheets			(Sd.) F. C. Smith.
" Aug. 17, 1855	...	500 of 4d. stamps	...		
Sept. 16 "	...	217 " 1d. "	...		"
" " "	...	17 " 2d. "	...		"
Oct. 18 "	...	50 " 2d. "	...		"
Nov. 15 "	...	234 " 4d. "	...		"
Jan. 7, 1856	...	150 " 1d. "	...		"
" " "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
Feb. 1 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
" " "	...	50 " 1d. "	...		"
April 5 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
" 24 "	...	250 " 2d. "	...		"
May 21 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
July 4 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
Aug. 14 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
Oct. 7 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
" " "	...	100 " 2d. "	...		"
Nov. 6 "	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
Jan. 14, 1857	...	250 " 4d. "	...		"
Feb. 18 "	...	350 " 4d. "	...		"

Total issued as above—

3334 sheets of 4d.

417 " 2d.

417 " 1d.

18/2/57."

The invoice is also endorsed :

" Received the Plate of 1d. stamps.	12 March, 1856.	F. C. Smith.
" " 2d. "	14 Jan. 1857.	F. C. Smith.
" " 4d. "	18 Feb. 1857.	F. C. Smith."

And this letter was forwarded with it :

"TREASURY, 19th February, 1857.

"SIR,—I beg to forward the Invoice of Postage Stamps received from England and deposited in the Treasury by the Postmaster-General, on the back of which you will find his acknowledgment of the several issues of these stamps from time to time, and which correspond with the number of sheets stated in the Invoice.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"To the Auditor, &c.

"THOS. JEAN,
for the Treasurer."

(In pencil in the margin, "Sheet contains 240 in number;" and at the back, "3334 sheets of 4d., 417 sheets of 2d., and 417 sheets of 1d.")

The case containing the stamps and plates was doubtless forwarded shortly after the sending of the invoice referred to in the Colonial Agent's letter of the 13th September, 1854; but, owing to a mistake in shipping, the unfortunate case went through some vicissitudes before it finally reached its destination. The following correspondence will show the erratic course of its travels, which occupied so much time and caused such delay in the issue of stamps expected to be available in February or March, 1854:

"V.D.L. CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
"12th December, 1854.

"SIR,—I am directed by Lieut.-Governor Sir W. Denison to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency Sir H. E. Fox Young, that a case containing steel stamps, &c., for the Post Office Department of this Colony, has been, through an error of the London Dock Company, put on board the *Kangaroo* for Adelaide, instead of the *Magellan* for V.D.L.; and that the Colonial Agent-General has made an arrangement with the agents of the first-named vessel to forward the same as directed. As, however, the articles referred to are most urgently required, I am to request that you will move his Excellency to cause enquiry to be made of the agents of the *Kangaroo* (whose names are not known to this Department) as to the arrival of the case, and to have them instructed to lose no time in sending it on to Hobart Town.

"I have, &c.,

W. CHAMP.

"The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Adelaide."

10th January, 1855.—Letter from the Colonial Secretary, Adelaide, stating that the case of Post Office stamps, &c., had arrived at Port Adelaide, and would be forwarded to Hobart Town by the first opportunity.

15th March, 1855.—Letter from the Postmaster-General, Hobart, calling attention to the fact that the case of stamps had not yet been forwarded.

20th March, 1855.—Letter from Colonial Secretary, Hobart, to Colonial Secretary, Adelaide, urging expedition in shipment.

4th April, 1855.—Letter from the Colonial Secretary, Adelaide, stating that the case had been forwarded by the *Emily Allison* to Melbourne, the captain of that vessel having undertaken to forward it on to Hobart Town by the first opportunity. This letter bears a pencil memorandum, undated: "These things have arrived, it appears, and were found by accident on the wharf."

The case "found by accident" on the wharf contained the three plates for printing the stamps of One Penny, Two Pence, and Four Pence, and one year's (estimated) supply of stamps ready-printed and gummed. The face value of these stamps amounted to £14,567 13s. 4d., rather a valuable parcel to be left lying about on the wharf waiting a claimant.

From the Colonial Agent's letter of the 28th August, 1856 (see next chapter), the plates were sent out by mistake, an error which Messrs. Perkins and Bacon regretted very much, and naturally too, for this proceeding deprived them of the pleasure (and profit) of printing the subsequent supplies of stamps for the Colony.

From the returns of postage stamps issued to the Post Office Department (detailed in Appendix A) I find that the Colonial Treasurer first issued stamps of the value of Four Pence to the Post Office in August, 1855. These were the new stamps received from England, for all prior returns state that the stamps were received from "Mr. Henry Best, printer," and he certified to have printed none from the month of August, 1855, until April, 1856, and the memoranda on the back of the invoice confirm this.

In September, 1855, the Treasurer issued stamps of the values of One Penny and Two Pence. These also were of the new design (16th September by the memoranda).

From the practice on subsequent occasions, it appears that as soon as the case containing this large supply of stamps arrived from England, the sheets were deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, to be by him re issued to the Post Office as occasion required. This system obtained until about 1878, when all stamps in the hands of the Assistant Colonial Treasurer were handed over to the Secretary of the Post Office, and placed in the strong room belonging to the latter Department, since which date the Treasurer has exercised no control over the issue of postage stamps.

The design of the new stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins and Bacon, of London, was the same for all three values, and may be described as follows:

Three-quarter diademed portrait of Queen, with necklace and earrings, to left, on ground of fine vertical and horizontal lines, within an engine-turned oval, lettered "VAN DIEMEN'S LAND" in white block letters in the upper curve. Across the lower portion of the oval is a straight, narrow white label, with "POSTAGE" in small Roman capitals, and immediately below this is a straight coloured label, having a square ornamented block at either end, with the value in words in white Roman capitals. The spandrels are filled in with engine-turned ornament, and a plain single outer line completes the design. The shape is upright rectangular. (*Illustrations 1, 2, 3.*)

The three stamps were all probably produced from the one steel die, the label bearing the value being introduced prior to striking the impressions on the steel plates from which they were printed.

Each plate contained 240 impressions in twenty horizontal rows of twelve, and the stamps are placed very irregularly on the plate; in some instances the impressions touch or encroach upon their neighbours.*

All values were printed in colour upon stoutish white paper, watermarked with a large six-rayed star to each stamp (*Illustration a*); the sheets were gummed by the printers with smooth yellowish gum.

Notwithstanding the orders for supplying the stamps in a perforated state ready for use, and the written authority of the Duke of Newcastle to incur the expense necessary for performing the service, the sheets arrived in the Colony in an imperforate state, and no explanation was given in the invoice as to the non-execution of the order.

The colours used were very full and rich. Apparently the suggestion of colours in the Colonial Secretary's letter to the Colonial Agent, dated 13th June, 1853, "red, blue, and green," was adopted as being the nearest approach to a definite order.

The One Penny was printed in deep carmine,	
„ Two Pence	„ deep green, and
„ Four Pence	„ deep blue.

* Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., Limited, inform us that the One Penny die was engraved June 10th, 1854, from a sketch made by Mr. E. H. Corbould in May of that year. The Four Pence was the first plate made, and was used for printing on January 5th, 1855; the Two Pence on February 6th; and the One Penny on February 27th of the same year. The plate for the last value was only completed the day before it was used for printing, and the whole 417 sheets were struck off in one day. The method employed for making the plates was as follows: The die of the One Penny was first engraved by hand. Impressions from this were then transferred to a soft steel roller, on which the words "One Penny" were afterwards erased on two of the impressions, and the values "Two Pence" and "Four Pence" engraved by hand in their place, the roller being then hardened. The plate for each stamp was constructed by transferring impressions of each value 240 times from the roller.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

Very little variation is found in the shade of colour, except that caused by some subsequent process of fading or oxydising, which occasionally changes the Four Pence to black or deep green.

In all these stamps the paper is more or less tinted by the colour of the stamp, the Four Pence being perhaps the most marked in this respect, the paper having sometimes a distinctly blue appearance.

The fact that no provision had been made for a further supply of stamps when those received from England should be exhausted seems to have been overlooked by the Post Officials; for early in 1856 it became apparent that the supply of One Penny stamps could not last much longer, and although they had the plates, the order for a printing-press adapted to the purpose of producing impressions from them had been neglected, and the Government were without the means of providing themselves with the necessary stamps.

There was also the further difficulty, moreover, of obtaining suitable paper for the purpose, and, as appears in the next chapter, it was not until April, 1856, that a supply was ordered from England.

However, something had to be done in the matter, and our old friends, Messrs. H. and C. Best, were applied to, apparently verbally, for no record of correspondence or contract exists; the One Penny plate handed over to them in the care of a responsible official, and a temporary supply of One Penny stamps printed at the *Courier* office in the month of April, 1856.

The official who superintended the printing of this supply informed me that the paper used was merely the thick white wove paper employed for the *Courier* newspaper.

This first printing consisted of 282 sheets, or 67,680 stamps. The colour is a light cinnamon-red, and the impressions are very distinct and clear in appearance. The sheets were gummed at the Post Office with a preparation of gum-arabic, obtained from Mr. H. Hinsby, chemist, Hobart; and owing to the absence of size in or surface to the paper this gum penetrated through the stamp, giving it a semi-transparent, greasy appearance, which, however, disappears on immersing the stamp in warm water for a few minutes. Although I am averse to any tampering with the natural state and appearance of a stamp, still I think that the really excellent execution of these stamps cannot be fully appreciated while the greasy look is allowed to remain.

This supply lasted for seven months, and then, in November, 1856, the Messrs. Best printed a further supply of 324 sheets, or 77,760 stamps. On this occasion a different paper was used—a thin, almost *pelure*, greyish-white paper, very tough, which gives out a crackling sound when roughly handled.

The colour is a rich burnt sienna-brown, with scarcely a tinge of red in it, and the impressions are also very clear and distinct. The gum used was the same as for the first supply, but owing to the superior texture of the paper it does not penetrate to such a marked extent.

The star watermarked Two Pence then ran out; and in January, 1857, Messrs. Best printed 155 sheets, or 37,200 stamps of this value. They reverted to the thick white paper of the first printing of the One Penny, and used a bright emerald-green ink, which shows very little variation in shade. This soft paper seemed eminently adapted to the bringing out the beauty of the design, for these impressions, though lacking the richness of colour of the English printed ones, are decidedly clearer in outline. The greasy-looking gum was also employed for these sheets, and militated somewhat against the outward appearance of the stamp.

The supply of the star watermarked Four Pence lasted till May, 1857, a period of twenty-one months, although estimated to last only twelve. During this month the Messrs. Best printed 715 sheets, or 171,600 stamps of the Four Pence, on the thick white paper described for their first printing of the One Penny. The colour was a clear blue, which varies somewhat in shade from dark to pale, but all the impressions are well brought out and prepossessing in appearance. The same gum was applied to these sheets as to those of the three other supplies, and penetrated in a more or less marked degree. One very objectionable feature of this gum was its inflexibility, which, combined with the short texture of the paper, frequently resulted in the stamps becoming broken when bent or folded; as an adhesive, too, it was a signal failure, for the stamps will peel off the envelope generally with very little persuasion.

All these stamps were issued in an imperforate state.

The cancellations found on both the "star" and "no watermark" stamps include one of frequent occurrence, consisting of a date in pen and ink, with or without the name of a town written above it. This was owing either to the Post Office having run out of the black obliterating composition, or being for the while without a numbered handstamp. A cancellation of crossed lines in pen and ink, with or without a number, owes its origin to the same cause. (See chapter on cancellations.)

The dates of printing of these stamps may be taken as the actual dates of issue to the public. I have an envelope, franked by the One Penny on thick paper, dated 18th July, 1856, which is the earliest date of this variety I have met with; but as the stamps were only printed when required, and at once handed to the Secretary of the Post Office, without going through the Colonial Treasurer's hands, the natural inference is that they were directly transferred to the stamp saleroom. I have a Four Pence, without watermark, dated "28/5/57," showing that this variety was undoubtedly issued during the month in which it was printed.

For further information see Appendices A and B.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1855.

Printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., of London. On white wove paper, watermarked with a six-rayed star; yellowish gum; imperforate. (*Illustrations* 1, 2, 3. *Watermark a.*)

Sept. 16th, 1855.	1 penny, deep carmine.
Sept. 16th, 1855.	2 pence, deep green; shades.
August, 1855.	4 „ deep blue „

ISSUE 1856-1857.

Printed by Messrs. H. and C. Best, of Hobart.

(A) On thick white wove paper, without watermark; yellowish greasy gum; imperforate. (*Illustrations* 1, 2, 3.)

April, 1856.	1 penny, light cinnamon-red.
January, 1857.	2 pence, emerald-green.
May, 1857.	4 „ clear blue; shades.

(B) On thin, almost pelure greyish-white paper.

November, 1856.	1 penny, reddish-brown.
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CHAPTER IV.

THE IMPERFORATE POSTAGE STAMPS FROM AUGUST, 1857, TO NOVEMBER, 1870.

THE supply of One Penny stamps sent out by Perkins and Bacon, instead of lasting one year as estimated, merely served for seven months—from 1st September, 1855, to 1st April, 1856—when it was found necessary to hand the plates to Best for printing a supply, as narrated in the preceding chapter.

With that want of foresight and dilatoriness which has, until recently, characterized most of the proceedings with reference to obtaining postal requisites for Tasmania, it was not until thus absolutely forced to face the difficulty that any movement was made towards providing suitable articles for the production of the necessary postage stamps.

Early in April, 1856, correspondence passed between the Postmaster-General, the Colonial Secretary, and the Colonial Agent, and eventually, in June, a requisition for the articles required was made out and transmitted to England on the 29th August, 1856. The following is a copy of the correspondence and requisition in order of sequence :

“TASMANIA, COLONIAL SECRETARY’S OFFICE,

“21st April, 1856.

“SIR,—I am directed by Governor Sir H. E. F. Young to transmit to you the accompanying copy of two letters from the Postmaster-General of this Colony, reporting the want of certain implements and materials in connection with the postage stamps, and I am to request that the whole of the articles enumerated may be shipped with the least possible delay.

“I am at the same time to call your attention to the circumstance that the greater part of these articles were requested in my letter of the 11th June, 1853, but that up to this time they have not been received, and I am therefore to solicit your earnest attention to the present requisition.

“I have, &c., (Sd.) W. CHAMP,

“E. BARNARD, Esq.,

“Col. Secretary.

“5, Cannon Row, Westminster.”

(Enclosure.)

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,

“April 12th, 1856.

“SIR,—I have the honour to invite your attention to the non-arrival of the printing-press for printing the postage stamps of this Colony, and also the notching-machine, which were ordered from England a long time since, and to request that you will do me the favour to renew the order,

at your earliest convenience, with special instructions that the articles referred to may be supplied with as little delay as practicable.

"In renewing this order it would be highly desirable to request that the press may be one of Perkins' Patent Presses, with all recent improvements, and that it should be sufficiently large to strike off readily from the plates which we at present possess, each of which contains engravings for 240 stamps.

"It would also be desirable to request that a supply of colours may be sent out, as they can be obtained in England of superior quality, and at rates much more reasonable than here. They should be of the colours, and of the particular shades, corresponding with those of the stamps now in use, as annexed.

"I beg further to request that an order may be sent for the paper on which the stamps are to be printed, to be manufactured in England, with a watermark indicating the value of the stamps; and for further security against fraud, a diagonal thread line should be marked within the paper so as to show through each stamp.

"Each sheet of paper should be sufficiently large to leave a fair-sized margin or butt after they are cut out of the books into which I recommend that they should be *strongly bound*. These books should contain 250 leaves, and each leaf should bear a scroll impression, varied in colour according to the description of stamps for which it is intended, so that the leaves can be cut out through the scroll; the margins, or butts, should thus be a check on the sheets used. Size of paper, *exclusive of margin or butt*, must be 24 inches in length by 12 inches in width.

"(Sd.) F. C. SMITH.

"*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*"

(See Requisition 30th June, 1856.)

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, HOBART TOWN, TASMANIA,

"*April 18th, 1856.*

"SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 12th instant, I have now the honour to request that in transmitting the order to England for the manufacturing of the paper for printing our postage stamps on, special instructions may be given that it be of such a quality as to bear the requisite quantity of gum, and that the number of books be as follows :

500 for the Four Penny (blue) stamps,
250 for the Two Penny (green) stamps, and
250 for the One Penny (red) stamps.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"(Sd.) F. C. SMITH.

"*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.*"

Under date April 21st, 1856, the Postmaster-General gave particular instructions to the Colonial Agent with reference to the manufacture of not more paper than is actually required for the number of books requisitioned for, and directing him, in the case of too great a quantity being manufactured, to cause the balance to be destroyed in his presence. A sample of paper cut from the margin of the sheets of stamps then in use was forwarded as a guide to the quality of paper required.

These letters were replied to by the Colonial Agent under date 28th August, 1856, and a copy of the correspondence will be found further on.

In the meantime the definite requisition was prepared, and forwarded with letters as follows :

“*Requisition.*”]

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“30th June, 1856.

“Required for the Post Office Department during the year commencing the 1st of January and terminating on the 31st of December, 1857 :

Articles Required.		Quantity.
Books for 4d. stamps		500
” 2d. ”		250
” 1d. ”		250

“The paper to be manufactured in England expressly for the purpose, with watermarks indicating the value of the stamp for which it is to be used, and a diagonal thread line to shew through each stamp. Each book to contain 250 leaves, and each leaf bearing a scroll impression of the same colour as the stamp for which it is intended to be used, thus the leaves in the 500 books will bear a blue scroll, one set of 250 a green scroll, and the other a red scroll. The paper must be 24 inches in length and 12 inches in width exclusive of the butt or margin on the left hand side of the scroll.

“Lithographic Printing Ink in paste, and of the respective shades as per stamps annexed	}	Blue : 2 Tins of 12 lbs. each.
		Green : 1 Tin of 8 ”
		Red : 1 Tin of 8 ”

Printing Press.

“Perkins’ Patent Press of sufficient size. 1. For striking off Postage Stamps for the use of the Public.

“First supply sought for about two years since, having been wholly neglected by the Colonial Agent. It has not yet arrived from England.

“Notching Machine ... 1. For stamps.

* “Steel Plate engraved for 240 impressions of Postage Stamps of the value of Six Pence each stamp, as per annexed pattern. Size, 22½ in length by 11½ in width. First supply.

* “Steel Plate engraved for 240 impressions of Postage Stamps of the value of One Shilling, each stamp elaborated in a similar manner to the English postage stamp of One Shilling value, as per annexed pattern. Size, 22½ in length by 11½ in width. First supply.

Stamps, }	1500 sheets of 240 stamps, each sheet at One Shilling each stamp.
Postage. }	1500 ” ” Six Pence ”

“To be struck off the Plates above mentioned and sent on as soon as practicable.

(Sd.) F. C. SMITH, *Postmaster-General.*”

* The original *requisition* for these two stamps is in the possession of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., Limited, to whose kindness we are indebted for a sight of the document. The two patterns mentioned still remain where they were first pasted upon the margin of the paper, and the following is a description of the designs. *Six Pence*.—In the centre is the head of Her Majesty, similar to that on the stamps then current, upon a background of solid colour, enclosed within an irregular-shaped frame, copied in a reduced size from that on the first Six Pence adhesive of Great Britain. The frame, which is of solid colour, is inscribed “TASMANIA” at the top and “SIXPENCE” at the bottom, in plain block letters, the two words being separated at either side by a plain, narrow, wavy band, with rounded ends. The *One Shilling* has a similar portrait of the Queen to the Six Pence, upon ground of solid colour, enclosed within an octagonal frame, copied in a reduced size from that on the first One Shilling adhesive of Great Britain. The frame, which is of solid colour, contains a plain, narrow, wavy band, inscribed “TASMANIA” above and “ONE SHILLING” below, in coloured block letters. Both sketches are made upon thin yellowish paper. The colour of the Six Pence is lilac, while that of the One Shilling is vermilion, the Queen’s head in either value being merely outlined in pencil. Great credit is due to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. for the superior manner in which they carried out their work, and for the improvements made in the stamps.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,

"11th August, 1856.

"SIR,—Referring to my requisition for the manufacture of paper of a certain description, and books for the printing of the postage stamps of this Colony, engraved plates for stamps of the value of Sixpence and One Shilling each, printing ink of colours, &c. &c. &c., dated the 30th of June last, I have the honour to request that you will do me the favour to specially direct that the articles be sent out as they are completed, and not detained until the whole are ready, and that you would kindly draw the serious attention of the Colonial Agent to the absolute necessity of transmitting the several articles direct to Hobart Town, Tasmania, as our supplies some short time since came out *via* Adelaide, which of course caused a very considerable delay, Adelaide being the capital of South Australia, which is another British colony, at a distance of about one thousand miles from Tasmania. I trust you will enforce this upon the mind of Mr. Barnard, the Colonial Agent, in order to prevent the recurrence of similar vexatious delay.

"I have, &c., (Sd.) F. C. SMITH.

"JOHN FORSTER, Esq., *Accountant of Stores, &c. &c.*"

"ACCOUNTANT OF STORES OFFICE,

"August 26th, 1856.

"SIR,—I have the honour herewith to enclose in duplicate for transmission to England special demands for stores for the Postmaster-General's Department (together with a copy of a letter addressed to me by that officer).

"I shall feel obliged by the Agent-General being especially instructed to expedite their shipment by the earliest opportunity.

"I have, &c. (Sd.) J. FORSTER.

"*The Hon. the Col. Secretary.*"

"TASMANIA, COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"29th August, 1856.

"SIR,—I am directed by Governor Sir H. E. F. Young to transmit to you the accompanying requisition for stores for the Post Office Department in this Colony, and I am to draw your attention to Mr. Smith's letter, which is appended, and to request that the whole may be procured and forwarded to Hobart Town as soon as possible.

"I am, &c., (Sd.) W. CHAMP.

"E. BARNARD, Esq."

Acting on the first set of correspondence, the Colonial Agent had communicated with Messrs. Perkins and Bacon, and the result of his enquiries follows :

"5, CANNON ROW, 28th August, 1856.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st April last, enclosing a requisition for a press, and other articles required for the service of the Post Office, and stating that most of them were ordered in 1853, but had not been received in Tasmania.

"In reply I beg to transmit to you, for the information of Sir H. Young, the copy of a letter from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., pointing out the unsuitable nature of the paper now demanded, and the expense and risk attending the supply of a perforating machine.

"Under these circumstances I have ordered the Perkins' Press, the paper (without the thread-lines), and the colours, and trust from the great experience of the Contractors that the order will be executed in a satisfactory manner.

"With respect to the omission complained of I beg to refer you to your letter of 11th June, 1853, in which you requested that the stamps should be sent out ready prepared, or the necessary machinery, &c., to make them in the Colony. The order was given for the stamps to be prepared here, but it now appears that Messrs. Perkins sent out the plates with the supply of stamps, a mistake which they much regret, and which occurred in consequence of the great press of business upon them at the time both for Colonial services and the Home Government.

"I have, &c. EDWARD BARNARD.

"*The Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*"

(Enclosure.)

"No. 69, FLEET STREET,

"8th August, 1856.

"SIR,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 6th instant, accompanied by three letters of the 12th, 18th, and 21st April from the Postmaster-General of Van Diemen's Land, and one from the Colonial Secretary, dated 21st, and requiring us to give an estimate of the cost of various articles connected with postage stamps for that Colony. This we shall be happy to do; but that it may be satisfactory, it is desirable that you should instruct us in some parts of the order.

"We perceive that complaints are made that on the 11th of June, 1853, among the articles then ordered, a Perkins' press and perforating machine were omitted to be sent. On this subject we would merely say that we never had any such order, and that at that time a proper perforating machine was not to be had outside of Somerset House. The press can very easily be supplied, but a perforating machine such as that used by our Government (after obtaining their permission) would cost £400, is very complicated, liable to get out of order, and requires great power to use it. Another kind has since been produced, more simple in its construction, requiring far less power and less liable to get out of order, and this could be charged at 150 guineas. But both machines require a very clever mechanic or engineer to work them. The latter does less work at a time, but as much in a day as the former one; and we know not for which we should estimate for, though we ourselves prefer the latter. But the directions in regard to paper are that it should be similar to the paper we at present supply, three patterns of which are enclosed in the despatch, and yet that it must have the thread, as patented by Dickenson, running through each stamp, answer well for gumming, and that each stamp shall bear the proper denomination in it as a watermark; but this is impracticable, as our paper is moderately thin, tough, bears the watermark and gum very well, and is of proper substance for the uses to which it is to be applied; whereas paper cannot be produced with the thread running through it without being much thicker, much weaker, cannot have the denomination as watermark in each head, would be easily disengaged from the letter, and would moreover cost, with all the disadvantages, three times as much as a paper far better adapted to the purpose.

"Our Home Government, although they have long used Dickenson's paper for exchequer bills and envelopes, have never adopted it for postage stamps or labels,* knowing how utterly inappropriate it is for that purpose. We have no objection, however, to supply such paper, if we are relieved from all responsibility concerning it. The subject of gum is indirectly referred to, but we are not directed to forward any of the material. The stamps formerly supplied by us were sent out gummed, and we are directed to send the articles necessary for all other parts of the process. Ought we not, therefore, to add a supply of gum to the estimate?

"Will you, therefore, oblige us by stating which perforating machine we should estimate for, and whether the paper is to be of the usual kind, or to have the thread in it, and made as good as under such circumstances it is capable of being? and on receiving this information we will forward an estimate without delay.

"We have, &c.,

"Per pro PERKINS, BACON, & Co.,

"J. P. BACON."

"EDWARD BARNARD, ESQ.

* This is not a fact. The 10d. and 1s. of 1847-8 were printed on paper having two vertical threads running through each stamp. The Postmaster-General, however, had not these stamps in view when he asked for this particular variety of paper, but took his cue from the recommendation of the Postmaster, Sydney, who mentioned "paper with *threads* or *waterlines*" as one of the requisites for postage stamps.

This correspondence was received at Hobart on the 8th December, 1856, and forwarded to the Postmaster-General for his information. This gentleman endorsed the letter: "The notcher which was called for I would not now wish to have, and the paper recommended by Messrs. Perkins and Bacon I do wish to have, and bound in books as I proposed. The gum and the colours for stamps I will procure here for the present." (29th December, 1856.)

The Colonial Secretary thereupon wrote to the Colonial Agent under date 13th January, 1857, stating that the course pursued had met with the approval of the Tasmanian Government.

The first instalment of requisites was sent out in March, 1857, reaching Hobart late in June following. Perkins, Bacon, & Co.'s invoice, dated 20th February, 1857, contained:

A Perkins's cast-iron printing press, 27 inches between the frames, complete.
 Dry colours for printing: Red colour composed of equal parts of pale vermilion, rose-pink, and Persian red.
 Green colour, composed of proportionate parts of Dutch pink, sup. lemon chrome, ultramarine, and Chinese blue, and
 Blue colour, composed of proportionate parts of flake white, ultramarine, Chinese blue, and magnesia.
 250 reams of 1d. postage paper (with printed scrolls), red.
 125 " 2d. " " " " green.
 124 " 4d. " " " " blue.
 Strong binding, with leather backs, 998 books.
 5 yards of blanketing for printing.
 3 " front cloth "
 Watermarked paper mould, extra size,
 with the figure 1 repeated 240 times in each sheet for 1d. (*Illustration b.*)
 " " 2 " " " " 2d. (" *c.*)
 " " 4 " " " " 4d. (" *d.*)

The total cost of these articles came to £1120 11s. 6d. The quantity of paper ordered was unnecessarily large, for after doing service for nearly fourteen years, numbers of books were still remaining in stock, and the last use to which they were put was for printing the Treasury cheques on, it being supposed that the paper was particularly strong and adapted for the purpose. This idea, however, is quite erroneous, as the pen strokes frequently go right through the paper. The balance is now being used for postal notes.

The press proved to be too large for the limited space of the Post Office, and was returned to the office of stores, to be subsequently sent to the Government Printer (1864).

On the 20th July, 1857, one of the cases of paper referred to in the foregoing invoice was opened at the General Post Office in the presence of Mr. Huxtable (Colonial Storekeeper) and Mr. Hardinge (Accountant, Post Office), and eight books of 4d. paper, two of 2d., and three of 1d. were handed over to the Postmaster-General, the remainder being replaced in the box and sealed with the seals of both offices. This course of procedure subsequently took place whenever supplies were required.

The paper thus obtained was handed to Mr. Henry Best, with instructions to print a supply of each value. From the returns (Appendix A) it will be seen that during August, 1857, he printed and handed over 60,240 One Penny stamps, 38,400 Two Penny, and 59,760 Four Penny, which were at once put into circulation. The printing was performed at Best's office under authority from the Colonial Secretary.

Best's first printings on this watermarked paper vary slightly in shade. The One Penny is generally found in a reddish-brown shade, closely allied to that found in the second printings on unwatermarked paper (*pelure*). The Two Pence is more varied, and is found in the pale yellowish-green of the unwatermarked variety, full green, and shades of dark green, like the star Two Pence. The Four Pence is found in pale and dark blue, and a shade of slate-blue. These first printings of 1857 are easily distinguished, from the fact that the watermark is invariably *inverted*—a somewhat singular fact, considering the large number of sheets of each value that were printed; but, nevertheless, these topsy-turvy are consistently found up till early in 1858, when the first normal ones appear. The inverted figures are found in all values, facing both to left and right, looked at from the back of the stamp; the latter, however, are of less frequent occurrence. From the time when Best first began to look at things in their proper light, and stood the figures on their feet, no further slip took place till just before the Van Diemen's Land stamps ceased to exist; namely, in July, 1870. I have a specimen of the One Penny, bearing date "21/7/70," with a topsy-turvy watermark. This, however, is perforated 11½.

In 1858 then these stamps appeared on the figure watermarked paper in its normal position, and were issued in that condition and imperforate by the Government until November, 1870.

There is no recorded error of watermark in the imperforate series.*

The shades of all values vary to a great extent, owing to the different printings and printers. Best continued to work for the Government by contract until August, 1859, when he sold out his newspaper and printing plant to John Davies, who continued to print all three values up to March, 1862. In March, 1863, James S. Birchall† printed some of the Four Pence; and in November of that year M. L. Hood printed a supply of the One Penny, and also some of the Four Pence in April, 1864.

From that date the printing was performed at the Government Printing-office, and the variation in shade is very slight. (See end of Appendix A.)

The One Penny appears in pale brownish-red, brown, dull red, brick-red, vermilion, and bright red, in the order given.

The Two Pence appears in emerald-green, blue-green, dark sage-green, pale green, and yellow-green.

The Four Pence in light blue, bright blue, rough dull blue, ultramarine, pale blue, and clear French blue.

* Mention should, however, be made that numerous varieties may be found in the size and shape of the "numerals." It may also be well to state here that slight differences exist in the "star" watermark, as well as in the "figures" of the paper used for printing the first stamps of Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s design.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

† Birchall was merely foreman in the printing establishment of John Davies, who, then a member of Parliament, was unable to undertake Government contracts in his own name.

The shades are in most cases very marked, and can be distinguished and placed approximately in their order of date without much difficulty. Occasionally specimens will be found showing blurred outlines, owing to the plate shifting during printing; these are mostly later impressions. The Four Pence sometimes becomes oxydized almost to a black, or chemically changed to green, and the Two Pence to blue. The One Penny also appears in black-brown shades, due doubtless to some process subsequent to the printing.

The Act of Council, 19 Vict. No. 17, which came into force on the 1st of January, 1856, changed the name of "Van Diemen's Land" to "Tasmania." Consequently the patterns of the Six Penny and One Shilling stamps referred to in the requisition of 30th June, 1856, bore the legend "Tasmania."

In June, 1857, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. had completed the order of the preceding year, and on the 8th of that month forwarded their invoice to the Colonial Agent. A copy follows:

"LONDON, 8th June, 1857.

"E. Barnard, Esq., Dr. to Perkins, Bacon, & Co.

"The Government of Tasmania:

"To Drawing, engraving, and hardening flat and circular dies	£	s.	d.
and engraving a folio plate therefrom containing 240 impressions of 6d. postage stamps	120	0	0
„ Do. do. 1/- do.	120	0	0
„ Paper, printing, and gumming 1500 sheets, 240 each, making 360,000 6d. postage stamps at 8d. per 1000	12	0	0
„ 360,000 1/- do. do.	12	0	0
„ Watermarked paper moulds with the figure 6 repeated 240 times on each sheet for 6d. stamps	20	0	0
„ Do. do. 12 do. for 1/- stamps	22	0	0
„ 24 lbs. steel plate Printing Ink (blue), 4/-	4	16	0
„ 12 do. do. (green), 6/-	3	12	0
„ 12 do. do. (red), 4/6	2	14	0
„ Cases packing		8	10
	<u>£318 5 4</u>		

These articles arrived in January, 1858, and the stamps were at once deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, and issued to the Postmaster-General from time to time as occasion required.

Both plates were of steel, and contained 240 impressions each in twenty horizontal rows of twelve stamps.

The Six Pence (*Illustration 4*) is in its general outline an imitation of the English stamp of that value issued in 1848; and the One Shilling (*Illustration 5*), according to instructions, was elaborated in a similar manner to the English stamp of 1847.

The Six Pence was printed in a lilac colour, which has in most cases faded or changed to many shades of grey, greenish, or pale brownish-lilac. The English printed specimens however can always be distinguished by their clear outlines and generally superior appearance.

In March, 1860, John Davies printed 360,000; and in April, 1863, Birchall (for Davies) printed 300,000. Both of these printings would more properly be called slate or bluish-grey than lilac, as they are officially designated.

In February, 1865, the Government printer struck off 360,000 in a bluish-gray shade; and in April, 1867, and November, 1869, he printed two further supplies in a marked red-lilac shade, which continued in use until March, 1875.

The One Shilling was printed in vermilion (officially styled "rose"), and the English supply lasted until January, 1873.

The watermarks of large double-lined figures 6 and 12 respectively (*Illustrations e. f.*), so far as my observation has gone, are generally in their normal position, and face to the left, looked at from the back of the stamp. I have, however, found the Six Pence, bluish-gray, of 1865, with the watermark inverted, facing to right, and the red-lilac of 1867, with the watermark inverted, facing to left (the first was perf. 10).

From January, 1858, until November, 1870, this anomalous state of affairs continued to exist, apparently without exciting much remark. Letters bearing stamps designated "Tasmania" and "Van Diemen's Land" side by side continued to be sent to all parts of the world for nearly thirteen years. From 1868-70 the rate of postage to England *via* Brindisi was 1s. 1d.; and an imperforate One Penny Van Diemen's Land doing duty with a perforated One Shilling Tasmania was no uncommon occurrence.

Notwithstanding Perkins and Bacon's statements as to the "Dickenson" paper, again on the 14th June, 1858, Mr. Hardinge, then Secretary of the Post Office, forwarded a requisition for 250 books of paper for One Shilling postage stamps, and 500 for those of Six Pence, "the paper to be manufactured in England expressly for the purpose, with watermarks indicating the value of the stamp for which it is to be used, and a diagonal thread-line to show through each stamp." The Secretary presumed that the moulds for manufacturing the paper for both descriptions of stamps had been preserved, as the first supply of those stamps only arrived in the Colony about twelve months previously; and having been manufactured subsequently to the completion of the order for the 4d., 2d., and 1d. stamps, it might consequently have been expected that a similar supply of paper for printing the postage stamps of the higher values would soon be sent for, more especially as the engraved steel plates for printing them had been sent out with the stamps. The large supply of paper (sufficient to print fifteen million One Shilling and thirty million Sixpenny stamps!) was ordered on the understanding that a considerable reduction would be made in the cost on account of the size of the order; but on being assured that no such reduction would be made, the Secretary moderated his demands to twenty-five books for the One Shilling and fifty for the Six Pence. These duly arrived, and the Six Penny paper was used in Davies' and Birchall's printings of 1860 and 1863. Both the One Shilling and Six Penny paper has been used ever since for those values.

The Act of Parliament 21 Vict. No. 38, which commence from the 1st March, 1858, raised the Inland rate of postage to sixpence per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and curtailed the franking privileges to such an extent that the Government Departments were supplied with postage stamps with which to prepay most of their correspondence. Consequently many letters "On Public Service Only" from March to December, 1858, will be found bearing postage stamps. Although these labels were supplied gratis to Departments, no special mark as to their official nature was affixed to them, the officials being supposed to be actuated by the same feelings of honour regarding the use of official postage stamps as prevented them from using their franking privilege for private correspondence.

22 Vict., No. 28, commencing 1st January, 1859, fixed the rate of postage on suburban letters for delivery within five miles of Hobart or Launceston at two pence, and inland letters at four pence, per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. From this date also departmental correspondence was once more franked by the signatures of officials. The supply of stamps left in the hands of officials was returned to the Post Office, and having been accounted for to the Auditor of Civil Accounts, was destroyed by burning, in order to save unnecessary complication of accounts.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE AUGUST, 1857.

Printed in the Colony. On white wove paper, watermarked with double-lined numeral of value, varying in substance; white to yellowish gum; imperforate. (*Illustrations 1, 2, 3; watermarks b. c. d.*)

- 1 penny, reddish-brown, brown, dull red, brick-red, bright red, carmine (shades).
- 2 pence, pale yellowish-green, full green, dark green, emerald-green, dark sage-green (shades).
- 4 pence, pale and dark blue, dull blue, ultramarine (shades).

ISSUE JANUARY, 1858.

Printed at first by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., and afterwards in the Colony. On white wove paper, watermarked with double-lined numeral of value; white to yellowish gum; imperforate. (*Illustrations 4, 5; watermarks e. f.*)

- 6 pence, lilac, bluish-gray, red-lilac (shades of each).
- 1 shilling, vermilion (shades).

CHAPTER V.

THE ADHESIVE REVENUE STAMPS, 1863-70.

PRIOR to 1863 no tax in the form of Stamp Duty on Bills of Exchange and other documents existed. "The Stamp Act" (27 Vict. No. 38), passed on the 24th September, 1863, provided for the levying of certain duties upon documents detailed in a Schedule, which duties were to be paid by "stamps affixed to or impressed upon the documents."

Section 5 of this Act stated that the Colonial Treasurer should provide stamps for the purposes of the Act; and also provided that it should be lawful for any person to use for the purposes of the Act stamps made and sold under the provisions of "The Post Office Act, 1853."

The date of commencement of the Act was fixed for the 1st day of October, 1863.

The system of allowing postage stamps to be used for the purposes of "The Stamp Act" could only result in the accounts of revenue from each source being inextricably confused.

The Secretary of the Post Office writes:

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, HOBART,
"19th September, 1863.

"SIR,—In obedience to your instructions of this morning that I would submit to you my views with reference to the postage stamps being used for the purposes of the Stamp Act, I have the honor to report: (1st) That as under the Stamp Act there can be no means of preventing any one from using each and every description of the Post Office stamps for Stamp Act purposes, and that therefore the revenue derived from each must of necessity become amalgamated; and as it appears that for some time to come only two additional descriptions of stamps are to be brought into use, it seems to me most desirable that the whole stamp system should be carried into operation by the Post Office. (2nd) The stamps from the new plates could be printed by the Post Office and placed in charge of the Colonial Treasurer in bulk, and then issued to the Postmaster at Hobart Town in like manner with the postage stamps. (3rd) This Department being furnished with new printed books into which the two new descriptions of stamps would be introduced, and corresponding alterations being made in the returns submitted to the Auditor monthly, would make the check complete. (4th) As to approximate value. (5th) As to sale by agents.

"(Sd.) S. T. HARDINGE, Secy.

"THE HON. CHAS. MEREDITH, Esq."

The two new values referred to were those of Three Pence and Two Shillings and Six Pence, and there was some discussion as to the desirability of having the plates prepared in Tasmania in preference to obtaining them from England, a course which would necessarily entail considerable delay.

Eventually it was decided to place the work in the hands of Mr. Alfred Bock, of Hobart, an engraver and artist of the highest attainments. The plates for the two values mentioned, with the addition of two more of the value of Five Shillings and Ten Shillings, were prepared by Mr. Bock during 1863-4.

Mr. Bock is still alive and residing in Melbourne. With a view to obtaining all possible information on the subject of these stamps, I wrote to him, and he at once courteously replied, furnishing such full and interesting particulars that I cannot do better than give his letter verbatim :

“‘WAITAKEREI,’ CURRAJONG ROAD, AUBURN,
“MELBOURNE, 3rd August, 1889.

“A. F. BASSET HULL, Esq.

“DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of yours of the 31st, and will gladly give you all the information I can relative to the series of stamps named by you.

“I engraved the whole of the stamps. The 2s. 6d. one was the first of the series, and was delivered to the Government in October, 1863. The 10s. and 5s. were engraved on one plate, and it was delivered in December of the same year. The 3d. stamp plate was delivered in July, 1864. The whole of them were executed in the same way; viz., a steel die was first cut in intaglio; this being hardened had an impression taken from it on another piece of steel, which, of course, produced all the engraving raised. This impression or stamp was then hardened, and by pressure in a machine invented by myself, and manufactured by Mr. Winzenberg, of Hobart, a rather clever German mechanic, impressions were made on a copper plate, each plate containing 240 impressions, and they were not touched up in any way after the impressions were struck, but were at once ready for the printer. I am not able to give you any information as to the colours in which they were printed, but I should think you could easily ascertain that, as there must be plenty of documents with the stamps on them. I know that the 5s. and 10s. stamps are yet in use, and they, I think, are a sort of pink or mauve.

“I am sorry I have no proofs of the stamps, excepting the 5s., 10s., and one only of the 3d., which I think the best of the series. I enclose one each of the 10s. and 5s., but I hardly like to part with the 3d.

“The printing was done by a man named Hardisty, and he worked at the time with the late Robin V. Hood, at his litho-printing establishment in Liverpool Street. Possibly Mr. R. Hood, of Elizabeth Street, framemaker, or Mr. Major Hood, could give you some information as to the printing.

“The original dies were delivered with the plates into the Treasury Department, and I think Mr. W. Honey could tell something about them.

“I may state that the design of the George and Dragon was suggested by my friend, Mrs. Charles Meredith, and the plates were executed during the time of Mr. Meredith's position in the Government as Treasurer; and it was owing to his influence that I obtained the work, as there was great objection to having the work done in the Colony, and then only on the understanding that it should be done at a less cost than having them done in England.

“Hoping these few details will be interesting to you, and of service in your undertaking, to which I wish every success,

“I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

“(Sd.) ALFRED BOCK.”

Though the Stamp Act came into force on the 1st October, impressions were not ready for use on that date. A memorandum from the Colonial Storekeeper to the Treasurer, dated 30th September, 1863, states, “The plate for the 2s. 6d.

stamps will be finished to-night." To this memo. are attached as samples of colours impressions of a crest in bright yellow and rich lake. The latter colour was adopted.

The printing of the 2s. 6d. stamp was performed by Mr. Major L. Hood, and the Post Office Account Book contains the following voucher :

		£ s. d.		
"1863.				
"Oct. 28.	To printing 250 sheets of stamps (2s. 6d.), at 3d.			
	per sheet of 240	3	2	6
	1 lb. of colour (lake) for ditto	2	2	0
		5	4	6"

This account bears the note, "To be charged against Stamp Act."

The 1st of November, 1863, may be assigned as the date of issue of this Two Shillings and Six Pence stamp, the design of which is as follows :

Etched vignette of St. George and the Dragon copied from the reverse of the sovereign, in colour, on white ground, enclosed by a fine circular line. Surrounding the central design is a circular band of colour, bearing the words "Two Shillings and Sixpence" in white capitals, extending throughout nearly the whole length of the band, and a rosette ornament fills up the small blank space at the base of the circle. "Tasmania" in shaded block letters, in white, on a reticulated ground, appears in an arched form above the central circle, and the lower corners are filled in with ornamental circles, and the other spaces with reticulated background ; a thin outer line of colour encloses the whole design. The shape is upright rectangular, rather broad in appearance. (*Illustration 7.*)

From the process by which the impressions were reduplicated, any remarkable degree of regularity in placing the stamps could hardly be expected, and, in fact, between many of the impressions no dividing space is visible, and in some cases one design actually encroaches upon the other, consequently it is by no means a frequent occurrence to meet with a perfect specimen, perforated or imperforate, unless its margin consists of portions robbed from its immediate neighbours. The plate was of copper, and contained 240 impressions in twenty horizontal rows of twelve.

On the whole the design is a fairly striking one, and has at least the merit of originality ; for the Victorian £1 fiscal stamp of similar design was not issued till 1880. The minor details of the stamp, however, lack the finish of the three later values ; but this was doubtless owing to the limited time given Mr. Bock within which to complete the plate.

The paper used for this stamp was that used for the One Penny postage stamp, watermarked with large double-lined figure 1 appearing 240 times on the sheet. (*Illustration b.*)

Mr. Bock engraved the 5s. and 10s. on one plate, 120 impressions of each value in ten horizontal rows of twelve.

The designs of these two stamps differed in detail, and are as follows :

(a) Etched vignette of St. George and the Dragon, as on the Two Shillings and Six Pence, but about one-third the size ; in colour, on white ground, enclosed by fine circular line, surrounded by broad oval band bearing the words "Five Shillings" above the vignette, on engine-turned ground, in white block letters, extending over the upper half of the band, the lower half being filled in with fine engine-turning ; the crescent-shaped spaces between the central design and the ends of the oval band

are shaded in. The oval band is surrounded by a wavy line broken by the sides and bottom of the stamp. "Tasmania" in shaded block letters, in white, on a reticulated ground, appears in an arched form above the oval band; the lower corners are filled in with reticulated ground, and the whole design is enclosed in a fine-coloured line. The shape is upright rectangular, narrower than the Two Shillings and Six Pence. (*Illustration 8.*)

(b) Same small vignette as last in the centre of the stamp, surrounded by broad oval band extending to extreme top and sides of the design, bearing the words "Tasmania" in white capitals above, and "Ten Shillings" in block letters in white below—all on fine engine-turned ground; the outer spandrels and inner crescents, above and below the central vignette, are filled in with a reticulated ground; a thin outer line of colour encloses the design, which is upright rectangular in shape, and of the same size as the Five Shillings. (*Illustration 9.*)

These two values are a little more regularly placed on the plate, but some few encroach rather upon their neighbours.

The execution of the minor details is much better than the Two Shillings and Six Pence, and the reduction in size of the central vignette is also an improvement.

The completed plate was delivered in December, 1863, and on the 11th January, 1864, a requisition was forwarded to the Colonial Storekeeper for "one book of paper for One Penny postage stamps," one half of which is in this instance to be used for printing stamps of the value of ten shillings, and the other half for stamps of five shillings each.

The printing of these also was given to Mr. Hood, whose account runs:

		<i>"Post Office Department. Dr. to Major L. Hood."</i>		
		£	s.	d.
"1864.				
"Jan. 18th.	To printing 250 sheets of 10s. stamps, 120 on sheet,			
	at 3d.	3	2	6
	„ coloured printing ink for ditto	15	0	
Jan. 21st.	„ printing 250 sheets of 5s. stamps, 120 on sheet,			
	at 3d.	3	2	6
	„ coloured printing ink for ditto	15	0	
		£7	15	0

27th Jan., 1864 (note).—To be charged against the Stamp Act."

The Three Pence was the last of the series to be engraved. Mr. Bock delivered the plate in July, 1864, and the design, though in general outline closely resembling the two last described, is much more finished in detail.

The same small vignette occupies the centre of the design, but is drawn on a background composed of fine horizontal lines. The oval band is of solid colour in the upper half, and contains the name "Tasmania" in white capitals; the lower portion is white, and bears the words "Three Pence" in coloured block letters. The band is broken at each side by small lined ovals, containing the figure "3" in white on colour. The crescents above and below the central circle are filled in with small dotted ovals, and the outer spandrels are composed of scroll ornamentation. The whole design is enclosed in a highly ornate irregular frame, and the shape is upright, with rounded corners. (*Illustration 6.*)

As in the preceding values, the impressions are placed irregularly on the sheet, and instances of touching and encroaching on the adjoining stamps are frequent. The plate is also copper, and contains 240 impressions, arranged in twenty horizontal rows of twelve.

Although the completed plate was ready for use in July, it was not until the 17th November following that the Secretary of the Post Office wrote to the Colonial Treasurer: "I have the honour to request your approval of the Colonial Storekeeper issuing to me one book of paper for One Penny postage stamps, which is to be used for printing stamps of the value of Three Pence each."

On the 6th December, 1864, the Secretary also writes to the Treasurer:

"SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you that William Hardisty, printer of the stamps, was employed on a portion of several days in studying the new copper-plate press on its being first put up at the Government Printing Office, and in striking off proofs therefrom before it was found to work satisfactorily, and that he has also been employed on portions of two days last week and on yesterday in working up the colour desired (a bright pink) for the Three Penny stamps,"

and recommends that Hardisty should be remunerated for his extra pains.

Hardisty seems to have been employed from time to time by all the copper-plate printers who were employed in printing the stamps of Tasmania. He printed from the 1853 plates for Best, and later on from the larger plates of 1855-7 for the various Government contractors. In the case of the above Three Pence, the Perkins' press obtained from England in 1857 had only then (1864) been erected in the new building appropriated for the Government Printing Office, and Hardisty was employed by the Government on the occasion of this their first attempt to print the stamps of Tasmania.

The colour (a bright pink) mentioned in the above letter was abandoned, doubtless owing to its costly nature, and the fact that it might be confused with the Two Shillings and Sixpence, which appeared in many shades of lake and deep pink. Eventually the colour chosen was a deep yellow-green, and the issue of stamps printed in this colour took place early in 1865.

As we have seen from the requisition before quoted, the paper was the same as that used for the other three values, that watermarked with the double-lined figure 1. (*Illustration b.*)

The numbers and dates of printing were as follows:

Value.	Date.	Number.	Printer.
Threepence . . .	December, 1864 .	60,000 .	Government Printer.
Two Shillings and Sixpence .	28th October, 1863 .	60,000 .	Major Lloyd Hood.
Five Shillings . . .	21st January, 1864 .	30,000 .	"
Ten Shillings . . .	18th January, 1864 .	30,000 .	"

It seems a singular thing that, although the five values of stamps issued for postage purposes were authorised for use under the Stamp Act, the four values issued under that Act should not be allowed to be used for postal purposes; but such was the regulation during the period 1863-70. One might understand a hard and fast rule, that each series of stamps was to be used only for its particular branch of the service; but that one series was available for both branches and the other exclusively for one seems to be entirely void of reason. It would be utterly impossible to obtain even an approximate estimate of the amount of revenue derived from each branch owing to this partial confusion; for many of the duties charged in the Schedule were represented by amounts that could only be paid by the values provided for postage purposes, and quite as much revenue would accrue from these small charges as from the less frequent large amounts. The revenue from the sale of the three higher values could certainly be assigned to the Stamp

Act; but there would be no means of arriving at any very definite conclusions as to the amount assignable to the respective branches from the sale of the five values formerly belonging to the postal service.

Although the *Gazette* notice published under the Stamp Act informed the public that postage stamps might be used for Stamp Act purposes, there was no mention made of any restriction on the use of Stamp Act issues for postage purposes; the regulation appears to have been purely a departmental one, and there is no trace even of any printed copy of this regulation having been forwarded to licensed vendors. Cases indeed are on record of the Stamp Act stamps having been actually used for postage purposes. On the 14th September, 1865, the Secretary of the Post Office requested one of the country postmasters to report by return of post why he allowed an envelope to pass through the post bearing a 3d. stamp, which should only be used for Stamp Act purposes, and not for postage on letters. In this case, however, the letter was probably treated as unstamped, though this would be rather hard on the unfortunate recipient, who would have to pay the postage, and an equal amount in addition as a fine, all through the pardonable ignorance of a person who was unable to distinguish between the purposes of the Stamp Act and the Post Office Act, particularly as the stamp in question bore no inscription as to its peculiar nature.

The cancellation of these stamps was effected by writing the date across the stamp with pen and ink, and, generally speaking, all the specimens of the five postal values found with this species of cancellation may be accepted as having done fiscal duty. There are a few exceptions in the case of stamps franking letters from newly-established Post Offices which had not been supplied with obliterating stamps, and the temporary exhaustion of the supply of obliterating composition occasionally compelled postmasters to resort to this pen and ink cancellation, but these cases are of such infrequent occurrence as merely to form an exception to the general rule.

All the values of the St. George and Dragon series were issued in an imperforate state until 1870, but several of the licensed vendors were in possession of perforating machines, which were used for their own convenience. For a full description of all perforations see next chapter.

SYNOPSIS.

Issue 1863 to 1865.

Printed in the Colony on white wove paper, watermarked with double-lined numeral 1; imperforate. (*Illustrations 6, 7, 8, 9; watermark b.*)

Early in 1865.	3 pence, deep yellow-green.
Nov. 1st, 1863.	2 shillings and 6 pence, rich lake, deep pink.
January, 1864.	5 shillings, brown.
January, 1864.	10 shillings, orange-yellow.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PERFORATED POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS, 1864-70.

ALTHOUGH from the first the intention of having the stamps of Van Diemen's Land perforated ready for use was evident from the memorandum furnished by the Government printer on the 12th May, 1853, no stamps were perforated *officially* until 1869.

Mr. Barnard had included in his list of requirements a "notching" machine for separating the stamps, and this title was adopted in all subsequent correspondence on the subject. The term "*notcher*," however, seems to be peculiar to Tasmania, for I have never seen it used elsewhere.

Notwithstanding the Colonial Agent's letter to the Duke of Newcastle, dated 18th January, 1854 (Chap. III.), in which he states that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue were prepared to perforate the sheets of stamps at a trifling expense, and the subsequent authority to incur the additional expenditure, both of which facts were no doubt conveyed to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co.: the latter firm prepared the three plates for stamps of One Penny, Two Pence, and Four Pence in such a manner as to lead the most casual observer to believe that the idea of perforation had not entered into their calculations. The 240 impressions, as before pointed out, were placed on the plate in such irregular rows that the straight line of the perforating machine would inevitably encroach upon the design of many of the stamps. Some impressions were placed so close to others that they form an unbroken block, while others again are separated from their immediate neighbours by a space of two millimetres.*

Some hitch, about which we have no information, occurred to prevent the carrying out of the perforation by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, for the sheets arrived at Hobart minus the required "notches." No explanation appears to have been given, and no enquiry was made by the Postmaster-General as to the reason for the omission.

From the correspondence detailed in Chapter IV., we have seen that Mr. Hardinge returned to the charge (April 12th, 1856), and called attention to the non-arrival of the "notching" machine, which had been ordered from England some time previously. His ardour for the possession of this machine was

* We think from this fact alone that nothing was said to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. about having the stamps perforated, and they tell us, that so far as they have been able to discover, no instructions were given them upon this point. The firm were much occupied in 1854 with work for the Home Government, particularly in connection with a new engraved die for the One Penny stamp, which was decided upon in that year. Hence the delay in executing the order for the Van Diemen's Land stamps, and the Colonial Agent knowing the stamps were urgently required, no doubt gave orders for them to be forwarded immediately they were printed, which we see on reference to the foot-notes on pages 33 and 36 was done.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

considerably cooled, however, by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co.'s letter of the 8th August, 1856, in which they estimated the cost of the machine at £400, and made various terrifying statements about permission being required; that it was a very complicated machine, and that great power would be necessary to use it. And although they also mentioned the cheaper instrument of more recent construction, which could be supplied at £150, their assertion that a very clever mechanic would be required to work it effectually drove all thoughts of perforation from Mr. Hardinge's mind (*vide* his Memo. of 29th December, 1856 (Chapter IV.); and from that time forth he persistently declined to have the stamps perforated, although many machines were subsequently imported into the Colony by printers and others, and frequent offers were made to perforate for the Government. It was not until Mr. Hardinge had finally retired from the service, and was succeeded by Mr. Douglas, that the stamps were perforated by Messrs. Walch and Sons, stationers, under contract for the Government.

In May, 1864, a Mr. Robert Harris appears to have made an offer to perforate the stamps for the Government, for the Post Office Letter Book contains the following:

"G.P.O., 31st May, 1864.

"SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 27th inst., offering to perforate our stamps for the sum of two pence per sheet, and in reply thereto to thank you for your suggestion, which shall be considered. As, however, there are parties in Hobart Town who possess perforating machines, I presume, should the Government sanction perforation of our stamps, it will be necessary to invite tenders for the work.

"I have, &c.,

"(Sd.) S. T. HARDINGE.

"P.S.—I return herewith the 5s. worth of stamps you kindly forwarded as a specimen.

"MR. ROBERT HARRIS, *Patterson Street, Launceston.*"

Mr. Hardinge then seems to have made a verbal suggestion to Messrs. Walch and Sons, that they should forward a sample of their perforation with estimates, for the correspondence received includes the following letter:

"18th June, 1864.

"SIR,—We return herewith the sheet of Sixpenny stamps perforated as a sample. We will undertake to perforate in a similar manner all the stamps issued by the Government at 16s. per 100 sheets, or will gum and perforate them at 30s. per 100 sheets.

"We have, &c.,

"(Sd.) J. WALCH AND SONS.

"S. T. HARDINGE, Esq., *Postmaster.*"

This letter is endorsed:

"20th June, 1864.

"3107 sheets were drawn from the Treasury by me for issue during 1863. The cost for these would have been—for perforating, about £25 12s.; and with gumming £48.

"(Sd.) S. T. HARDINGE, *Secretary.*

"THE HON. C. MEREDITH, *Postmaster-General, &c.*"

Nothing further seems to have come of this negotiation, for the following letter proves beyond question the unofficial nature of the perforations existing two years after:

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, HOBART TOWN,

"18th April, 1886.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Hon. the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated 26th February last, No. 1002.O, respecting some of our postage stamps being perforated, and in reply to acquaint you that the stamps are not perforated by the Government, but

by one of the vendors, who has an establishment in this city and a branch at Launceston as bookseller, who perforates them for his own convenience ; but should you after this explanation desire specimens of those perforated, I shall be happy to forward them on your so informing me.

“ I have, &c., (Sd.) S. T. HARDINGE, *Secretary*.

“ JOHN TILLY, Esq., *General Post Office, London.*”

And on the 25th August, 1866, in forwarding a supply of stamps to a well-known dealer in Brussels, Mr. Hardinge remarks, “ As you specially desired that the stamps should be perforated, I have been unable to allow you the discount, as the Government do not perforate them, but they are done by one or two of the vendors.”

Now as to the two recorded instances of perforation by vendors in 1864, the difficulty is to determine what was the style or gauge of perforation used by Mr. Harris and Messrs. Walch and Sons respectively. At the present date there is no trace of Mr. Harris to be found, but Messrs. Walch and Sons are still the leading stationers in Hobart. The senior partner, Mr. J. H. B. Walch, has no recollection of the manner in which the sheet of Six Penny stamps referred to in his letter of the 18th June, 1864, was perforated. The firm has had three machines in use. The first was a guillotine machine producing a series of straight cuts, each of which was nearly two millimetres in length, and gauged about 8 (*i.e.* eight cuts in the space of two centimetres). This style of perforation is commonly called roulette. The second was an ordinary perforating machine, which punched out circular pieces, and gauged 10 ; while the third, a similarly constructed machine, gauged 11½. The two first were both in use in 1864, the third being obtained at a later date. Now specimens of the One Penny and Two Pence have been chronicled with the 8 roulette, and I have seen the Four Pence similarly perforated. The Six Pence has been recorded as met with in this state, so perhaps the specimen may have been rouletted, but being a sample I should think it was perforated by the 10 machine. From 1864 to 1869 Messrs. Walch and Sons, who were the largest licensed vendors of stamps, perforated the whole of their stock first with the 10 and subsequently with the 11½ machine, the guillotine roulette being merely a trial, and found not so convenient as the other perforation. The 10 gauge is found on the One Penny (all shades from 1864), Two Pence (chiefly bottle-green), Four Pence (all shades), Six Pence (chiefly on the lilac and bluish-grey shades, but also on the red-lilac), and One Shilling. The revenue stamps of Three Pence, Two Shillings and Six Pence, Five Shillings, and Ten Shillings also bear this perforation more frequently than the 11½, which is the only other gauge I have met with on these stamps. The 11½ of Walch and Sons is found on all the later shades of all the above values, unofficially prior to 1869, officially by contract subsequent to that date. As late as January, 1869, the perforation was unofficial ; for at a bazaar held in the Town Hall on that date, amongst the “ side shows ” was a perforating machine at work on sheets of One Penny stamps.

Harris probably had a 12 machine ; for that gauge is frequently found on the stamps coming from the North. There is also a 13 gauge occasionally met with, and I possess the following combinations on the One Penny ; viz., 11½ × 12, and 12 × 13. The One Penny perf. 12 is found with error of watermark 2. As a rule the watermarks are in their normal position as regards the postals ; but I have seen the One Penny, red, Six Pence, grey, and Six Pence, red-lilac, with the watermarks inverted. The St. George and Dragon Five Shillings seems to be as often inverted as normal, but the others only occasionally show a topsy-turvy. An instance of the One

Penny, without watermark, brick-red, perf. 12, is chronicled; but I do not think any stamps were printed without watermark after 1857.

There are several other varieties of private perforations, which may be roughly classified as follows:

1. An irregular pin perforation, gauging about $10\frac{1}{2}$. In most instances the stamp is found perforated vertically, and imperforate horizontally on the Four Pence; perforated all round on the One Penny. Dated from March, 1867, to May, 1868.

2. A pin perforation, apparently effected with a roulette or spur-shaped instrument, gauging irregularly about 9. This perforation gives the edge of the stamp a saw-like appearance when severed. A strip of 4 I have seen showed a double line of perforation at the bottom. This variety emanated from the Post Office at Deloraine, and was adopted by the Postmaster for his own convenience about 1867-9.

3. *Perçé en arc*, gauges about 19; very fine serrated perforation; common on the One Penny, scarce on the Four Pence, very rarely found on the Two Pence, and on no other values. Dated May, 1868, until introduction of the 1870 stamps.

Any attempt at strict classification of these perforations would, as Major Evans justly remarks in his catalogue, be unnecessary or impossible. The dividing-line between official and unofficial being so slender, and the same machines being in some instances used for both, no really satisfactory arrangement could be made, as there would be no means of distinguishing the later 10 and $11\frac{1}{2}$ official from unofficial perforations.

The closing scenes in the life of these stamps are pathetically shadowed forth in the following letter:

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,

“HOBART TOWN, 16th November, 1870.

“SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that there are in charge of the Assistant Colonial Treasurer and myself the undermentioned numbers of stamps of the following descriptions:

10s.	2s. 6d.	4d.	3d.	2d.	1d.
25,908	26,630	66,373	23,327	191,805	64,752

“Those of the value of 10s., 2s. 6d., and 3d. each are Bill Stamps, but have been withdrawn from sale to the public since the 31st ultimo; and those of the value of 4d., 2d., and 1d. each are postage stamps, but have been superseded by new postage stamps of similar values.

“I beg therefore to request your authority for my returning the stamps referred to as in my possession to the Assistant Colonial Treasurer, and for the total number herein mentioned being destroyed in the presence of the Assistant Colonial Treasurer, an officer of the Audit Department, and myself.

“I have, &c.,

“(Sd.)

A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

“*The Hon. the Postmaster-General.*”

This letter is endorsed:

“The Secretary of the Post Office will return to the Assistant Colonial Treasurer all the stamps now in his possession referred to in the annexed letter. The Assistant Colonial Treasurer will then arrange for the whole of the said stamps being burnt to-morrow morning in the presence of himself, Mr. Douglas, and the Chief Clerk in the Audit Department, forwarding to the Colonial Treasurer a certificate signed by the respective officials that the whole of the said stamps have been burnt in their presence.

“(Sd.)

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Treasurer*.

“November 29th, 1870.”

And the Audit Office Vouchers contain the epilogue :

"HOBART TOWN, 30th November, 1870.

"We hereby certify that in accordance with the instructions of the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer the following stamps have been burnt this day :

"25,908 stamps, value Ten Shillings each.
 26,630 stamps, value Two Shillings and Six Pence each.
 66,373 stamps, value Four Pence each.
 28,327 stamps, value Three Pence each.
 191,805 stamps, value Two Pence each.
 64,752 stamps, value One Penny each.
 "(Sd.) W. LOVETT, *Assistant Colonial Treasurer.*
 A. C. DOUGLAS, *Postmaster.*
 W. H. WINDSOR, *Chief Clerk, Audit Department.*"

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE 1864 TO 1870.

Printed in the Colony on white wove paper, varying in substance, watermarked with double-lined numeral of value; white to yellowish gum; perforated. (*Illustrations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; watermarks b. c. d. e. f.*)

A. 1864 (about) to 1870.

Perforated 10 by Messrs. J. Walch and Sons, of Hobart, unofficially, until 1869, and after that date officially for the Government.

1 penny, brick-red, brownish-red, pale red-carmine (shades).
 2 pence, deep yellow-green, dark bluish-green (shades).
 4 pence, blue, chalky blue, French blue (shades).
 6 pence, lilac, reddish-lilac, slate, purple (shades).
 1 shilling, vermilion, orange-vermilion.

Variety.—Imperforate, vertically.

1 shilling, vermilion.

REVENUE STAMPS. (*Illustrations 6, 7, 8, 9; watermark b.*)

3 pence, deep yellow-green (shades).
 2 shillings and 6 pence, lake (")
 5 shillings, brown (")
 10 shillings, orange-yellow (")

B. 1864 (about) to 1870.

Perforated 11½, under the same conditions as preceding, probably at a little later date.

1 penny, carmine (shades).
 2 pence, green, dark yellow-green (shades).
 4 pence, milky blue, blue (shades).
 6 pence, reddish-lilac, grey-lilac, slate, violet (March, 1875, bright violet);
 (January, 1881, and March, 1882, violet, fugitive) (shades of each colour).
 1 shilling, orange-vermilion, vermilion, orange-red.

Varieties.—*a.* Imperforate.

6 pence, violet.

b. Imperforate, vertically.

6 pence, violet.

REVENUE STAMPS.

3 pence, deep yellow-green (shades).
 2 shillings and 6 pence, lake (")
 5 shillings, brown (")
 10 shillings, orange-yellow (")

C. 1864.

Perforated 12 and 13 ; unofficially by Mr. Robert Harris (?), of Launceston.

- 1 penny, carmine (shades).
- 2 pence, dark green, yellow-green (shades).
- 4 pence, pale blue, blue, French blue (shades).
- 6 pence, grey-lilac, reddish-lilac, lilac, slate (shades).
- 1 shilling, vermilion (shades).

Variety.—With error of watermark, double-lined numeral 2.

- 1 penny, carmine (shades).

NOTE.—The perforation gauging 13 is the one usually met with, but stamps are to be found with compound perforations $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and 12×13 .

D. 1864 (about).

Roughly punctured roulettes, gauging about 8, by Messrs. J. Walch and Sons, Hobart.

- 1 penny, carmine (shades).
- 4 pence, blue, French blue (shades).
- 6 pence, slate (shades).
- 1 shilling, vermilion.

Varieties.—The One Penny, carmine, Two Pence, dark yellow-green, and Four Pence, blue, are also found with somewhat smaller punctures ; and the Six Pence, grey and slate, and the One Shilling, vermilion, with a straighter-cut wide roulette gauging about 5.

E. March, 1867 (about), to May, 1868.

Rough irregular pin perforation gauging about $10\frac{1}{2}$. The pin holes are often very imperfectly formed, and when roughly severed closely resemble the rouletted series.

- 1 penny, carmine (shades).
- 2 pence, dark green.
- 4 pence, blue.
- 6 pence, grey.

NOTE.—The origin of this perforation has not been ascertained.

F. 1867 to 1869 (about).

Rough perforation formed by oblique parallel cuts, which, when severed, give a saw-like appearance to the edges ; gauging approximately between 11 and 13. This perforation originated from the Postmaster at Deloraine.

- 1 penny, carmine (shades).
- 2 pence, green, dark yellow green.
- 4 pence, blue.
- 6 pence, grey, slate (shades).

G. May, 1868, to 1870.

Fine serrated perforation (*perçé en scie*), gauging about 19.

- 1 penny, carmine (shades).
- 2 pence, yellow-green.
- 4 pence, blue (shades).

Variety.—The Two Pence, dark green, is also found with a similar perforation, gauging about 16.

NOTE.—The origin of these perforations has not been ascertained.

CHAPTER VII.

THE FIGURE WATERMARKED STAMPS OF 1870-71.

THE Honourable Thomas Daniel Chapman became Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General for the third time on the 24th November, 1866, and continued in office until the 4th November, 1872.

During his tenure of office he determined to rectify the anomalous condition of affairs by introducing a new series of stamps bearing the legend "Tasmania," which would supersede the three values inscribed "Van Diemen's Land," and at the same time would serve with the stamps of Sixpence and One Shilling then current the joint purposes of "Stamp Act" and "Postage" stamps. The series of stamps with the design of St. George and the Dragon, issued in 1863-4, and intended exclusively for Stamp Act purposes, would at the same time be withdrawn, and uniformity would at last be established.

Mr. Chapman chose the handsome One Cent Nova Scotia stamp as a guide from which the design of the new stamps was to be drawn, and the following order was sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies:

"HOBART, 5th November, 1869.

"Engraved Steel Plates for Printing Postage Stamps.

"4 Steel Plates	{	Each plate to have engraved upon it 120 impressions for printing Postage Stamps.
		One plate for One Penny stamps.
		One " " Two Penny "
		One " " Four Penny "
		One " " Ten Penny "

"The design to be similar to that used for the Nova Scotia One Cent stamp (pattern annexed), to be executed in the best style of art, substituting the word "Tasmania" in the place of "Nova Scotia," and "One Penny," "Two Pence," "Four Pence," and "Ten Pence" respectively in lieu of the words "One Cent."

"The plates to be of the proper size for printing on paper, a sample of which is enclosed.

"This paper was furnished to the Government of Tasmania in February, 1857, by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., London, in sheets of a size to contain 240 impressions.

"As the new plates will contain 120 impressions only, the original sheets will be cut into halves when the stamps are printed.

"It must therefore be borne in mind that the stamps will be printed on half sheets of paper like the pattern, and the plates must be made accordingly.

"Colours for Printing Stamps.

Best violet in 10 lb. cans	.	.	.	.	40 lbs.
Best black	"	.	.	.	20 lbs.

"(Sd.) C. H. HUXTABLE, Col. Storekeeper.

"The Honourable the Colonial Treasurer."

This order is endorsed, "Invoice, £523, pd. 14th April, 1870."

From the instructions embodied in this order it was evidently the intention of the Postmaster-General to utilize the large remaining stock of Perkins and Bacon's paper, watermarked with the figures 1, 2, and 4 for the three lower values; but it does not appear what paper was intended for the Ten Penny value.

This order was given to and executed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., of London; but when the plates arrived, in April, 1870, it was found that the instructions as to adapting the stamps to the size of paper sent as a pattern had been quite disregarded. The dies were engraved on steel, from which electrotypes were prepared, these electros being now in the General Post Office, Hobart. The size of the plates was $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. $\times$ $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. over all, each plate bearing 120 impressions, arranged in two panes, consisting of ten horizontal rows of six stamps, the size of each pane being $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. $\times$ $9\frac{3}{8}$ in., exclusive of the indicating or plate numbers at top and bottom. These numbers are, on the One Penny plate,  at the left hand upper corner, immediately over the second stamp, and in the right lower corner, below the last stamp but one; and 1 in white in solid circle of colour, surrounded by a narrow outer line at the right upper corner, above the last stamp but one, and in the left lower corner below the second stamp. The other plates bear the figures 42, 43, and 44, and 2, 3, and 4 in similar positions to those on the One Penny plate.

The following letters passed between Messrs. De La Rue and Co., the Crown Agents, and the Colonial Secretary:

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.

"March 10th, 1870.

"SIR,—We have the honour to enclose in triplicate descriptions and instructions of the mode in which to print stamps from surface plates, according to the process used in our establishment, and now generally adopted by the various Governments to whom we have imparted it.

"Since writing our former letter it has occurred to us that some difficulty might be found in procuring in Tasmania the proper sort of rollers for this kind of printing, and in getting them recast when necessary. In order to obviate such a possibility as this, we would propose to add to the articles enumerated in our former letter a quantity of roller composition, a melting-pot, and a mould for the rollers, the total cost of which would amount to about £10.

"Should you think fit to make these additions the articles can be obtained without any delay, and could be shipped along with the postage plates, which are now being prepared.

"We have, &c.,

"(Sd.) THOS. DE LA RUE & CO.

"W. C. SARGEANT, Esq., *Crown Agent for the Colonies,*

"12, *Spring Gardens.*"

"OFFICES OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,

"SPRING GARDENS, LONDON, S.W., 16th March, 1870.

[Received May 13th, 1870.—T. D. C.]

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge your letter of the 5th November last, enclosing indent for steel plates and colours for printing postage stamps, and in reply to acquaint you that the Crown Agents placed the requisition in the hands of Messrs. De la Rue and Co., by whom all postage plates for the Home and most of the Colonial Governments are now manufactured; the copper-plate process of producing stamps having been for some years superseded by surface or letterpress printing, by which means a much better label is obtained.

"2. I enclose for your information copy of a letter [11th January, 1870] from the manufacturers on the subject, from which it will be seen that a slight deviation from the design forwarded by you is contemplated. I annex a blank proof from the die as a specimen.

"3. Having decided on furnishing the Government of Tasmania with surface plates, a question arose as to whether you were in possession of a press suitable for printing the stamps; and after consultation with Messrs. De la Rue and Co., it was determined to forward one by sailing vessel, and this has been shipped by the *Quinteros*, which will leave London in a few days, for which I enclose bill of lading and freight account, accompanied by invoice and instructions for putting the press in working order.

"4. You will observe by the last paragraph of Messrs. De la Rue and Co.'s letter that it was intended to send specimen sheets of each of the duties required from the press, which has been forwarded; but that intention has been abandoned, in order that the press should be shipped by long sea, so as to arrive in the Colony about the time the mail steamer leaving Southampton on the 16th proximo will reach Tasmania, by which conveyance the plates will be transmitted in accordance with your instructions, as well as to avoid paying a large sum for freight, which would have been incurred had shipment of the press been made by the overland route; specimen sheets will, however, be printed in black and colour from a similar press used in printing stamps for colonies obtaining their supplies through this department.

"5. A representation having been made to the Crown Agents of the probable difficulty which might arise in the Colony of procuring the proper sort of rollers for printing surface stamps, they have provided the articles necessary for that purpose at a cost of about £10, as shown in the copy of a further letter from Messrs. De la Rue herewith, covering directions for preparing the plates for printing and using the ink. These articles will accompany the plates to be forwarded by the opportunity referred to in paragraph 4 of this letter.

"6. As inks prepared for steel or copper-plate printing cannot be used for surface plates, the Crown Agents have considered it advisable to provide a small quantity of the several colours, in which your labels have hitherto been printed, in order that no delay should occur when you are in possession of the press and plates in producing stamps for the public; and as the waste of ink in the former process is greatly in excess of the latter, it was deemed sufficient to send 10 lbs. each of red (1d.), green (2d.), and blue (4d.), for your use in the first instance. These quantities (with 20 lbs. violet and 10 lbs. black) will also be forwarded in the manner pointed out in the preceding paragraph.

"7. The dies from which the plates are to be made will be retained by the Crown Agents to meet any future demand which may come from Tasmania for renewing the formes of the several duties, which in time will become necessary from wear.

"8. The total cost of press, dies and plates, inks, and other articles furnished under this requisition will amount to about £630; and as your Government will be put in possession of the means of issuing a very superior stamp, which will render fraudulent imitations very difficult, if not impossible, the Crown Agents trust that they have acted wisely in the steps taken in this matter.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"(Sd.) W. C. SARGEANT.

"*The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*"

The design of these four stamps is the same for each value, and consists of a profile of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, bearing a diadem, and facing to left; but although copied from that on the Nova Scotia stamp, it lacks that striking fulness and boldness of outline which characterizes the original. This profile is on a lined background, enclosed in a pearled oval; the word "Tasmania," in white letters, appears on a solid arched-coloured label above, and the value in words on a similar label below. The sides and spandrels are filled in with intricate scroll ornamentation. (*Illustrations 10, 11, 12, 13.*)

Proof or sample impressions were sent out with the plates, but no suitable paper was available, the entire size of the sheets used for the preceding issue being only 22½ in. by 11½ in., and intended for 240 impressions of stamps, arranged in consecutive order, without any division into panes. It was utterly impossible to print from the new plates on this paper, and to make the watermarks accord with the stamps.

The only resource seemed to be that of borrowing from one of the other colonies, and to this end letters were forwarded to the Deputy Postmaster-General of Melbourne and the Secretary of the Post Office, Sydney, in the following terms:

"TASMANIA, GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"HOBART TOWN, 20th August, 1870.

"SIR,—In the latter part of last year an order was sent from this Colony to London for steel plates to print, under the copper-plate process, new Tasmanian stamps of the value of 10d., 4d., 2d., and 1d.; and in dealing with this order the Crown Agents have, upon the representation of Messrs. De la Rue & Co., of London, supplied electrotype plates for surface printing the stamps in question.

"I regret, however, that in furnishing the new plates strict attention has not been given to the impressions being so manufactured as to accord, when printed on our own paper, with the watermark thereon, notwithstanding a sheet of our paper (a large supply of which is now on hand) was forwarded to the Crown Agents as a guide for the house or firm supplying the plates. Under these circumstances I beg therefore to enquire whether you would kindly oblige me with a present supply of your postage paper, the watermark of which, I trust, will agree with the impressions upon our new plates; and in order that you may readily judge whether they will or not, I enclose herewith for comparison with your paper an impression (which please return at your convenience) printed in London* from the 4d. plate, the other three plates being of similar size, of course the paper that can be adapted to one will be suitable for all.

"Should you be able to comply with my wishes, please transmit me a sample sheet of your postage paper, and at the same time inform me of the price per ream.

"I have, &c.,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*"

The Secretary of the Post Office, Sydney, replied, placing a supply of paper at the disposal of his Tasmanian brother-in-arms, and the following letter was forwarded to him:

"TASMANIA, GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"HOBART TOWN, 25th October, 1870.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 7th instant, together with samples of postage paper, which you were kind enough to say you would place at my disposal, to the extent of 30

* See Chapter on "Proofs."

books of 150 leaves each, as well as 5000 sheets, all of which paper arrived here per *City of Hobart* on Friday last, as you were good enough to send it by that vessel in compliance with my telegram of the 14th inst. No account of the sum due to your Department for the postage paper in question has up to this date come to hand. Perhaps you will cause the same to be forwarded (if such has not already been done), when the amount will be immediately remitted.

"I beg you will accept my very best thanks for your kindness in supplying this Department with the paper it required.

"I have, &c., (Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

"*The Secretary, General Post Office, Sydney.*"

The next letter shows the amount charged for the paper :

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, HOBART TOWN,

"8th February, 1871.

"SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith a Bill of Exchange, as per margin [£24 7s. 6d.], in payment of the enclosed account for Postage Stamps Paper, which you were good enough to supply to this Department on the 18th October last, and I should feel obliged by your causing the account to be receipted and returned.

"(Sd.) A. C. D., *Secretary*.

"*The Secretary, G.P.O., Sydney.*"

From a communication in reply to the above letter of the 25th October, in giving particulars of the cost of the paper, it appears that the 5000 sheets therein referred to were for Two Penny stamps, but no particulars are given as to the proportions of paper for the other values.

Plates and appropriate paper now being ready, the Government printer was instructed to proceed with the printing of a supply of stamps without delay. That he allowed very little time to elapse between his receipt of materials and producing the completed articles may be surmised from this letter :

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, 5th November, 1870.

"SIR,—I have the honour to request your acceptance of the enclosed stamps, as per margin, which were issued from this office on the 1st instant.

"The Tenpenny stamp is the first of that value issued in Tasmania.

"Those of the value of Four Pence, Two Pence, and One Penny supersede the stamps of similar colours and values, the issue of which ceased on the 31st ult.

I have, &c.,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

"*The Secretary, G.P.O., London.*"

Margin : "Three specimens each of Ten Penny, black ; Four Penny, blue ; Two Penny, green ; One Penny, red."

The paper sent from Sydney was that then in use for the New South Wales stamps of Two Pence, Four Pence, and Ten Pence. It was a somewhat thin white wove paper, bearing 120 watermarked figures corresponding with the values—that of the Two Pence being a large single-lined figure 2 (*Illustration g*), the Four Pence and Ten Pence being small figures—4 (*Illustration h*) and (italic) 10 (*Illustration i*). The marginal watermarks were "New South Wales Postage" in double-lined capitals in upper margin ; value in words on the right side, and "N.S.W." in similar capitals, flanked by scroll ornamentation, on the left side.

The One Penny stamp was first printed on the Ten Pence paper in a deep rose colour, which varies considerably in shade. The watermarks also vary somewhat in

shape, and no care seems to have been exercised in placing the sheet in its normal position; for specimens are found printed upright and topsy-turvy, and in both positions, on both sides of the paper, thus showing the watermark in four positions; viz., *10, 10, 01, 10*.

The Two Pence stamp was printed on the paper designed for that value, in shades of deep to pale green. Both sides of the paper have been used indiscriminately, showing the two positions of watermark—*2. S.*; and I have seen one specimen with the watermark inverted, facing to left.

The Four Pence stamp was also printed on the paper intended for it, in a full blue shade, which varies very little. No irregularities of position have come under my notice, but this may be owing to the small number available for inspection.

The Ten Pence stamp was also printed on the paper watermarked with its value, in black, which is found in a more or less deep shade. I have not seen any irregularities in the placing of this stamp for printing.

In March, 1871, the One Penny was also printed in shades of rose on the paper hitherto used for the Four Pence, the number being somewhat less than those on the *10* paper. In this variety I find the same irregularity of position as in the first printing of the One Penny; viz., normal, inverted, and printed on both sides.

The workmanship shown in the printing of this series is of the worst possible kind. The printer who essayed to produce stamps from the electros was evidently quite unaccustomed to the new system of surface printing. He mixed his colours badly, and the majority of the impressions are marked either by a smudged appearance, showing too plentiful a supply of colour, or have a starved greyish look, evidencing the opposite extreme. The paper, too, was not of the best kind to bring out the really neat design fully, as is proved by the superior appearance of the specimen stamps of 1871, which were struck from the same plates on a better class of paper.

A glance at the following directions with reference to the formalities to be observed in using the printing-press and preparing the inks will show the causes to which the faulty effects in printing were due.

“The following things must be carefully attended to in preparing the stamp formes for printing:

“The pressman must be more than ordinarily careful in satisfying himself in the first place that his platen bolts are perfectly tight, or his forme will slur, and an indistinct impression will be the result. Having thus carefully prepared his press he must lay his forme on, and very carefully underlay it, pulling it down repeatedly afterwards in order that the copper may yield to the underlay. Having carefully underlaid his forme, he will do well to put half a quire of thin tissue paper inside his tympan before commencing his overlaying. The system adopted at Messrs. Thos. De La Rue's is as follows: In the first place the plate is thoroughly levelled, the overlays being fastened to the inner tympan. When this is done the pressman cuts out a sheet for the solids; that is to say, the rings and the more prominent parts of the engraving, which sheet or sheets are attached to the inner tympan by sewing. If they were put next to the forme the effect would be too sudden, and the overlays would not have their proper effect.

“The condition of the ink must be attentively considered with relation to the state of the weather.

"DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

"In order to obtain the best effect with these inks, the printing plate and inking slab should be kept slightly warm during cold weather. Thin fugitive varnish for the purpose of easing the inks should be employed with the utmost caution, and no ordinary oil varnish must on any account be used along with them. Strict attention should also be paid to the condition of the rollers. Care should be taken that they are neither too dry nor too damp. If they are too dry the colour is not delivered equally to the forme. This effect may readily be detected by the appearance of the fine parts of the engraving, which will print white, and become filled up with ink; the roller will also glide over the slab without biting it; its surface will feel dry and fluffy, and it will have totally lost that tenacity without which it is impossible to do good printing. On the contrary, if the roller be too damp, the ink is never properly distributed; the pigment of which the ink is made is left on the slab, and nothing but varnish is taken up on the roller. Hence, instead of the full body of ink being transferred to the forme, the impression presents the appearance (and is so in fact) of being printed with a stained varnish almost entirely destitute of colouring matter. Care must be taken that the plate is not made too hot, or the ink will be melted, and quickly produce bad work."

These directions were found amongst the Government Printer's correspondence, but the pressman who struck off the stamps of 1870-1 evidently had not committed them to memory. Some printings of the One Penny, with watermark 4, are notable examples of the "stained varnish" effect above described.

All the values were perforated by Messrs. Walch and Sons under contract to the Government. Their 11½ machine was used. The design is frequently encroached upon, and the stamp is sometimes found perforated through the centre.

The One Penny and Two Pence of this figure-watermarked series were superseded by the issue on the "TAS" paper, described in the next chapter. The Ten Pence is still in use, the supply printed in 1870 not being as yet exhausted; but it is a value now very seldom required.

The Four Pence has a more tragic history. Robbed of its distinctive colour by the Nine Pence of October, 1871, it was withdrawn from issue, occasional specimens only being doled out as a great favour to applicants from foreign countries until 1875, when the trouble of including it in the annual stocktaking suggested the following letter:

"21st May, 1875.

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that there are in my custody seventy-six sheets and fifty-five stamps of the value of Four Pence each stamp (colour blue), the issue of which having ceased for some time, I beg to recommend that they be destroyed in the presence of the Auditor, the Assistant Treasurer, and myself, as there is now no necessity for me to hold them, and their return to the Treasury would produce inconvenience in connection with the accounts. I have, &c. (Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

"THE HONOURABLE F. M. INNES, *Colonial Treasurer*."

This letter, however, was not acted upon; for later on (2nd July, 1878) I found a letter from the Secretary of the Post Office to Mr. Barnard, the Government printer, with reference to the printing of a supply of Four Penny stamps, stating that he had been deceived as to those on hand, which were of the old colour (blue), the same as the Nine Penny ones, and informing him that he would have to bother him to print a supply from one book, which would last for some months, in yellow.

Again, however, Mr. Douglas returned to the charge, and wrote :

"13th February, 1882.

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that there are in my possession 200* sheets, or 48,000 stamps,† of Four Penny postage stamps, printed in a colour that now is obsolete, and consequently the stamps are of no use, as they cannot be issued, the correct colour of the Four Penny stamp being at present yellow.

"I accordingly beg to recommend that these stamps be destroyed in the presence of the Colonial Auditor, Assistant Colonial Treasurer, and myself.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*

"*The Honourable the Colonial Treasurer.*"

This letter bears the following endorsement :

"We certify that the stamps herein referred to were destroyed this day in our presence. "(Sd.) W. LOVETT, *Colonial Auditor.*

W. H. WINDSOR, *Assistant Colonial Treasurer.*

A. C. DOUGLAS.

"200* sheets. 48,000 stamps.

"18th February, 1882."

Only 7920 impressions of this ill-fated stamp were issued and sold to the public during the eleven months of its existence. As this is the rarest Tasmanian stamp, I will give particulars of the distribution of the above number.

Issued to Stamp Sale Office, Hobart	.	.	.	3600
" " " Launceston	.	.	.	1680
" " " Don	.	.	.	240
" " " Longford	.	.	.	60
" " " Oatlands	.	.	.	60
" Authorised Agents, Launceston	.	.	.	180
" Commercial Bank, Hobart	.	.	.	720
" Bank of Van Diemen's Land, Hobart	.	.	.	840
" Union Bank, Hobart	.	.	.	480
" Bank of Australasia, Hobart	.	.	.	60
				7920

It will thus be seen that a discrepancy occurs between the number of stamps certified to have been printed in 1870 (72,000), and those accounted for either by sales or destruction. I confess I am unable to account for this in any way, nor can I get any explanation from official sources. There are therefore 16,080 of these stamps as yet unaccounted for, and where they are *quien sabe?*

In the Accountant's stamp issue book the word "Fourpence" at the head of the column appropriated to that value is struck out from October, 1871, and the word "Ninepence" substituted.

From this date forward the Secretary of the Post Office made the most singularly contradictory statements with reference to the blue Four Pence in his replies to applicants for supplies or specimen sets. In November, 1871, he sends

* Viz., 400 "half-sheets." See Table at page 78.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

† The number on hand had therefore increased from 76 sheets and some odd stamps in 1875 to 200 sheets in 1882; but as only the one printing of 72,000 of these stamps in blue took place in October, 1870, it is possible that Mr. Douglas was mistaken in his first estimate, having only counted the supply in the hands of the Accountant, and overlooking the supply in the hands of the Assistant Colonial Treasurer.

away six specimens of each of the postage stamps then in use in the Colony, amongst which no Four Penny value appears. In April, 1874, he forwards specimens of stamps to the Director G.P.O., Paris, including six at Four Pence, and states that "these have lately been withdrawn from sale, and are not therefore now used." In November of the same year he informs M. Moens that "there are no Four Penny stamps now issued, and the old ones are *not obtainable*." In the face of this he wrote the letter of 21st May, 1875, asking for authority to destroy seventy-six sheets of the very stamp required. In March, June, and November, 1875, and as late as 10th June, 1876, four several applicants were supplied with some of the Four Pence, blue, and the actual destruction, as we have seen, did not take place until February, 1882.

During the period—November, 1870, to March, 1871—the Six Pence and One Shilling, type of 1857, were also used in conjunction with the previously described four values; the Six Pence in the red-lilac shade of March, 1867, and the One Shilling in its original "Perkins & Bacon" vermilion. All types and values were printed at the Government Printing Office, and perforated by Messrs. Walch & Sons, the gauge of perforation being 11½. Of course specimens of the Six Pence and One Shilling may be found during this period, showing other gauges of perforation; but these are merely remainders from the preceding year.

As we have seen, the St. George and Dragon series of revenue stamps was withdrawn on the issue of the type-printed stamps, and the remainders of the Ten Shilling, Two Shillings and Six Pence, and Three Pence, destroyed. The Five Shilling of that type, however, was retained in use until 25th March, 1871, the date of issue of a new stamp of that value.

On the 12th April, 1871, appears a letter to the Treasurer, stating that—

"The following quantities of stamps of the value of 5s. each of the old issue are in charge of the Asst. Col. Treas., Mr. Lovett, and myself—in Mr. Lovett's charge 12,000, in Mr. Douglas's 5,816=17,816. And as these stamps have been superseded by others of the same value, I beg to request your authority for my returning the stamps referred to in my possession to the Assistant Colonial Treasurer, and for the total number herein mentioned being destroyed in the presence of the Asst. Col. Treas., an officer of the Audit Dept., and myself. (Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

"T. D. CHAPMAN, *Treas.*"

(*Endorsed.*)

"The Governor approves of the stamps referred to in this letter being destroyed, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary.

(Sd.) T. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Secretary*.

"April 13th, 1871."

(*Endorsed.*)

"We hereby certify that, in accordance with the instructions of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, the following stamps have been burnt this day:

"17,816 stamps of the value of Five Shillings each.

(Sd.) W. LOVETT, *Asst. Col. Treas.*

A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

W. H. WINDSOR, *Audit Dept.*"

All the foregoing stamps—viz., One Penny, Two Pence, Four Pence, and Ten Pence of November, 1870; Six Pence and One Shilling of January, 1857; and Five Shilling of 1864—were used for revenue purposes, and, with the exception of the Five Shilling, for postal purposes at one and the same time.

All stamps therefore of these types bearing a cancellation, consisting of the date in pen and ink, are fiscally used. The Four Pence, blue, is most frequently found in this state, as its postal use was limited to inland letters exceeding one half ounce in weight. Unused specimens are particularly scarce; for though withdrawn from sale it was never demonetised. Hence any that remained in the hands of licensed vendors and others after its official withdrawal were used up in the ordinary course.

TABLE *

Showing the printings of "postage and revenue" stamps on the figure-water-marked paper from October, 1870, to October, 1872.

One Penny on the "10" paper, October, 1870	.	.	.	185,760
" " November, 1870	.	.	.	180,360
				366,120
Two Pence on the "2" paper, October, 1870	.	.	.	240,000
" " November, 1870	.	.	.	240,000
" " December, 1870	.	.	.	240,000
" " May, 1871	.	.	.	240,240
" " January, 1872	.	.	.	240,000
" " June, 1872	.	.	.	240,000
				1,440,240
Four Pence on the "4" paper, October, 1870	.	.	.	72,000
Ten Pence on the "10" paper, October, 1870	.	.	.	54,000
One Penny on the "4" paper, February, 1871	.	.	.	108,120

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE NOVEMBER 1ST, 1870, TO MARCH, 1871.

Printed in the Colony on white wove paper, varying in substance. Watermarks, single-lined numerals: for the One Penny figures 4 and (italic) 10; for the Two Penny and Four Penny upright, and for the Ten Penny italic figures of value. White to brownish-yellow gum, perforated 11½ and 12. (*Illustrations* 10, 11, 12, 13; *Watermarks* g, h, i.)

1 penny (watermark 10), rose-red, deep rose; shades.
 March, 1871. 1 penny (watermark 4), pale rose, deep rose, rose-red.
 2 pence, pale to deep green; shades.
 4 pence, pale to deep blue.
 10 pence, light to full black.

Varieties.—Imperforate.

1 penny, rose-red (watermark 10).
 2 pence, medium green.
 10 pence, black.

* If the above Table is correct, a fresh supply of paper must have been obtained from New South Wales. We see from Mr. Douglas's letter of the 25th October, 1870, commencing at the foot of page 64, that there were 30 books of 150 leaves each=4500, as well as 5000 sheets of paper. Mr. Basset Hull tells us the latter were watermarked with numeral 2; and the former, part with figure 4 and part with figure 10. Taking the numbers of the stamps printed upon the paper watermarked 4 and 10, we find the total is 600,240. Now as the plates only contained 120 stamps each, 4500 sheets would only print 540,000, reckoning 120 to the sheet. Again, 5000 sheets of the Two Penny paper would only print 600,000 stamps at the same rate; whereas, according to the Table, the number was 1,440,240. If the sheets contained 240 stamps, there is still a discrepancy in the number of the Two Pence printed of 240,000; but in the case of the One Penny and the Four Pence there would be a large stock of paper left over.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS OF 1871-78.

ON 1st November, 1870, the rate of postage upon all letters to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand was reduced from Six Pence to Three Pence per half ounce; and in view also of the contemplated withdrawal of the St. George and Dragon series of revenue stamps, it was necessary to provide stamps of two new values to meet the demand.

The following order therefore was forwarded to England:

"TASMANIA, HOBART TOWN,
"8th September, 1870.

"Electro-type plates for printing postage stamps to be shipped by clipper ship to Melbourne to be transhipped to Hobart Town.

"Two electro-type plates, each to contain 120 impressions, for printing postage stamps by the new process of surface printing, to be similar in size and in arrangement of the stamps thereon to the plates supplied by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. for the Government of Tasmania in April, 1870.

"The designs on each stamp also to be the same.

"One Plate for Five Shilling stamps.

"One Plate for Three Penny stamps.

"5 lbs. magenta Fugitive Ink for printing 5s. stamps.

"10 lbs., the same colour as the Victorian Tenpenny stamp, for printing Three Penny stamps. (Pattern annexed.)"

A copy of Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s invoice follows:

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.,
"December 10th, 1870.

"Crown Agents for the Colonies Drs. to Thomas De la Rue & Co.

"TASMANIA.

1870.	One special die, with lettering, "Tasmania Five Shillings,"					
Dec. 10.	and one electrotype forme, made from above of 120 multiples				100	0 0
	Ditto ditto "Tasmania Threepence"				100	0 0
	5 lbs. magenta fugitive ink for printing 5s. stamps at 50s. .				12	10 0
	10 lbs. fugitive ink, same colour as the Victoria 10d. stamp, at 18s.				9	0 0
					£221	10 0"

These articles were shipped by the *Thermopylæ*, which sailed 25th November, 1870.

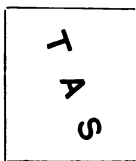
At the same time as the new stamps were ordered, a requisition for paper was sent as follows :

"TASMANIA, HOBART TOWN,

"8th September, 1870.

"Paper for printing postage stamps to be shipped to —. 2,500 sheets to be forwarded per overland mail steamer, the remainder by clipper ship to Melbourne.

"20,000 sheets of 120 stamps.	{	Paper for printing postage stamps from the Electro-type Plates supplied by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. in April, 1870, and similar to that which is supplied by them to other Governments, the letters TAS to be employed as a watermark diagonally across each stamp."
--	---	--



The Indent for this paper is endorsed :

"5 rns. per R.M.S. *Tanjore*, arrd. Feb. 71.

36 rns. 496 sheets per *Hampshire* and per stmr. 13/5/71."

The following correspondence took place between the Crown Agents, Messrs. De la Rue & Co., and the Colonial Treasurer :

"OFFICES OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,

"SPRING GARDENS, LONDON, S.W., 29th December, 1870.

[Received 20th February, 1871.]

"SIR,—With reference to the last paragraph of my letter of the 7th instant, I have now to acquaint you that five reams of watermarked paper for printing postage stamps were forwarded to your address, *via* Melbourne, by the mail steamer which left Southampton on the 23rd inst., for which I enclose Bill of Lading, in accordance with your requisition of the 8th September last ; the remainder will be sent by sailing vessel.

"From the enclosed copy of a letter [8th November, 1870] from Messrs. De la Rue & Co., it will be seen that an alteration was suggested by them in the position of the letters forming the watermark, and under the circumstances stated the Crown Agents consented thereto, which they trust will meet with the approval of your Government.

"I have, &c.,

W. C. SARGEANT.

"The Honourable The Colonial Treasurer, Tasmania."

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.

"8th November, 1870.

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. . accepting our tender for Tasmanian Printing Plates, &c., and requesting us to have the goods ready for shipment by the December mail. Although in estimating 60 days as the time necessary for the completion of the order, we anticipated working overtime ; still, knowing the exigency of the case, we will make every further exertion in our power to have the plates, and at least some portion of the paper, ready for shipment by the time specified.

"If authorised to do so, we are desirous so far to deviate from the instructions conveyed in the Tasmanian requisition as to incline the letters

in the watermark the reverse way to that indicated in the rough sketch sent for our guidance. The cross of the T prevents the shank of that letter from being placed sufficiently near the marginal lines of the stamp to balance the S, which, on account of its symmetrical shape, fits well into the angle. When the letters are inclined from the left to the right it is much more apparent than when the inclination runs from the right to the left, as will be seen by the accompanying sketches,* No. 1 being drawn according to instructions with the T, and consequently a gap at the bottom, where it immediately catches the eye; while in No. 2, the space being left at the top, is less conspicuous.

"Awaiting your further communications on this point,

"We have, &c., (Sd.) THOS. DE LA RUE & Co.

"W. C. SARGEAUNT, Esq., *Crown Agent for the Colonies.*"

"OFFICES OF CROWN AGENTS COLONIES,

"LONDON, 26th January, 1871.

[Requisition No. 20/70.]

"SIR,—We have to acquaint you that the undermentioned articles, consigned to the Officer Administering the Govt. of Tasmania, have been shipped on board the *Hampshire* to Port Philip, and we enclose the documents specified below relative thereto.

"We have the honour to be,

"Your obedient Servants,

"(Sd.) PENROSE G. SULLIVAN, } *Crown Agents.*

"W. C. SARGEAUNT,

"*The Colonial Treasurer, Tasmania.*"

One Case containing Postage Paper, bound in books of 500 sheets each. [Arrived per *Southern Cross* 13th May, 1871.] A Bill of Lading sent to the T.G.N. Co., with a request that the case will be forwarded by *Southern Cross* to Hobart Town.

Enclosures.—Bill of Lading dated the 18th January, 1871. Shipping Agents' freight, &c., account, £1 6s. 7d. Invoice, Messrs. De La Rue and Co., £94 8s. 3d. (including the cost of the moulds for producing the above paper, and retained by the Crown Agents for future use).

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.,

"January 13th, 1871.

"*Crown Agents for the Colonies Drs. to Thomas De La Rue & Co.*

"TASMANIA POSTAGE PAPER.

			£	s.	d.
"1871.	A pair of two-set moulds for the production of hand-made				
Jan. 13.	paper, with the lettering TAS arranged diagonally,				
	repeated 120 times on each sheet of paper, with marginal scroll and lettering, and the word "TASMANIA" repeated four times on each sheet		40	0	0
	36 reams 496 sheets Tasmania watermarked postage paper made from the above moulds, milled on upper surface, and bound in books of 500 sheets each, at per ream of 500 sheets	25s.	46	5	0
	5 reams ditto ditto unmilled, 25s.		6	5	0
	Two cases lined with tin		0	16	3
	Ditto ditto for goods invoiced December 10th, 1870, omitted to be charged		1	2	0
			<u>£94</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>

"N.B.—The five reams of unmilled paper were despatched before being surfaced, that the shipment might not be delayed."

* Returned to Messrs. De la Rue & Co.

The paper was white wove, slightly surfaced, and watermarked with the letters *TAS*, 120 times repeated (*Illustration j*), in plain capitals, 5 mm. in height and 16 mm. in length, connected by a line at top and bottom, with the word "Tasmania" in capitals in the margins above and below each pane.

Three supplies of this paper were obtained subsequently—100 reams in 1872, 100 books in 1874, and 50 books in 1878. In some sheets the watermark is very apparent, showing right through the design of the stamp when viewed from the face.

In March, 1871, a book of 500 leaves of the new paper was obtained, and a supply of stamps printed from the new plates, 250 leaves being appropriated to each value.

A glance at specimens of the Three Pence and Five Shillings, dated 1871, will show in a marked manner the difference between the stamps printed on the unmilled and milled papers. The former present a dull appearance, and the ink is "spotty," while the latter are smooth and clear impressions.

These two new values were issued on the 25th of March, 1871. On that date the Secretary of the Post Office, Hobart, wrote to the Secretary of the General Post Office, London: "I now enclose six specimens each of two new postage stamps as per margin, which have only to-day been issued for use in this Colony." (Margin) "Six at 5s., six at 3d."

The plates prepared by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., and the first supply of paper arrived about the same time. The former, as required, were exactly the same in design and arrangement as the four plates of April, 1870, and bore as plate or indicating numbers **(47)** and **(5)** in the positions described for the preceding issue on the Three Pence plate, and **(48)** and **(6)** on the Five Shillings plate.

They were printed at the Government Printing-office, and perforated 11½ in the same establishment. (*Illustrations 14, 15.*)

The colour of the Three Penny Stamp can scarcely be said to closely resemble the Ten Penny stamp of Victoria, which it was intended it should. The Victorian stamp was of a very rich chocolate colour, whereas the Tasmanian Three Penny inclined more to a dull brown-violet.

In its subsequent printing (see table at end of chapter) the Three Pence varied very much in shade, those of March and September, 1873, being of a lighter reddish tint; while in May, 1874, it is found in a dark purple colour. In 1876 it darkens almost to black-brown, from which date the shade gradually becomes lighter, until in 1878 it is found in a pale Indian red.

The Five Shillings was printed in March, 1871, and March, 1872, the shades of each printing varying slightly, some difference being caused by the unskilful application of colour, some sheets being too generously treated, and others having scarcely sufficient to make an impression.

On the 20th January, 1871, the rate of postage to the United Kingdom *via* Brindisi was reduced from 1s. 1d. to 9d. per half ounce. This change necessitated

the providing of a new stamp of that value, and the following order for the requisite plate was sent to England :

"TASMANIA, HOBART TOWN,

"26th January, 1871.

"ELECTROTYPE PLATE for printing postage stamps to be shipped to Hobart Town *via* Melbourne by a clipper ship or steamer.

One Electrotpe Plate to contain one hundred and twenty (120) impressions for printing postage stamps of the value of Nine Pence each by the new process of surface printing ; to be similar in size and in the arrangement of the stamps thereon to the plates supplied by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., for the Government of Tasmania in April, 1870.

"The design on the stamp to be the same as that of the pattern attached, substituting the words ' Nine Pence ' in place of ' Ten Pence. ' "

I append a copy of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s invoice.

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.,

"April 17th, 1871.

"Crown Agents for the Colonies Dr. to Thomas De La Rue & Co.

"TASMANIA.

"1871. One special die, with lettering "Tasmania Nine Pence," and
April 17th. one electrotpe forme made from above of 120
multiples £100

The plate arrived in August, 1871, having also been prepared by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. in the same manner as the four plates of 1870. The plate or indicating numbers are (50) and (7)

In September, 1871, one book of the TAS paper was obtained, and a supply of Nine Penny stamps printed in deep blue. This quantity has served all requirements up to the present date (1889). The stamps were printed at the Government Printing Office, and there perforated 11½. (*Illustration 16.*)

The Nine Pence was first issued to the public on the 2nd October, 1871.

The want of a stamp of the value of Four Pence, however, made itself felt, and Mr. Douglas wrote :

"HOBART TOWN, GENERAL POST OFFICE,

"11th July, 1873.

"SIR,—I have the honour to request your authority for my obtaining from England, through the Colonial Storekeeper, six pounds of Fugitive Ink for the purpose of printing stamps of the value of Four Pence each. These stamps were withdrawn from sale some time since, when a plate for printing Nine Penny stamps was received from England, the colour (blue) of the 4d. stamps being appropriated for printing the 9d. stamps.

"Application has frequently been made to me for 4d. stamps, and I think their re-issue would be a useful measure.

"I trust the request contained in this communication will meet with your approval.

I have, &c.

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*

"THE HON. F. M. INNES, *Postmaster-General.*"

And on the 12th July an order was sent to England for "Six pounds Indian yellow Fugitive Ink for postage stamps."

In February, 1874, this ink came to hand, and on the 11th of that month Mr. Douglas sent a memorandum to the Government Printer that "Six pounds

of Indian yellow Fugitive Ink for printing Four Penny stamps is forwarded herewith. It is a new colour for the Four Penny stamps, and the first received: it is all that was applied for."

However, it was not until the 12th July, 1876, that an application was made for a book of paper whereon to print Four Penny stamps, the recent further reduction of the Brindisi rate of postage to Eight Pence compelling the authorities to provide some means of making up the rate without having recourse to a number of stamps, or two of different values. A supply therefore was printed from the plate of 1870 at the Government Printing Office in chrome-yellow, which sometimes deepens almost to brownish-yellow, owing to the printer's lavish hand in plastering on the colour. The "tas" paper was used, and the perforation was 11½. (*Illustration 12.*)

On the 8th August, 1876, Mr. Douglas wrote to the editor of the *Mercury*: "The Four Penny stamp, blue, issued in 1869 (*sic*), and subsequently withdrawn from sale, has been re-issued to-day under a different colour (Indian yellow), specimen herewith. This stamp will be found useful, in the absence of an Eight Penny stamp, in stamping letters for Brindisi route, as two can be conveniently taken off the one row. It will probably be used for other purposes as well."

In May, 1871, the new "tas" paper was used for printing a fresh supply of the One Penny; and in November, 1872, it was also appropriated for the Two Pence, from which date something like uniformity began to reign. The actual state of affairs at the commencement of 1873 was as follows: One Penny, rose; Two Pence, green; Three Pence, brown-violet; Nine Pence, blue; and Five Shillings, mauve, on the "tas" paper; Ten Pence, black, on that watermarked 10; and Six Pence, red-lilac, and One Shilling, vermilion (from the 1857 plates), on the old Perkins and Bacon paper, with large double-lined figures of value as watermarks.

This arrangement remained undisturbed until 1878, with only the addition of the Four Pence value in 1876; but considerable variation in the shades of colour is to be met with. The most notable differences are in the One Penny, which, though varying in a more or less marked manner in each of the thirteen printings, shows quite a distinct colour in the printing of April, 1873, at which time it was printed in a bright vermilion, and in a rather superior manner.

The Two Pence appeared in varying greens, also differing slightly with each printing, and in December, 1875, it was printed in a decidedly yellow-green shade.

The shades of the Three Pence have already been enumerated, and the Nine Pence, Ten Pence, and Five Shillings, owing to the small number printed, do not show such marked variations.

In March, 1875, the Six Pence quite changed its coat, discarding the old red-lilac shade of 1867 for a very full violet, which varied very little during the rest of this period.

The One Shilling underwent three printings, and is found in shades of vermilion and orange-red, the later printings being distinguished by a slightly blurred appearance, due to carelessness in cleaning the plate.

The stamps on the "tas" paper are, without exception, so far as I can find, printed in the normal position, the watermark reading downwards from left to right, as viewed from the face of the stamp.

The perforation on all types and values is consistently $11\frac{1}{2}$, and up to February, 1877, the sheets were perforated at the Government Printing Office, after having first been gummed at the Post Office. In March, 1876, the Secretary of the Post Office returned 14 sheets of the Two Penny stamps to the Government Printer on account of great defects in perforating; and on 19th February, 1877, he sent an urgent request to Messrs. Walch and Sons, the leading stationers in Hobart Town, to *complete* the perforation of thirty sheets of Two Penny stamps sent therewith. Walch's machine in use at that time was also an $11\frac{1}{2}$ gauge, consequently it would be impossible to distinguish between these thirty sheets and the others perforated at the Government Printing Office.

I have seen several specimens of the One Penny, dated 1872 and 1873, imperforate; and specimens of the Nine Pence, blue, and Five Shillings, mauve, have also been chronicled in this state; but these latter varieties have not come under my notice.* The Three Pence has been seen imperforate horizontally (*water-mark k*), but this, like the above imperforate varieties, is merely the result of the carelessness which, with good reason, was complained of by the Secretary of the Post Office.

They did things very leisurely also at the Government Printer's. Under date 5th November, 1874, appears the following memorandum to Mr. Barnard:

"THE Secretary complains that insufficient attention is given to the printing of stamps by the Government Printer, the work being performed only at times when other work at the Government Printing Office is not pressing. The printing of 14 books was estimated to occupy 28 working days, but in 56 working days only 9 books were printed!"

The ink or colour used for printing the stamps of this period was chiefly obtained from Wimble, of Melbourne, although that for the printing of the Six Pence and One Shilling had been obtained from England by the following order:

"11th June, 1870.

"COLOURS for printing Postage Stamps from the old plates to be got from Messrs. Shackell and Edwardes; viz.—

"Rose colour for printing 1s. stamps	.	.	.	10 lbs.
Lilac " " 6d. "	.	.	.	10 lbs."

The gumming, as I have before mentioned, was performed at the Post Office; the stamps having been printed at the Government Printing Office, the sheets were conveyed to the Post Office, and the gum applied by the office-keeper, who used a large flat brush for the work. Having duly deposited sufficient adhesive matter in a more or less smooth manner upon the sheets, he hung them up to dry upon strings stretched throughout the length of the sorting gallery. When dry they were returned to the printer's to be perforated.

Generally speaking, the execution of the stamps of which this chapter treats may be described as unsatisfactory. With the materials at hand the public had a right to expect much better results; but the feeling that seemed to actuate the printer was, that as long as the value was fairly legible the printing of the stamp would pass. Owing also to the very stringent regulations governing the issue of watermarked paper, and the absolute necessity to account in stamps for every sheet so issued, the Secretary of the Post Office was reluctant to condemn any printing,

* The Three Pence, Nine Pence, and Five Shillings are known imperforate in collections in this country, and it is probable that the Two Pence also exists in this state.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

however faulty; for such a course would necessitate correspondence for the purpose of obtaining ministerial authority for the destruction of the badly-printed sheets.

All values during this period were used both for postage and revenue purposes, and the remarks as to cancellation contained in the preceding chapter apply equally to this issue.

At some time during this period the plate of the One Penny became slightly damaged, the last stamp showing a wedge-shaped cut in the centre of the value, and extending up into the Queen's neck. This appears white in the printings. (*Illustration 17.*) The last stamp but one on the top row has also a slight defect, the letters "AS" of Tasmania being blurred over.

TABLE

Showing the printings of "postage and revenue" stamps from March, 1871, to May, 1878, bearing the watermark "TAS," 1st type. (*Illustration j.*)

The number in parenthesis signifies the quantity of "books" printed. In the One Penny, Two Pence, Three Pence, Four Pence, Nine Pence, Ten Pence, and Five Shillings values one book = 500 leaves = 250 sheets of 240 stamps to each sheet, each impression of 120 stamps from these plates being reckoned as a "half-sheet," in order to preserve uniformity with the Six Pence and One Shilling values, one book of which equals 250 leaves of 240 stamps each.*

Values.	Dates of Printing.	Books.	Totals. Stamps.
ONE PENNY ...	May, 1871 (4); Oct., 1871 (4); Feb., 1872 (4); July, 1872 (4); Nov., 1872 (4); Apl., 1873 (4); Sept., 1873 (5); Nov., 1874 (8); Apl., 1875 (10); Jan., 1876 (5); May, 1876 (10); Feb., 1877 (10); July, 1877 (10); Feb., 1878 (10); June, 1878 (6) .	98	... 5,880,000
TWO PENCE ...	Nov., 1872 (4); Apl., 1873 (4); Sept., 1873 (5); May, 1874 (6); June, 1874 (4); Mar., 1875 (2); Apl., 1875 (2); May, 1875 (6); Dec., 1875 (5); May, 1876 (10); Dec., 1876 (4); Feb., 1877 (6); June, 1877 (10); Jan., 1878 (10); June, 1878 (6) .	84	... 5,040,000
THREE PENCE...	Mar., 1871 (1); June, 1871 (2); Mar., 1872 (2); Mar., 1873 (2); Sept., 1873 (2); May, 1874 (2); May, 1875 (5); Apl., 1877 (2); July, 1877 (5) .	23	... 1,380,000
FOUR PENCE ...	July, 1876 (1); July, 1878 (1)	2	... 120,000
SIX PENCE ...	Mar., 1875 (4); May, 1878 (1)	5	... 300,000
NINE PENCE ...	Sept., 1871 (1)	1	... 60,000
ONE SHILLING	Jan., 1873 (1); Mar., 1875 (2); May, 1878 (1) .	4	... 240,000
FIVE SHILLINGS	Mar., 1871 (1); Mar., 1872 (1)	2	... 120,000
The total number printed during the period, March, 1871, to October, 1878, was therefore		219	... 13,140,000

* This practice obtains to the present time, although there are no plates containing 240 impressions in use, the Two Shillings and Six Penny plate being cut in halves in 1888.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE MARCH, 1871, TO AUGUST, 1876.

Printed in the Colony. On white wove paper, varying considerably in substance; watermarked diagonally with plain capital letters "TAS," measuring 16×5 mm.; white gum; perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. (*Illustrations* 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16; *watermark j.*)

May, 1871.	1 penny, rose, pale to deep, red-rose, lake (shades).
April, 1873.	1 penny, vermilion.
Nov., 1872.	2 pence, pale to dark green, emerald-green, bluish-green (shades).
Dec., 1875.	2 pence, yellow-green.
Mar. 25th, 1871.	3 pence, red-brown, pale to very dark, brown, brown-lake, dull violet (shades).
Jan., 1878.	3 pence, Indian red.
Aug. 8th, 1876.	4 pence, pale lemon-yellow, canary, dull to Indian yellow, brownish-yellow (shades).
Oct. 2nd, 1871.	9 pence, bright to deep blue (shades).
Mar. 25th, 1871.	5 shillings, mauve (shades), pale violet.

Varieties.—Imperforate.

- 1 penny, rose, rose-red (shades).
- 2 pence, green (?).
- 3 pence, pale reddish-brown.
- 9 pence, bright blue.
- 5 shillings, mauve.

NOTE.—In May, 1879, a supply of the Five Shilling value was printed in fugitive ink.

CHAPTER IX.

THE "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" AND "POSTAGE ONLY" STAMPS OF 1878-82.

THE unsatisfactory state of affairs referred to in the preceding chapter compelled the consideration of some means by which a better class of labels might be produced.

The new plates and stamps for revenue purposes (*vide* next chapter) had been ordered from England, and it was considered desirable that for the future the postage labels also should be obtained from the same source.

The outcome of some preliminary discussion on the matter was the following letter :

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"19th January, 1878.

"SIR,—With reference to the question of printing postage stamps in London, I have no hesitation in recommending those values, viz., One Penny and Two Penny, which are used in large quantities, to be procured from London, as the work can be performed in a much more satisfactory manner, while the cost of production will not be any greater than it is here, but will, I presume, have to be borne by this Department, while at present nearly all the cost is charged to the Government Printer's Department. None of the other values of postage stamps are issued in greater quantities than 200 sheets annually, and for this small supply I do not consider it necessary, at all events at present, for them to be obtained from London.

"I take this opportunity of bringing under notice that it is desirable to obtain a plate for printing Eight Penny stamps to be used for postage upon letters *via* Brindisi, and it would be as well to have 500 sheets (240 stamps to the sheet) forwarded to this Colony along with it.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*.

"THE HON. W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer*."

The Ministerial approval was given, and an order sent to the Crown Agents in the following terms :

"HOBART TOWN, 21st January, 1878.

"Postage stamps and new plate to be shipped to Hobart Town ; the 1d. and 2d. stamps, the 8d. stamps, plate and colour, by the first opportunity.

"20,000 sheets, of 120 impressions to the sheet, of Tasmanian Postage Stamps of the value of One Penny exactly similar in design to pattern.

"20,000 do. do. Twopence do.

"The dies from which the original plates were made are in the possession of the Crown Agents.

"The new plates to be retained in England for future use.

"One new plate, containing 120 impressions, for printing Tasmanian Postage Stamps of the value of Eight Pence; the design to be exactly similar to that employed for the One Penny and Two Penny stamps.

"2000 sheets of printed stamps of the value of Eight Pence from the above plate, the colour to be selected by the manufacturers, but to be distinctly different from the colour of any Tasmanian Postage Stamp, patterns of all of which are herewith sent.

"A moderate supply of printing ink for printing Eight Penny stamps."

It may be interesting to quote the following correspondence here:

"DOWNING STREET, LONDON,

"August 8th, 1882.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of May, in reply to ours of the 14th of March, informing you of the steps which we had taken to replace the 1d. and 2d. Tasmanian postage plates, which had become unfit for further use.

"Upon the receipt of your letter, we at once referred it for report to Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and I enclose herewith a copy of their reply; and have to express our regret that, through a clerical error in this Department, the cost of renewing the plates was stated in our letter to you at £25 each, instead of £21 each, the cost at which they have actually been charged to your Government.

"I take this opportunity of enclosing to you a copy of the letter from Messrs. De La Rue and Co., of the 18th of March, 1878, to which they call attention in their present communication, but which does not appear to have been sent to you at the time.

"We trust that Messrs. De La Rue's explanations will be considered by you to be satisfactory, and we shall hear, no doubt, in due course whether you agree to their proposal, that they should bear the cost of renewing the printing-plates, on condition of receiving a higher price for the stamps which they furnish. I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant, (Sd.) E. E. BRAVE.

"The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Tasmania."

(Enclosures.)

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.,

"July 11th, 1882.

"TASMANIA.

"GENTLEMEN,—We herewith return the letter from the Colonial Treasurer of Tasmania, covered by your letter of the 6th instant. In reply we have to point out that the error in quoting £25 for the renewal of each of the 1d. and 2d. Tasmanian postage plates did not occur with us, but appeared in the letter bearing date 1st March, 1882, which you addressed us in reply to our letter of the 17th February, in which we stated that the plates in question were worn out, and that we were prepared to replace them at half the original cost. The price which should have appeared in your letter was £21, and this was what was actually charged for the plates in our invoice of the 24th April last.

"The Colonial Treasurer is in error in supposing that this represents the full cost of the plates; for it is really half-price. The original dies and plates together cost £100 for each duty; but in the case of the 8d. duty we made a special exception, and charged the original plate at half-price, hoping, as we explained in our letter of the 18th March, 1878, that, in view of the superiority of our work, the whole of the printing would be transferred to us. We were anxious to facilitate this transfer by supplying the plate in question at the reduced rate, as it appeared to us that the smaller the outlay

on the plates the less would be the objection to abandon their use in the Colony.

"Our price for the stamps is not calculated to cover the cost of renewing the printing-plates; but we are willing to compromise the matter by undertaking to renew the printing-plates free of charge, provided the price of the stamps be increased from 85s. to 93s. per thousand sheets of 120 multiples. We trust this settlement of the matter may be acceptable to the Colonial Authorities, and that, in view of the offer we have made, they will be induced to consider the desirability of transferring the whole of their stamp-printing to us; for we submit that a comparison of our work with that which is executed in the Colony will show the great superiority of the former. This we believe is in some measure due to the fact that the plates which are in use in the Colony are quite worn out and unfit for use. This indeed is evident, not only from the appearance of the stamps which we have seen, but also from the statement made by the Colonial Treasurer, to the effect that the plates have been in use nine years, during which time they must have yielded far more than the average number of good impressions which we can succeed in obtaining from a plate; viz., 35,000.

"We shall be happy to give any further information on the subject.

"We are, Gentlemen, &c.,

"(Sd.)

THO. DE LA RUE & CO.

"Messrs. the Crown Agents for the Colonies."

"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL ROW, E.C.,

"March 18th, 1878.

"GENTLEMEN,—In handing you the enclosed tender for Tasmanian postage printing plates and stamps, we venture to call attention to the fact that in the specifications no stipulation is made as to the kind of ink which is to be used, nor as to the quality of work which is to be produced. The specimen stamps referred to in the specification have been printed in 'fugitive' ink supplied by us to the Colony, and they would therefore be sufficiently cancelled by a printed obliterating mark, seeing that benzine or any other re-agent which could be employed to remove such an obliteration would destroy the stamps. We have tendered for stamps printed in 'fugitive' inks, as well as for such ink in the case of the 10 lbs., which have to be sent to the Colony for printing the 8d. stamps with; and we submit that our competitors should be required to quote for the same quality of ink, and that samples of what they may propose to supply should be compared with samples of our 'fugitive' inks. In passing, we may remark that the only way of making a fair comparison would be to take some old stamps which are *thoroughly dry*, printed some in their inks and others in ours, and hand them over to a chemical expert, to test their behaviour under the actions of benzine and the other hydro-carbons.

"The specimen colonial stamps are very badly printed, and as we cannot for a moment suppose that they are to be the standard of quality, we have quoted for high-class work, such as we are in the habit of executing for your Department; and we think that this is a point which should be borne in mind no less than the fact that the manufacture would be conducted in a department *exclusively* devoted to your work. Further, as we are thoroughly conversant with all the processes of surface stamp manufacture, we could undertake to execute the order with despatch; and we are willing indeed to be bound that the whole should be completed within eight weeks from the date thereof, whilst a moiety of the 1d. and 2d. stamps, and the whole of the 8d. stamps with the plate, should be shipped within five weeks of the receipt of your instructions.

"We find from an analysis of our books that $236\frac{1}{2}$ reams of the postage stamp paper have been supplied to the Colony since the commencement, and as there are seven duties, about thirty-four reams of the paper may be assigned to each of them. Each ream contains 500 sheets, so that thirty-four reams equal 17,000 sheets, which is a very small quantity to produce from a surface stamp printing plate. The condition of the specimen colonial stamps, however, leads us to suppose that the plates have been unduly worn, and are quite unfit for the production of good work, so that we are driven to the conclusion that the conditions under which the stamps are produced in the Colony would not allow of the plates lasting for more than about 17,000 impressions. The arrangement with your Department provides for plates to last for 35,000 impressions, so that it is apparent that the Tasmanian Government are entitled to have the 1d. and 2d. plates at the reduced price at which we have tendered; whilst as we are fully convinced that they would not continue to have their stamps printed in the Colony were they once to see the superiority of our printing, we have put the 8d. plate in also at the reduced price, so as to facilitate the transfer of the work here.

"We should further explain that as we can arrange to produce the 8d. plate without a special die, we have refrained from quoting for the same, understanding as we do, that it is desired to economize as much as possible.

"We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient Servants,

"(Sd.) THOS. DE LA RUE.

"*The Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing Street, S. W.*"

It will be seen from the foregoing correspondence that Messrs. De la Rue and Co., as before, were entrusted with the execution of the new order; and when the stamps arrived, on the 27th October, 1878, the general opinion was that the excellence of their appearance left nothing to be desired.

The plates were of course electros, and bore 120 impressions, each arranged as before in two panes of sixty, in ten horizontal rows of six. In size the plates were slightly larger than those of 1870, being $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. $\times$ $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. overall, the panes, exclusive of plate-numbers, being $9\frac{1}{2}$ $\times$ $4\frac{3}{4}$. Each plate bore the number 1 in white, on a solid circle of colour, surrounded with an outer line of colour over the 2nd and 11th and beneath the 109th and 119th stamps.

The One Penny was printed in bright carmine, the Two Pence in bright green, and the Eight Pence in a dull lilac, all of which colours are fugitive. (*Illustrations* 10, 11, 18.)

The paper was highly surfaced, white wove, watermarked with the abbreviation "TAS," repeated 120 times, the upper and lower margins bearing the word "Tasmania" in double-lined capitals above and below each pane. This "TAS" watermark differs from that on the paper of 1871, being 13×6 mm., and the letters are not connected by a line. (*Illustration k.*) It is frequently found inverted in the Two Pence. The perforation is machine 14, and the sheets were sent out gummed and perforated ready for use.

This new series was issued for use on the 28th October, 1878, and is still used. The One Penny plate now bears the plate-number 3, and the Two Pence 4, showing the number of fresh electros which have been prepared from the original matrix or die. There has been no fresh printing of the Eight Pence, as the rate of postage *via* Brindisi was again reduced to Six Pence. The other values of Three Pence, Four Pence, Six Pence, Nine Pence, Ten Pence, One Shilling, and Five Shillings

continued in use during this period. Two fresh printings of the Three Pence took place in January, 1878 (5 books), and April, 1880 (5 books), both printings being in the light Indian red shade.

The Six Pence underwent three printings—in October, 1879, January, 1881, and March, 1882—one book being used on each occasion. In these latter the ink used is of a brighter violet colour, and is fugitive, being discharged by immersion in boiling water.

One book of the One Shilling was printed in October, 1879, and one of the Five Shillings in May, 1879. This latter is also in fugitive ink.

Until the 30th April, 1880, these stamps were employed both for postage and revenue purposes as formerly, after which date an attempt was made to separate the two sources of revenue, a detailed account of which appears in the next chapter.

A new supply of paper was ordered from De la Rue in 1879. This arrived in 1880, and proved to be of the quality used by that firm in the manufacture of the One Penny, Two Penny, and Eight Penny stamps, being glazed or surfaced, and bearing the second type of "TAS" watermark. The printing of the Three Pence, which was made in April, 1880, was on this paper, and the perforation was $11\frac{1}{2}$.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE 28TH OCTOBER, 1878.

Printed in "fugitive" colours by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., of London. On surfaced white wove paper; watermarked diagonally with capital letters "TAS," 13×6 mm. White gum; perforated 14. (*Illustrations* 10, 11, 18; *watermark k.*)

1 penny, bright carmine, rose (shades).

2 pence, bright yellowish-green, pale to dark green (shades).

8 pence, dull lilac (shades).

ISSUE APRIL, 1880.

Printed in the Colony. On surfaced white wove paper; watermarked diagonally with capital letters "TAS," 13×6 mm. White gum; perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. (*Illustration* 14; *watermark k.*)

3 pence, light Indian red.

Variety.—Imperforate horizontally.

3 pence, light Indian red.

CHAPTER X.

THE ADHESIVE REVENUE STAMPS OF 1880-82.

IN 1876 the Government decided to revert to the system of separate accounts for the revenue from the Post Office and that derived from the "Stamp Act" by issuing stamps of different designs to be used exclusively for the purposes of each branch of the revenue.

The matter was carefully gone into, and as early as January, 1877, an order was sent to England for dies for impressed and adhesive stamps to indicate the stamp duties. The impressed series will be treated at length in the chapter devoted to that branch of stamps. One value only for an adhesive stamp was ordered at first; viz.:

"A plate to contain 120 impressions of the same design of the ornithorhynchus (that ordered for the impressed stamps); viz.:

"One plate of the value of One Penny.

"5000 sheets of stamps from the above plate. Pattern for steel dies sent herewith."

The design consisted of a miniature sketch of a Platypus resting on the sloping trunk of a tree growing out of the still waters of a creek. Graceful reeds form a background, and a few leaves of water-lilies float on the calm water in the foreground; while a branch of drooping foliage shelters the little amphibian from the view of possible passers by on the bank.

The Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*, formerly *paradoxus*) belongs to the order Monotremata, which includes two forms only—the Platypus and the Echidna, or porcupine ant-eater.* The Platypus is a small, burrowing, aquatic animal about eighteen inches in length; it has webbed feet, a flat tail, and a duck-like horny bill with two small flat horny teeth in each jaw. The male has a strong hollow spur on the ankle, which he uses as a weapon of offence, the wound caused thereby being very painful, owing apparently to the poisonous nature of some secretion contained in the gland connected with the spur. Though indigenous, the Platypus is not peculiar to Tasmania, being also found on the Australian continent.

The original design sent to England was copied from the engraving in Gould's *Australian Mammalia*, by Mrs. Louisa Meredith (the talented authoress of *Tasmanian Friends and Foes* and other kindred publications), the wife of the Hon. Charles Meredith, then Postmaster-General.

* This order forms a connecting-link between the Aves and Mammalia, the distinguishing characteristics being the possession in both forms of long coracoid bones separate from the shoulder-blade, which, bird-like, reach as far as the sternum, and the two collar-bones unite into a single T-shaped bone resembling a "merrythought." They are both oviparous; that is, producing the young in the form of an egg.

On the 23rd of January, 1877, a further order was sent in the following terms :

“REVENUE STAMPS AND PLATES.

“Three Plates each to contain 120 impressions similar in design to that ordered for a One Penny revenue stamp in order dated 5 Jan., 1877.

One Plate for Inland Revenue stamps of the value of Three Pence each.

” ” ” Six Pence each.

” ” ” One Shilling each.

2000 sheets of printed Revenue stamps of the value of Three Pence.

2000 ” ” Six Pence.

1000 ” ” One Shilling.

“To be gummed and perforated. The colour of the stamps to differ from those of all other Postage or Revenue stamps of this Colony.”

Some considerable delay took place before the required stamps were completed and ready for use. It was not until the 11th March, 1880, that the Act authorising their use was passed.

43 Vict. No. 14—“The Stamp Duties Amendment Act, 1880”—enacted :

“Sec. 1. On and after a day to be fixed by the Governor in Council, and proclaimed in the *Gazette*, it shall not be lawful for any person to use for the purposes of ‘The Stamp Duties Act, 1870,’ stamps made and sold under the provisions of any Act relating to the Post Office, anything in ‘The Stamp Duties Act, 1870,’ to the contrary notwithstanding.”

A month after the passing of this Act the notice appeared in the *Gazette* as follows :

“COLONIAL TREASURY,

“10th April, 1880.

“PUBLIC NOTICE.

“It is hereby notified for public information, that after the 30th instant it will not be lawful for Postage Stamps to be used for the purposes of ‘The Stamp Duties Act, 1870,’ or ‘The Amended Stamp Duties Act, 1880;’ and that from the same date all Inland Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes for any sum exceeding Twenty pounds must be written only upon paper upon which the appropriate stamp has been impressed; the penalty for drawing or accepting any such Bill of Exchange written upon paper not bearing a proper impressed stamp being Twenty pounds.

“New Revenue Stamps, differing in shape and pattern from the stamps heretofore used for Postal and Stamp Duty purposes, have been provided, and will be issued on and after the 19th inst. at the General Post Office, Hobart Town, and at the Post Office, Launceston, to persons requiring them. These stamps are easily distinguishable from Postage Stamps by the words ‘Stamp Duty, Tasmania,’ and by the figure of a Platypus engraved thereon. Receipts will require to be stamped either with a Penny Adhesive Revenue Stamp of the new pattern, or Books of Receipt Forms can be stamped at the Post Office.

“It must be distinctly understood that on and after the 1st of May next all Stamp Duties must be paid either by Revenue Stamps, Impressed or Adhesive, or in cases over £1 in cash to a collector; and Postage Stamps must be exclusively used for postal purposes only.

“Documents requiring to be stamped, to which Postage Stamps are affixed, after the 30th inst. will be treated as ‘unstamped,’ and subject to disability accordingly.

“Adhesive Revenue Stamps of the values of 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s., and

Inland Bills of Exchange Forms impressed with the respective stamps of 3d., 6d., 1s., and 2s. 6d., will be sold at all Country Post Offices that are Money Order Offices; but persons, if they so desire, can have their own Bill and Cheque Forms impressed with stamps as required, upon requisition made at the Stamp Office, General Post Office, Hobart Town.

"Deeds and other documents will continue to be stamped by the collector on payment of the amount of duty; but if impressed stamps are desired requisition must be made at the Stamp Office, Hobart Town; payment must also be made at the same time. The Office will have the option of retaining deeds, &c., for twenty-four hours if necessary.

"Licensed Vendors who may purchase Revenue Stamps at any one time to the value of £5 and upwards will receive thereon a commission at the rate of 4 per cent., payable in Revenue Stamps only.

"Neither the Postmaster-General nor any of the servants of the Post Office will be responsible for any loss by reason of any deed, document, stamped parchment, or other paper being obtained by any person not legally entitled thereto.

"Any person required by law to cancel an Adhesive Stamp must write across every such stamp the day of the month, the month, and the year of using the same, so that the stamp may be appropriated to the instrument and be rendered incapable of being used for any other purpose.

"Impressed Stamps will not require any cancellation or defacement.

"(Sd.) W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*"

The series of adhesive revenue stamps referred to in the foregoing notice were engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and were all of the same design; viz., the figure of a platypus, as described before, in an oval with pointed ends filled in with ornamentation. The words "Stamp Duty, Tasmania," inscribed in colour on a white arched label above, and the value in colour on a similar label below. The rectangle is completed with scroll ornamentation within lined border. The same die was used for all four stamps, the values being filled in when the electro was prepared. In the One Penny and Sixpence the value is preceded and followed by a star ornament, and in all values the lettering of the words "One Penny," &c., is a little irregular in position, in some stamps touching the bottom line of the label, and in others placed close to the top line. (*Illustrations* 19, 20, 21, 22.)

The colours were One Penny, slate; Three Pence, brown; Six Pence, lilac; One Shilling, carmine. All values were arranged in sheets of 120, in two panes of sixty each, in six horizontal rows of ten stamps. The size of the plates was exactly the same as those of the postage stamps of One Penny and Two Pence, and the paper and watermark were also the same; but the stamps being oblong in shape were printed sideways on the sheet, so that the watermark "TAS" reads from the lower left-hand corner upwards, instead of downwards from the upper left-hand corner, as in the postage stamps. The plate or indicating numbers were ① and ⑧ on each plate, placed in the same positions as in the postage stamp plates. The sheets were gummed in England and perforated 14.

In April, 1880, a further supply of these stamps was ordered to the extent of

8000 sheets of 1d.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{with the first supply bringing} \\ \text{the total stamps to} \end{array} \right\}$	1,560,000
4000 sheets of 3d.		720,000
4000 sheets of 6d.		720,000
2000 sheets of 1s.		360,000

The want of stamps of higher denominations soon made itself felt; the withdrawal of the "Queen's Head" Five Shilling stamp from use as a revenue stamp necessitated the use of a row of One Shilling stamps to denote the duty paid on any document. To such an extent did this inconvenience go, some deeds being plastered in every clear spot with stamps, that recourse was had to the old Saint George and Dragon plates, which had been resting ever since 1870, when the thousands of remainders in stock had been uselessly destroyed.

The *Gazette* of May, 1880, contained a notice, from which the following is an extract:

"COLONIAL TREASURY, HOBART TOWN,
"May 4th, 1880.

"Some inconvenience being caused by adhesive Revenue stamps not having been provided of the value of 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. respectively, it is hereby notified that on and from the 10th instant Revenue stamps of the foregoing values will be provided at the Post Offices, Hobart Town and Launceston. For the present these stamps will bear the impression of a 'George and Dragon,' and the word 'Tasmania' above the figures, and the words denoting the value at the foot. These stamps will be available for Revenue purposes only, and will be withdrawn from issue as soon as new stamps, similar in design to the Revenue stamps now in use, can be procured.

"(Sd.) W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*"

This notice was somewhat premature, for it was not until after the announced date of issue that requisition was made for the paper upon which the stamps were to be printed by the following letter:

"May 14th, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honour to request your authority to receive from the Colonial Storekeeper two books of postage stamp paper of the kind in use in the year 1869, each book containing 250 sheets or leaves, the watermark upon which is II, this paper to be used for printing 125 sheets at 10s. each stamp, 125 sheets at 2s. 6d. each stamp, and 250 sheets at 5s. each stamp, to be printed from the old plates in use in the year 1869, as arranged with you yesterday.

"I have the honour, &c.,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*

"*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*"

The paper here referred to was some of the large supply ordered from Messrs. Perkins and Bacon in 1856, and used not only for the One Penny "Van Diemen's Land" stamps from 1857 to 1870, but also for all four values of the St. George and Dragon series of fiscal stamps used during the years 1863–70.

The printing was performed partly at the Government Printing Office and partly at the *Mercury* Office, and the colours used were:

Dull lake	for the Two Shillings and Six Pence.
Sage-green	" Five Shillings.
Salmon	" Ten Shillings.

All values bore the watermark II (*Illustration b*), and were perforated 11½; gummed at the Post Office with white gum. In all the sheets appear to have been placed in their normal or proper position, but the Five Shillings is found printed on either side, consequently the watermark faces both to right and to left on different sheets. The printing was poorly executed, some sheets of the Two Shillings and Six Pence particularly being very roughly done. (*Illustrations 7, 8, 9.*)

The Five Shilling and Ten Shilling plates containing only 120 impressions, the wording of the requisition must be read to mean 125 sheets of 240 of the Ten Shilling and 250 sheets of 240 of the Five Shilling; the total stamps of each value thus being:

30,000 at Two Shillings and Six Pence;
60,000 at Five Shillings; and
30,000 at Ten Shillings.

The numbers printed at the two offices were:

2s. 6d.	Government Printer, May 5	.	.	25 sheets.
	" " " 11	.	.	100 "
				125 "
5s.	Government Printer, May 5	.	.	25 "
	" " " 11	.	.	37½ "
	<i>Mercury Office</i> "	.	.	188½ "
				251 "
10s.	Government Printer, May 5	.	.	4 "
	" " " 11	.	.	58½ "
	<i>Mercury Office</i> "	.	.	62½ "
				125 "

These two separate sources account for the varying shades of the Five Shilling and Ten Shilling plates.

No further printing of these stamps seems to have taken place, and for the rest of the short period, during which the two branches of the revenue were kept strictly separate, no other values or designs appeared. The promise of the Treasurer that the St. George and Dragon stamps should be "withdrawn from issue as soon as new stamps, similar in design to the Revenue stamps then in use, could be procured" was never performed, no attempt even being made to provide the requisite plates; indeed, it was quite unnecessary to go to the expense of £500 in providing three new plates for stamps that were not used to any very great extent, as the new impressed stamps, or a collector's written certificate, were employed in cases where large amounts had to be paid as stamp duty. The cancellation found on all the stamps of this period is of course a date written in pen and ink, as directed by the *Gazette* notice of the 10th April, 1880.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE 19TH APRIL, 1880.

Printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., of London. On white wove paper, watermarked TAS (13 × 6 mm.), reading upwards from lower left angle; white gum; perforated 14. (*Illustrations* 19, 20, 21, 22; *watermark k.*)

1 penny, slate (slight shades).
3 pence, pale brown (").
6 " lilac (").
1 shilling, carmine (").

ISSUE MAY, 1880.

Printed in the Colony on white wove paper, watermarked with double-lined numeral II; white gum; perforated 11½. (*Illustrations* 7, 8, 9; *watermark b.*)

2 shillings and 6 pence, dull lake (shades).
5 " sage-green.
10 " salmon.

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CHAPTER XI.

THE "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" STAMPS OF 1882-90.

A NEW Act, "The Post Office Act, 1881," came into operation on the 1st January, 1882; it merely consolidated all the previous Acts relating to the Post Office, authorised the use of post cards, and contained the usual clauses empowering the Postmaster-General to provide postage stamps for the purposes of the Act, together with the various penalty clauses for unlawfully selling, fraudulently overcharging, and forging or uttering stamps. It was reserved for "The Stamp Duties Act, 1882," which came into operation on the 1st November of that year, to effect a complete revolution in matters pertaining to the stamps of Tasmania.

This measure enacts:

"Sec. 3. 'Stamp' shall mean as well the adhesive or impressed stamps to be used for the purposes of paying duty under this Act as the certificate upon any instrument signed by a collector, and denoting that the duty thereon has been paid to him."

"Sec. 9. All stamps required for the purposes of this Act, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be provided by the Treasurer, and shall have their values denoted on the faces of the same respectively, and shall be sold by such persons as shall be duly licensed by him in that behalf under such regulations as may be made by the Governor in Council in respect of such sale. . . ."

"Sec. 10. It shall be lawful for any person to use for the purposes of this Act stamps made and sold under the provisions of any Act relating to the Post Office, and any person may use for the purposes of any Act relating to the Post Office *any* stamps provided under this Act, or *any enactment repealed hereby*."*

The schedule of Acts to be repealed was as follows:

ACTS TO BE REPEALED.

DATE AND NUMBER OF ACT.	TITLE OF ACT.	EXTENT OF REPEAL.
34 Vict., No. 2.	"The Stamp Duties Act, 1870"	The whole Act.
43 Vict., No. 14.	"The Stamp Duties Amendment Act, 1890"	The whole Act.
44 Vict., No. 2.	"The Stamp Duties Amendment Act, No. 2"	The whole Act.
45 Vict., No. 10.	"The Stamp Duties Amendment Act, No. 3"	The whole Act.

Under this Act the whole series of adhesive stamps provided for use under 43 Vict., No. 14, was appropriated for postal use as well as for the revenue

* The *italics* are mine.—A. F. B. H.

purposes for which it was originally designed, and the stamps hitherto used exclusively for postage purposes became available for either service.

On the date of commencement of the Stamp Duties Act, viz., 1st November, 1882, the series of stamps used for postal purposes consisted of: One Penny, rose; Two Pence, green; and Eight Pence, dull lilac, of London printing; Three Pence, reddish-brown; Four Pence, yellow; Six Pence, violet; Nine Pence, blue; Ten Pence, black; One Shilling, vermilion; and Five Shillings, mauve (Queen's head type), of local printing.

Those in use for revenue purposes were: One Penny, slate; Three Pence, brown; Six Pence, lilac; and One Shilling, carmine (Platypus type), of London printing; and Two Shillings and Six Pence, dull lake; Five Shillings, sage-green; and Ten Shillings, salmon (St. George and Dragon type), of local printing.

The immediate result was indeed a confusion of types, colours, and printings. A heavy letter or parcel might be franked with three different types of stamps, or with two of the same value, but differing in colour, type, and inscription; and it would be marvellous if no mistakes occurred in the Post Office, when the unfortunate stampers were supposed to carry the long and confusing list of values and colours in their heads. To add to the confusion, enthusiastic but misguided stamp collectors proceeded to unearth every possible variety of the obsolete St. George and Dragon stamps which could be found in an unused state, in order to obtain these curiosities of questionable interest duly postmarked. These stamps being printed in different colours to the issue of 1880, besides having the additional value of Threepence, and being in some cases innocent of perforation, were enough to rob the officials of their reason. As these resuscitations had never been demonetised, and were permitted to frank letters, there can be no question that they may be regarded as authorized postage stamps, although the proud possessors of these curiosities are sometimes cruelly tortured by doubts as to whether a previous pen and ink cancellation was not cunningly hidden by a heavy postal obliteration struck on the stamp by some obliging post official.

The Platypus stamps seemed to excite considerable interest out of the Colony; not only stamp collectors, but others took an interest in the singular design, and commented upon it. One person, residing in England, went so far as to write a letter, published in a Hobart newspaper, in which the writer solemnly shook his head in warning at the apparent republican tendency of the colonists, in supplanting the rightful and loyal representation of Her Gracious Majesty by a loathsome "Tasmanian Devil." The foreign appellations showered upon the harmless little ornithorhynchus were bewildering in their number and variety. "Schnabelthier," "Cangourou," "Castor," "Marmot," "Beaver," "Palatypus," "Australian Duck," and "Tasmanian Devil," are some specimens of foreign nomenclature.

As long as the supply of One Penny stamps of the Platypus type lasted, the Queen's Head One Penny was withdrawn from sale—a period of about eighteen months. No fresh printings of the other postage stamps were made, with the exception of the Four Pence, of which value one book was printed in January, 1883; one in March, 1885; and one in August, 1888. The Queen's Head Three Pence, Six Pence, and One Shilling were issued, together with the Platypus, until the small stock of the former remaining on hand was exhausted, since which date those values have been represented solely by the Platypus type, the present stock of which is likely to last for some years to come.

The Saint George and Dragon Two Shillings and Six Pence, Five Shillings, and Ten Shillings were used until the exhaustion of the Five Shillings in 1885, when De la Rue's old plate of 1871 was again brought into requisition, and a fresh supply printed in the mauve colour on the glazed paper, with the second type of "TAS" watermark (*Illustration k*), and perforated both $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12. (*Illustration 15*.)

This paper was ordered in 1879, and came to hand in 1880. In the printings of the Four Pence, which took place in January, 1883; March, 1885; and August, 1888, this paper was used. (*Illustration 12*.)

A new perforating machine, gauging 12, was obtained by the Government Printer in 1884, and sheets of the Three Pence, Four Pence, Six Pence, and Five Shillings were perforated by it. (*Illustrations 14, 12, 4, 15*.)

In printing the Four Pence in August, 1888, a sheet was struck off so faintly coloured as to be unfit for use. It was returned, and a fresh impression struck on the other side. This course was adopted, as all sheets of watermarked paper issued had to be accounted for in printed stamps. The second impression was printed transversely, and the perforations cut the faint impressions, so that portions of four stamps appear on the back of each single stamp of the second impression. The paper is of the second type of "TAS" (*Illustration k*), and the perforation is 12.

The printing of the 1880 issue of the Two Shillings and Six Pence being so poor, an improvement was made by cutting the plate of 240 impressions in halves and printing a supply from the upper 120 on the "TAS" (second type) paper. (*Illustration k*.) The colour used was a deeper shade of lake, and the perforation 12. This printing took place in August, 1888. (*Illustration 7*.)

"The Post Office Amendment Act, 1888," Section 5, repealed the clause of "The Post Office Act, 1881," which authorized the carriage of all newspapers free of postage, and substituted a tariff which will be found in the appendix showing rates of postage.

A stamp of the value of a Halfpenny being required for this Act, the Secretary of the Post Office placed himself in communication with the engraver and printer of the Victorian postage stamps, with a view to ascertaining whether the necessary plates could be prepared in Melbourne, as the time between the passing and commencement of the Act was too short to allow of a supply of stamps being ordered from England. The Victorian Government kindly gave their assistance, and a die was engraved and a plate produced for type printing 120 impressions, arranged in two panes each, containing six rows of ten. The design was identical with the One Penny of De la Rue's manufacture, but the execution was somewhat coarser. This plate, however, was not ready for the 1st January, 1889, when the newspaper postage became payable. A temporary supply of provisional Halfpenny stamps was therefore made by surcharging the current One Penny stamp with the word "Halfpenny" in ordinary type in black over the original value. (*Illustration 23*.) The change was effected by the printer attached to the Post Office Department, who set up a forme composed of 120 repetitions of the new value to be surcharged, printed 60,000 stamps (500 half-sheets of 120), and then locked up the forme, in case it should again be required. The delay in furnishing the Victorian plate still continuing, it was found necessary to print a further supply of the provisional Halfpenny. Consequently the printer proceeded to strike off a supply, but without inspecting his forme. After having printed a few sheets he discovered that in the surcharge on the eighth stamp of the

top row (the second in the second pane) the letters "al" had become disturbed, and read thus—"H $\frac{1}{2}$ penny." He at once corrected the type, and completed the printing of another 60,000 stamps. This is the only error found among the surcharges, but many may be found with broken or incomplete letters, probably resulting from imperfect inking. The One Penny stamp used for this provisional was transfer No. 3.

A new supply of One Penny stamps ordered from England some months before were by mistake forwarded by a sailing vessel instead of by a steamer. This delay, and the number of One Penny stamps used for the provisional Halfpenny, caused a temporary exhaustion of the former value. Recourse was then had to the old plate of 1870, from which, on the 14th February, 1889, 500 (1000 half-sheets of 120 each) were printed at the Government Printing Office. The paper used was the surfaced kind, with the second type of "ras" watermark (*Illustration k*), and the colour produced was a bright vermilion, resembling the printing of April, 1873; but it can however be distinguished from stamps of that date by the difference of watermark. The perforation was $11\frac{1}{2}$. The two defects mentioned in Chapter viii. of course appear in this printing. The shade of vermilion varies greatly from deep to pale. (*Illustrations 10, 17.*) The expected supply arrived from England in March, but the provisionals were all used up.

The Halfpenny plate had in the meantime arrived from Melbourne. The Government Printer set to work, and printed 1869 half-sheets on the glazed paper watermarked "ras" (2nd type). (*Illustration k.*) The colour used was orange, varying very much in shade, and the perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$. The new stamp was first issued to the public on the 8th March, 1889. (*Illustration 24.*) Another printing took place in August following, but the colour of the Four Pence, a pale yellow, was used in error. Five hundred sheets had been printed when the mistake was discovered. They were all destroyed, and another five hundred sheets printed in the proper shade (or rather shades) of orange. The watermark is placed in two positions—from left to right, and from right to left—showing that the printer was indifferent as to the way in which he placed his sheets for printing. The different shades are found on the same sheet, and may be accounted for from the fact that the plate has become partly detached from its wooden bed owing to a screw giving way. The pressure is thus less on some parts of the plate than on others.

At the time the Two Shillings and Six Penny plate was cut in two, the plate containing the Five Shillings and Ten Shillings St. George and Dragon was also severed. In February, 1889, a supply of stamps was printed from the Ten Shillings plate on the old $\mathcal{L}$ watermarked paper (*Illustration b*) in a redder shade of salmon than formerly. The watermark is found both normal and inverted, and the perforation is both $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12. (*Illustration 9.*)

The 12 perforating machine (1884) got a little out of order in 1888, and the $11\frac{1}{2}$ machine was again brought into use for the provisional One Penny and the permanent Halfpenny. The 12 machine has now been put right, and it was last used on a few sheets of the Ten Pence, black (October, 1889). The practice is to print the stamps and forward them to the Post Office to be subsequently gummed and perforated, as occasion may require. Consequently there are still many sheets of the Ten Pence imperforate in stock, which will be perforated before issue.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE 1883 TO 1889.

Printed in the Colony. On surfaced white wove paper, watermarked "TAS"; 13 × 6 mm.; white gum. Perforated 11½ and 12. (*Illustrations* 15, 12; *watermark* k.)

1885. 5 shillings, mauve.

January, 1883, March, 1885, and August, 1888. 4 pence, yellow.

Variety.—Printed on both sides of the paper.

August, 1888. 4 pence, yellow.

NOTE.—In 1884 the Three Pence, Four Pence, Six Pence, and Five Shilling values (*Illustrations* 14, 12, 4, 15) were perforated 12 by a new machine. In August, 1888, the Two Shillings and Six Pence (*Illustration* 7) was printed in a deeper shade of lake upon white wove paper, watermarked "TAS," 13 × 6 mm. (*Illustration* k), and perforated 12; and in February, 1889, a fresh supply of the Ten Shillings (*Illustration* 9) was printed in a redder shade of salmon than formerly, on white wove paper, watermarked with double-lined numeral 11 (*Illustration* b); perforated 11½ and also 12.

ISSUE JANUARY 1ST, 1889.

Surcharged in the Colony, on the One Penny stamp printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. On white wove paper, watermarked diagonally "TAS," 13 × 6 mm.; white gum; perforated 14. (*Illustration* 23; *watermark* k.)

Halfpenny, black surcharge on 1d., carmine.

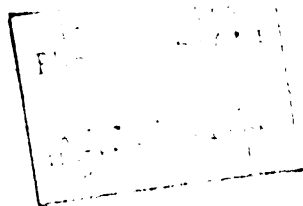
Variety.—Error of surcharge, the A and L being printed sideways one over the other, "H $\frac{1}{2}$ P."

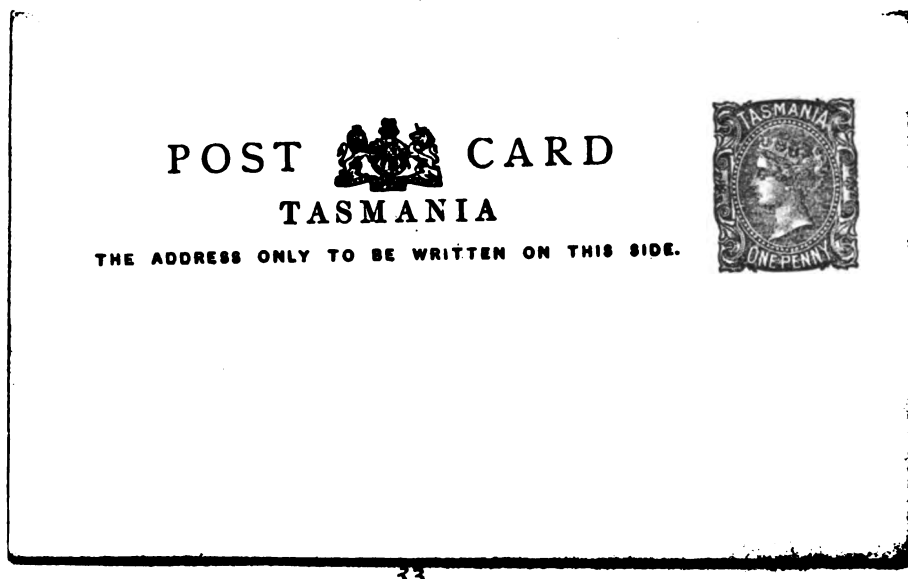
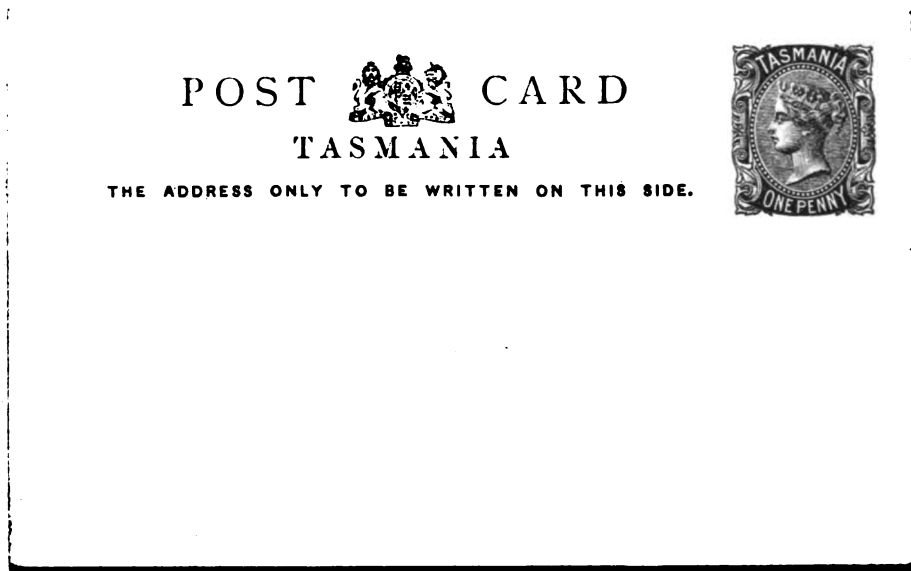
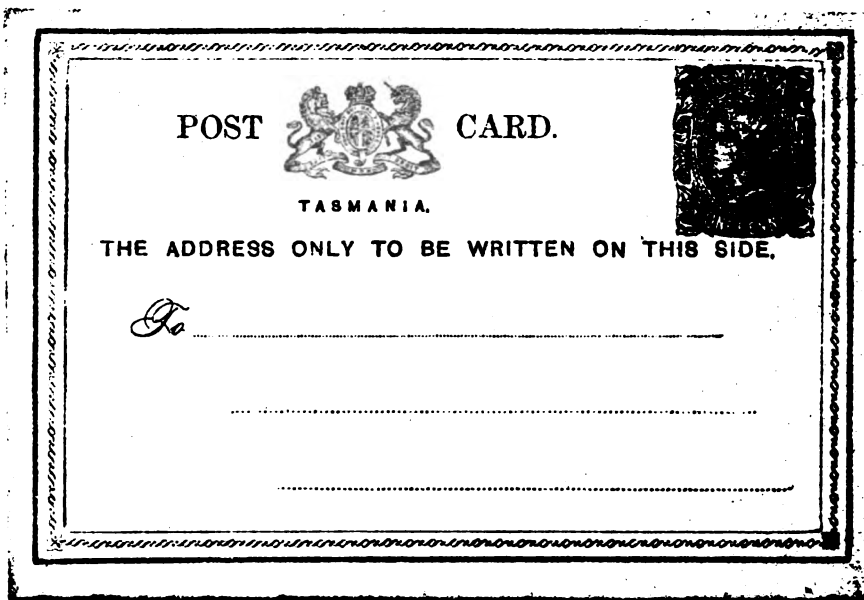
ISSUE FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1889.

Printed in the Colony. On white wove surfaced paper, watermarked diagonally "TAS," 13 × 6 mm.; white gum; perforated 11½. (*Illustrations* 10, 24; *watermark* k.)

February 14th, 1889. 1 penny, bright vermilion (shades).

March 8th, 1889. ½ penny, orange, very deep to pale yellowish (shades).





CHAPTER XII.

POSTAL CARDS.

AS early as the 13th October, 1875, the question of the introduction of the post card system was debated. New South Wales was applied to for specimens of the newly issued cards of that Colony, which were supplied on the 24th November following; but the matter was then allowed to drop, not to be again referred to until five years afterwards.

In 1880 a clause was inserted in the Post Office Bill, brought before the House of Assembly during the session of that year, to the effect that "Post Cards may be sent by post between places in *Tasmania* at a postage rate of One Penny each, impressed or printed thereon."

This clause passed the House of Assembly, but was rejected by the Legislative Council chiefly on the ground that post cards might be used as a means of insult by anonymous letter writers, and it was also objected to as an unnecessary innovation of which the public would be very slow to avail themselves.

Upon this Messrs. J. Walch and Sons, of Hobart, the leading booksellers in the Colony, issued a card lithographed in colour on white and buff paper at the *Mercury* office, which bore an inscription in six lines as follows :

"WALCH'S
"TASMANIAN POST CARD.

"All persons who approve of the introduction of a Penny Postal Card for delivery in any part of the Colony are solicited to encourage the movement by the use of this card.

"The address only to be written on this side."

The word "To" heads the space devoted to the address. In the upper right hand corner, within a rectangle formed on two sides by the border, and on the other two by plain lines which nearly touch it, are the words "Inland—Postage—2d." and "Town—Postage—1d." each in three lines, a single coloured line dividing the two inscriptions. The whole is enclosed in an ornamental border $111\frac{1}{2} \times 72\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

These cards were sold by Messrs. Walch and Sons in packets of one dozen for 3d., and were used to such an extent that there could no longer be any reason to doubt the convenience and usefulness of a Government issue, which would also carry a reduction in the rate of postage.

Therefore when the same clause was re-inserted in the Post Office Act of 1881 it passed without any marked opposition, and the date of the Act coming into operation was fixed for the 1st January, 1882.

In August, 1880, before the rejection of the first proposal for the introduction of post cards, the Secretary of the Post Office wrote to the Postmaster-General, Melbourne, stating that the Legislature of the Colony were likely to agree to the system of postal cards being introduced, asked for information as to the process of printing, cost of cards per 1000, price charged, &c., and requested to be supplied with samples of paper. A reply was received on the 2nd September, with specimens of paper, and covering an offer from Messrs. Sands and McDougall, of Melbourne, to supply the same.

When the Act of 1881 passed, Mr. Douglas placed himself in communication with Messrs. F. T. Wimble and Co., of Melbourne, the stationers who had been in the habit of supplying inks, &c., used for printing postage stamps of Tasmania, and requested them to forward designs and estimates for preparing a plate from which post cards could be printed. These were sent in due course, and the following letter written in reply :

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, HOBART,
"16th November, 1881.

"MESSRS. F. T. WIMBLE AND CO.,
"70, Little Collins Street, E. Melbourne.

"DEAR SIRS.—*Re* Postal Cards. The one approved is returned herein with another coat of arms attached ; pleased have one like it inserted in lieu of the original, it is noticed that there is barely room for the stamp. This card is to be sent back here with plate when finished, and the greatest speed is urged for the plate to be completed and sent forward per first opportunity. The paper must be sent with plate sufficient to print 50,000 cards ; if nothing better can be obtained, forward No. 1. . . . The stamp plate is sent to-day to Melbourne Post Office, and an officer will be sent with it to your establishment for the purpose of taking the electros. You will receive it early on Friday morning, if not, apply to the Deputy Postmaster-General to send it with one of his officers of course. Nine impressions on plate would be best, save time and paper.

"Yours very truly,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secy.*"

In order to ensure some official supervision, and to guard against accident, a letter was written on the same date to F. W. Jackson, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne, in these words :

"DEAR SIR,—I beg to solicit the favour of your assistance with reference to having postal card electro plate made in Melbourne for this Department. Messrs. F. T. Wimble and Co., of 70, Little Collins Street East, have the order, and the postage plate I take the liberty of sending to you, feeling sure you will give me your assistance in the matter. Of course it is necessary for the greatest care to be taken with the plate, and so I beg to ask that a responsible officer be allowed to attend Messrs. Wimble with it, and instructed not to lose sight of it. When done with to be carefully re-packed and placed in a secure place for transmission back.

"Two samples of paper are enclosed, of either of which I would be glad to get a supply sufficient to print 50,000 cards ; No. 1 sample preferred. May I ask, if obtainable, that you would inform Messrs. Wimble? Apologising for troubling you,

Believe me, yours very truly,

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*"

The plate referred to was the one of November, 1870, which, having been superseded by the new one of October, 1878, was lying idle at the time.

A plate for printing one card only was prepared and sent over early in December. This was sent down to the *Mercury* Office (Davies Bros.) printing

establishment, and a lithographic transfer made, from which 50,000 cards were printed in rose-carmine on buff card.

The stamp on the card is at best but a poor transfer of the One Penny adhesive of November, 1870; it is impressed in the upper right hand corner. The Imperial Arms are in the centre of the design, with "Post" to left and "Card" to right in Roman capitals; "Tasmania" in small block letters beneath the Arms. "The address only to be written on this side" in medium-sized block letters, with "To" in script type beneath, completes the inscriptions. There are three dotted lines for the address, and the whole is enclosed in a frame 110 × 71 mm., composed of thick outer and thin inner line enclosing an ornamental cable border. The card is of yellowish buff colour, and rather coarse in texture; 118½ × 75 mm. in size. The shade of colour of the impression varies considerably. (*Illustration 31.*)

This card was issued for use on the 1st January, 1882, and continued in issue for eight months. 38,961 were used during the six months ending 30th June, 1882.

Shortly after obtaining Wimbles' plate, the Secretary of the Post Office sent in a requisition to the Colonial Storekeeper for post cards, and a plate for printing the same, in the following terms:

"29th December, 1881. Requisition for *post cards* (pattern attached in triplicate), 100,000. To be sent in lots of 240, with thin coloured paper (green) between each 60 cards, to facilitate counting them.

"Post card electro plate to print nine cards in one impression. 1. To print the cards in a similar manner to postage stamp plate. The middle line of the border of the card to be improved in design, but not to be of a heavier description.

"Paper, double crown manilla cartridge of superfine quality, smooth surface, twelve reams. Pattern attached in triplicate, but that to be supplied to be of a much superior quality.

"Ink, sufficient to print cards off above paper. Colour, rose-pink, same as sample postage stamp. *Note.*—The stamp to be engraved on plate to be exactly like One Penny postage stamp (triplicate sample herewith) in every particular. (Sd.) A. C. D., *Secretary.*"

The storekeeper's indent outwards was for

"Post cards, 100,000, as per pattern.

Plate for post cards, one.

Paper, double crown, twelve reams.

Ink, rose-pink, sufficient to print cards from the paper.

"N.B.—The paper may be sent of a size to print one impression from the above plate, but in such case the number of reams of paper must be increased proportionately."

Messrs. De la Rue & Co., of London, prepared the electro plate, and their account was dated 17th May, 1882.

"To preparing a plate for the One Penny Tasmanian post cards . . . £15.
 „ 38,400 cards.
 „ 21 reams of paper.
 „ 5 lbs. carmine fugitive ink."

The balance of the 100,000 cards was sent on later with the plate, arriving in Tasmania about August, 1882, and the new cards were brought into use in September.

The instructions as to copying Wimble's design were disregarded, so far as the border was concerned, for the new card was quite innocent of such an ornament, and its appearance is certainly the better for the omission. The stamp is from the die used for the One Penny adhesive stamp by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., impressed in the right upper corner; Imperial Arms in the centre, with "POST" to left and "CARD" to right in large, and "Tasmania" in smaller Roman capitals underneath arms. "THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE" follows in small block letters. The card has neither border nor lines for the address. The colour is the bright carmine of the One Penny adhesive, and the card is thick, white, and highly surfaced. Size, $120\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (*Illustration 32.*)

On the 6th November, 1883, another order was sent to England for

"Plate for printing Tasmanian post cards of the value of One Penny, similar to the plate furnished by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. on the 17th May, 1882, and charged for in their invoice of that date at a cost of £15, and 100,000 printed cards.

"To be retained by the Crown Agents for printing post cards when required."

From this order it seems that the Secretary had a lurking doubt as to the ability of the Government Printing Office to turn out efficient work, a doubt which was only too well founded.

The order was not executed until 12th May, 1884, and the supplies only reached Hobart on the 23rd July following. In the meantime, however, the supply of 1882 ran short, and the first English plate was handed to the Government printer with instructions to produce a provisional supply.

He printed 45,360 from the 10th to 27th June, 1884, and on the 18th July following they were issued for use.

The workmanship was very bad indeed, the production being but a caricature of De la Rue's neat card. The colour was plastered on so thickly that at first it came out in a dark marone shade, and then gradually lightened up to a greyish-pink; all shades would sometimes be found in one packet of sixty. In some cases the design was placed at an angle, sloping across the card; in others it appeared in the centre instead of in the upper portion.

The card was of the same quality as the English printed ones, but it was cut to a different size; viz., 123×72 mm. (*Illustration 33.*)

Though the new supply from De la Rue's second plate arrived just five days after the issue of these local blunders, they were held back until the whole 45,000 were exhausted, and in February, 1885, the fresh-looking English productions were once more issued. The design was of course the same, being merely a fresh electro from the old die; but the card was cut to a slightly different shape, $121 \times 74\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

In June, 1884, July, 1886, and April, 1887, three lots of 100,000 each were ordered from England, to be printed from the plate in the possession of the Crown Agents, and in due time supplied. A supply ordered in June, 1888, however, did not arrive in time, and the Government printer once more tried his skill, and produced, in December, 1888, 20,000 cards from De la Rue's first plate. The execution this time was a marked improvement upon the former attempt, so far as printing goes; but the colour came out in quite a vermilion shade, varying a good deal, though not in so marked a degree as the former local printing. A further 10,000 were printed in the same colour in February, 1889, and on the 4th March the English supply arrived by the *Dundale*.

SYNOPSIS.

POST CARDS.

ISSUE JANUARY 1ST, 1882.

Printed in the Colony, from a lithographic transfer of the 1870 die of the One Penny stamp, on pale buff card, $118\frac{1}{2} \times 75$ mm., with double-lined frame. (*Illustration 31.*)
1d., carmine, pale to dark.

ISSUE SEPTEMBER, 1882.

Printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. from the die of the current One Penny stamp. On thick, white, highly-surfaced card, $120\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (*Illustration 32.*)
1 penny, bright carmine (shades).

ISSUE 18TH JULY, 1884.

Printed in the Colony as a provisional issue from the 1870 die of the One Penny stamp. On thick, white, surfaced card, 123×72 mm., the impression being rough and poor. (*Illustration 33.*)
1d., marone (first printing), greyish-pink, rose, dull lake (shades).

ISSUE DECEMBER, 1888, AND FEBRUARY, 1889.

Provisional issue; as last, but better printed.
1 penny, vermilion (shades).

CHAPTER XIII.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

AS far back as May, 1872, the Honourable Charles Meredith, at that time Minister of Lands and Works, suggested the introduction of stamped envelopes for postal purposes. The Postmaster-General (the Hon. F. M. Innes) thanked him for the suggestion, and stated that the matter would receive every consideration. He also pointed out that there would be some necessary delay before the system could be introduced, as the dies for impressing the envelopes would have to be procured from London.

Letters were sent on the 13th June, 1872, to the Secretaries of the General Post Offices at Melbourne and Sydney asking for six specimens of each of the stamped envelopes and stamped newspaper wrappers then issued to the public by the Postal Departments of those Colonies respectively. These were supplied immediately, but as the Ministry went out of office in August, 1873, nothing further was done in the matter.

In 1882, the Hon. John Stokell Dodds being Postmaster-General, the subject was again brought up, and a requisition sent to the Colonial Storekeeper in the following terms :

"23rd March, 1882.

"REQUISITION FOR

"Envelopes, Stamped, Two Pence (green stamp), size as per pattern in triplicate, best paper and such as writing will not shew through, well gummed and superior make, to be made up into packets of 240, a piece of green paper to be laid between each packet. The stamp (green) on envelope, instead of being oblong form to be of a somewhat oval shape or the corners slightly taken off, just to differ from the ordinary Two Penny postage stamp.

"Registered Letter Envelopes, in size and make as per pattern herewith. 2000 of smaller size and 1000 of larger ; the stamp on the back to represent Four Pence and to be somewhat different in design, but shewing the Queen's head and the name 'Tasmania' and 'Registration Four Pence.' In dealing with this matter, should any difficult point arise, it is suggested that application be made to the Secretary of the General Post Office, London, for him to be kind enough to appoint an officer to decide.

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, Secretary."

The indent for these articles was sent to London on the 17th April, 1882, as follows :

"Stamped Envelopes. 100,000 size as per pattern.

<i>"Envelopes, Registered Letter.</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>} Size and make as per pattern enclosed."</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>2000</i>	

I cannot ascertain what envelopes were sent as patterns for the registration envelopes, but probably they were those of New South Wales.

34



R

REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED AND A

AN OFFICER OF THE POST
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

35

R

REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

36



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

37



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

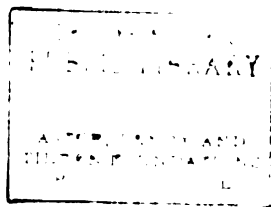
AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

38



39



On the 9th February, 1883, Mr. Douglas wrote to the Postmaster-General :

"Stamped envelopes (4d.) for registered letters and stamped envelopes (2d.) for ordinary letters having recently been received from London, instructions are required as to the regulations under which they are to be issued. I would suggest 4d. each for the former in order to encourage registration, and 2s. 3d. per doz. or 4 for 9d. for the latter."

The *Hobart Gazette* of Tuesday, 27th March, 1883, contained the following notice :

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,

"21st March, 1883.

"PUBLIC NOTICE. ISSUE OF STAMPED ENVELOPES.

"It is notified for public information, that on and after Monday, the 2nd proximo, envelopes, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ in., with Twopenny stamp embossed, will be sold to the public in packets of one dozen for 2s. 3d., or, if required, four stamped envelopes for 9d.

"Special envelopes of two sizes, viz., $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. $\times$ $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., and $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. $\times$ $3\frac{1}{4}$ in., for registration purposes, with embossed registration stamp, 4d., will also be sold to the public, the charge being 4d. each.

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*"

A circular to this effect was sent to all Postmasters, and the issue took place on the date above mentioned ; viz., 2nd April, 1883.

The dies were engraved and the envelopes embossed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. The Twopenny envelope is of white laid unwatermarked paper ; the flap is pointed ; the gum is long, and slightly yellowish in colour. Size $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ in., or 140×80 mm. The stamp is impressed in green in the right hand upper corner. Design : Diademed profile of Queen Victoria to left, embossed in white on a solid ground and enclosed by an upright reticulated oval band, inscribed in coloured block letters, "Tasmania Postage" above and "Twopence" below, the inscriptions being separated from each other by coloured dots. Surrounding this is a white embossed beaded oval line, and the design is completed by a serrated outer line of colour. (*Illustration 34.*)

The registration envelopes are made of stout white wove linen-lined paper. The face and back of the envelope are each divided into four equal compartments by two lines, which cross at right angles, and are continued from the face to the back of the envelope. On the face, in the upper part, is an inscription in two lines, "This Letter must be given to an Officer of the Post Office—to be Registered, and a Receipt obtained for it," in small block capitals. Above this inscription, in large block capitals, are the words, "Registered Letter," divided from each other by the perpendicular crossing line which falls between them. In the left upper corner is a large block capital "R," and in the right the inscription, in block letters in five lines, "The Stamp—to Pay the—Postage—must be—Placed Here," enclosed in a single-lined rectangular frame. The flap is rounded, is without the linen lining, and is completely covered with white gum. On the reverse, beneath the flap, appears the imprint, "M'Corquodale and Co., Limited, Contractors." (*Illustrations 35, 36.*) The stamp is impressed in pale blue on the flap, and is of the following design : Embossed diademed profile of Queen Victoria to left on solid ground, within a circular reticulated embossed band, inscribed "Tasmania Registration" above and "Four Pence" below in coloured block letters, the inscriptions being separated from each other by coloured dots. Within the circular band and enframing the profile is a kind of twelve-sided figure, touching

the band at each of the twelve angles. There is a white dot in each interstice. The design is completed by an outer circle of colour bearing a notched circular line embossed in white. (*Illustration 39.*)

The design and inscriptions are all in pale blue. Size A, $5\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ in., or 132×82 mm.; size B, $5\frac{9}{16} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ in., or 151×98 mm.

On the 4th April, 1883, a requisition was sent to the Colonial Storekeeper to obtain from England with despatch:

"	Stamped Envelopes.	100,000 stamped at 2d.
"		5000 Registered, large size.
"		5000 " small size.

The indent was forwarded to England on the 6th April, and the supply was received early in 1884. The larger size was issued in April and the smaller in July, 1884.

The Two Penny envelopes are identically the same as the first supply, except for a slight difference of shade in the colour, which is more of a yellow-green.

The stamp on the flap of the registration envelopes is the same as before, but the inscriptions are printed in ultramarine, and the large "R" in the left upper corner is enclosed in an oval band. The gum, instead of being spread all over the flap, is about three-quarters of an inch wide and follows the rounded shape of the edge. (*Illustrations 37, 38, 39.*)

Neither the ordinary embossed Two Penny envelopes nor the registration ones are much used; the price of the former is too high and the latter are merely adapted for letters containing drafts or other remittances of small bulk.

SYNOPSIS.

ENVELOPES.

ISSUE APRIL 2ND, 1883.

Printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. on thick white laid surfaced paper. Size, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches (or 140×80 mm.) (*Illustration 34.*)

2 pence, green (shades).

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES.

ISSUE APRIL 2ND, 1883.

Printed by Messrs. M'Corquodale and Co., Ltd., on stout white wove linen-lined paper, with stamp embossed on the flap, by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. (*Illustrations 35, 36, 39.*)

Size A, $5\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or 132×82 mm.

4 pence, pale blue (shades).

Size B, $5\frac{9}{16} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or 151×98 mm.

4 pence, pale blue (shades).

ISSUE APRIL AND JULY, 1884.

Printed by Messrs. M'Corquodale and Co., Ltd., in ultramarine, on stout white wove linen-lined paper, with the stamp embossed in blue on the flap, by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. Two sizes, same as those of the previous issue. The face of each envelope bears a large letter "R" within an oval in the left upper corner. (*Illustrations 37, 38, 39.*)

July, 1884. Size A, 4 pence, ultramarine, stamp in blue (shades).

April " " B 4 " " (").

CHAPTER XIV.

OFFICIAL FRANK STAMPS.

WITH the exception of the short period in 1859, when postage stamps were issued to Government Departments for use, all official correspondence was franked by the signature of the official enjoying that privilege, placed in the position usually occupied by a stamp.

In some Departments, where the correspondence was particularly heavy, the signing of a large number of letters daily was such a tax upon the head of the Department that in some instances those officials had hand-stamp *fac-similes* of their signatures prepared, which were used as franks. The system, however, was not a good one, and in January, 1883, a request was forwarded to the Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne, to procure a frank stamp for the Post Office Department similar to that of Victoria, but with the name "Tasmania." The letter conveying this request also stated that several more of the kind would be required for other Departments shortly. These, however, it was ultimately decided to obtain from England, and an indent was forwarded on 13th March, 1883, for—

"Steel Stamps (7)—Treasury, Chief Secretary, Attorney General, Minister of Lands and Works, Postmaster-General, Real Estates (2), one of these to have the letter N engraved thereon immediately above the Royal Arms.

"Royal Arms to be smaller, as per pattern herewith.

"A supply of colour to be sent similar to that used with this stamp.

"For letters and packets, size $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter."

These were engraved by Mr. D. G. Berri, of London, in May, 1883; they reached Hobart about July following.

On the 8th August, 1883, the Secretary of the Post Office wrote to the Treasurer referring to the frank stamps lately received from London, and recommending that they be issued with a circular, enjoining great care in *bond-fide* use.

The circular was issued from the Treasury on that date in the following words:

"Regulations regarding Stamp for Franking Letters.

"Rule *re* Frank Stamp.—It must be kept in the custody of a responsible officer, and kept under lock and key.

"The greatest care must be taken in seeing that none but letters *bond-fide* 'On Public Service Only' are stamped with it.

"A clear impression of the stamp to be at all times made on the right-hand top corner of each envelope, immediately underneath the words, 'On Public Service Only,' and as a special protection to the revenue each department must have its name printed on the left-hand bottom corner of every envelope.

"TREASURY, 8th August, 1883."

On the 23rd August, 1883, this circular was sent to all Postmasters :

“With reference to the franking of letters, &c., ‘On Public Service Only,’ postmasters are informed that the undermentioned Departments are permitted to use a frank stamp of a pattern similar to the impression at the foot hereof :

“The Chief Secretary.	The Treasurer.
The Minister of Lands.	The Attorney-General.
The Postmaster-General.	The Secretary of the Post Office.
The Real Estate Duty (<i>sic</i>).	The Government Statistician.”

The impression referred to was that of the “Postmaster-General” in violet.

In May, 1883, an order was sent to England for a frank stamp for the “Statistician.”

In November, 1883, a further order was sent to England for a frank stamp—“Public Works Office, Hobart”—similar to those supplied by Mr. D. G. Berri in May, 1883; and in February, 1884, a frank stamp for “Education Department, Tasmania,” was also ordered from England.

The design of these English engraved frank stamps is very similar to that of the Victorian franks; namely, Royal Arms in centre, with name of Department in arch above, “TASMANIA” in a straight line immediately below Arms, and “FRANK STAMP” in arch below Tasmania, the whole enclosed in a single-line circle. In the Arms the lion is in full face, and the motto is on a riband consisting of *two* folds, the word “*MON*” being half hidden by the point of the shield, which cuts the riband. The die is of gun metal fixed to a handle, and the impression is handstamped, an ordinary inking-pad being used. The size of the die varies from 29 to 30 mm. in diameter. (*Illustration 25.*)

The three later ones differ slightly in detail from the first supply. In the Public Works Office the point of the shield separates the words “*ET MON*” without touching either, and the supporters are better drawn and less grotesque in appearance. The Education Department shows the riband more arched, and the diameter is a little over 30 mm. In the Government Statistician the riband is not touched by the point of the shield.

In addition to the above, it is evident that the “Secretary, General Post Office,” was engraved by Berri, although I cannot find any order or invoice for it. It is identical in type with the first supply, and is 29 mm. in diameter. (*Illustration 25.*)

The “Tasmanian Railways,” which appeared some time in 1884, is of a very different type, and I can find no record about it. The shield is circular; the supporters are standing very nearly upright, the lion being in full face; the motto is on a riband in one unbroken arch, and the word “Tasmania” is not found beneath the arms. It is only 28 mm. in diameter. (*Illustration 26.*)

The “Governor, Tasmania,” is of another type, and was probably engraved by Dürre, of Melbourne; the inscriptions are enclosed in a double-lined circle, the Arms completely filling the centre space; the motto being on a triple riband very much curved.

Since January, 1886, all the frank stamps have been engraved by Dürre, of Melbourne. His type is very similar for each Department, differing only slightly

in the smaller details. In the Arms the shield is oval, and does not touch the riband, which is in *three* curves; the supporters are both in profile; the name of the department is above, "Frank Stamp" below, the inscriptions being separated by ornamental periods; and the word "Tasmania" is in a straight line beneath the Arms. The size varies from 30 to 32 mm. in diameter. The dies are fixed in patent self-inking spring handles, which produce very clear, even impressions. (*Illustrations* 27, 28, 29, 30.)

These stamps denote merely that the mail matter which bears them is exempt from postage, and not that the postage has in any way been prepaid by means of the stamp.

Official post cards are found bearing the frank stamps, but they have no special significance apart from ordinary official correspondence.

The following is a fairly complete list of types and colours. The numerous varieties of colour of the English engraved stamps are due to the inking pads becoming exhausted, and fresh ones of different colours being substituted:

ENGRAVED BY BERRI, LONDON.

ISSUED 8TH AUGUST, 1883.

Secretary General Post Office (<i>Illustration</i> 25).	Blue, black, violet, lake.
Treasury	Black, blue, violet, mauve, violet-brown.
Chief Secretary	Blue, mauve.
Attorney-General	Black, blue, mauve, reddish-lilac.
Minister of Lands	Black, blue, rose.
Postmaster-General	Blue, violet, black, lake.
R. E. Duties Department	Blue.
" " (with capital N over arms, for use in Launceston)	Blue.

NOVEMBER, 1883.

Government Statistician	Blue.
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MAY, 1884.

Public Works Office, Hobart	Black.
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AUGUST, 1884.

Education Department	Black, greenish-black, blue, rose.
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(?) *ENGRAVERS AND DATE* (1884-5).

Tasmanian Railways (<i>Illustration</i> 26)	Blue.
Governor Tasmania	Blue.

ENGRAVED BY HERMANN DÜRRE, MELBOURNE.

Legislative Council (<i>Illustration</i> 28)	Black	March, 1886.
Chairman General Hospital Board	Blue	" "
Premier's Office	"	April "
Office of Stores	"	May "
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk	"	Aug. "
Marine Board, Launceston	"	March, 1887.
Electric Telegraph, Hobart	Mauve, blue	" "
Marine Board, Hobart	Blue	April "
Superintendent Country Rifle Clubs (<i>Illust.</i> 30)	"	June "

Crown Solicitor (<i>Illustration 29</i>).	.	.	Blue	.	.	.	Aug., 1887.
H.M. Customs, Hobart	.	.	"	.	.	.	March, 1888.
„ Launceston	.	.	"	.	.	.	„ „
Government Medical Officer	.	.	"	.	.	.	„ „
Corporation of Hobart	.	.	"	.	.	.	April „
Postmaster, Launceston	.	.	"	.	.	.	May „
Chief Inspector of Sheep	.	.	"	.	.	.	Oct. „
Corporation of Launceston	.	.	"	.	.	.	Jany., 1889.
Mersey Marine Board	.	.	"	.	.	.	„ „

(1) DATES OF ISSUE.

Audit Department	.	.	Blue.
House of Assembly (<i>Illustration 27</i>)	.	.	Rose.
P.O. Money Order and Savings Bank	.	.	Blue, violet.
Secretary of Mines	.	.	Rose.
H ^d . O ^r . Defence Force	.	.	Blue.

CHAPTER XV.

BISECTED POSTAGE STAMPS.

AMONGST a number of stamps, used and on the original covers, which were obtained from the correspondence of a deceased acquaintance, I found what appeared to be an authentic case of the bisection of a Two Penny stamp to represent the payment of a One Penny rate. The stamp was the right-hand half of the imperforate Two Pence, Van Diemen's Land, of the early sage-green shade (1857-63), which had been divided vertically through the centre, cutting the word "Diemens" just before the second *e*, and dividing the "Two" from "Pence." The severance had evidently been effected with a penknife, as was shown by the clean cut on the face of the stamp and the slightly ragged edge at the back. The envelope bearing the bisection was entire, but was absolutely without date, and the letter which it had contained had been removed and destroyed before the cover came into my possession. The stamp is cancelled with a pen and ink obliteration formed of two vertical and three diagonal strokes thus . This variety of cancellation was a very common one during 1854-64, and its origin is fully explained in the chapter on postmarks and cancellations. (Chapter XX.)

The letter was addressed "Cornhill, Sorell." Cornhill is a farm a few miles from the township of Sorell, and letters addressed there remained at the Sorell office until called for. The One Penny stamp was used for town or "drop" letters only, consequently the bisected stamp would represent that rate; and there being no mark of a second receiving office on the envelope, it may be taken for granted that this was a drop letter; *i.e.*, one posted at Sorell for delivery at that office. It was not until 1859 that the Two Penny stamp was used to represent a rate of its own; *viz.*, the suburban rate on letters for delivery within five miles of Hobart or Launceston. Prior to that date the Two Pence was used solely to represent the double-weight town letter. The letter under discussion, from its small size and flatness, could not have exceeded the half ounce; and Sorell being twelve miles from Hobart and 133 from Launceston, it could not have been a "suburban" letter. Upon submitting the envelope in question to the Secretary of the Post Office, Hobart, I received the assurance that it was no uncommon occurrence, in cases where postmasters temporarily exhausted their stock of One Penny or Two Penny stamps, to bisect a higher value, but that at no time was the practice officially approved or authorised, although, from the nature of the circumstances, the mutilated stamp was permitted to pass as having done postal duty.

Amongst the correspondence of the Post Office Department I found the following letter :

"POST OFFICE, LAUNCESTON,
"12th July, 1858.

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that in the mail which arrived from Port Sorell to-day were twenty letters; envelopes of some of the letters in question I enclose. You will perceive in addition to the Four Penny stamp that another stamp has been cut in half to make up the Six Penny rate. As the letters were addressed to different parts, I could do no other than forward them, as the blame evidently rests with the Postmaster at that station in allowing himself to run short of Two Penny stamps.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) W. WINDEATT, *for the Postmaster.*

"The Secretary,
"General Post Office,
"Hobart Town."

This letter is endorsed :

"Referred to the Postmaster at Port Sorell for his report. One case of this description has been recently brought under the notice of the Government, and has been considered such an extraordinary procedure that it was supposed no second person could be found to adopt such a course, at all events without seeking information from head-quarters whether such a peculiar mode could by any possibility be sanctioned. (Sd.) S. T. HARDINGE, *Secretary.*

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, *July 13th, 1858.*"

The envelopes referred to, five in number, were all addressed to different persons in Launceston, and were franked, as stated in Mr. Windeatt's letter, with a Four Penny stamp, and the half of another vertically divided in the centre. In three of them the half stamp was attached to the whole one, the other two having the half severed from the whole stamp and affixed at its side. All were cancelled in black with a straggling pen-stroke, which in every instance is confined to the stamp, and does not extend on to the cover itself. On the back of each envelope is the Launceston postmark of "Pre-paid. 12 Jy 12 1858" in three lines, within oblong rectangular frame, in red.

There was no record of a report from the Postmaster at Port Sorell.

Here, therefore, is unquestionable evidence of at least ten Four Penny stamps having been bisected, and the twenty halves doing duty as Two Penny stamps, and although not officially authorised, they certainly did postal duty in that mutilated condition.

21 Vict. No. 38, "The Post Office Act, 1858," raised the inland rate of postage to 6d. for every half ounce, and was in force from 1st March to 31st December, 1858. Although the Sixpenny stamps were received from England in January, 1858, country postmasters were slow to make use of them, using instead a Two Penny and Four Penny stamp to represent the rate.

It seems singular that these two recorded cases of authentic bisection should have occurred at places bearing very similar names. "Port Sorell," however, is 250 miles from "Sorell," being situated in the extreme north of the island, whilst the latter place is south of Hobart. It is just possible that the "one case" referred to in Mr. Hardinge's remarks might have been the "Sorell" case, although, from the peculiar shade of the stamp in question, I should be inclined to assign it a later date than 1858.

We have to pass over a long period of time before coming to another instance of bisection, and this time it is to a stamp not entirely free from the taint of curiosity manufacturing.

On the 27th July, 1886, the Postmaster at Ellesmere, the post-town of the Scottsdale district, found a dozen envelopes amongst his mail, all of which were franked with the half of a Two Penny stamp, diagonally divided, and addressed to a resident in the township.

Being acquainted with the handwriting of the addressor, and, as he afterwards said in reporting on the matter to the Postmaster-General, believing that the sender had more money than sense, or that he wished to increase the revenue at his own expense, the Postmaster at Ellesmere allowed the letters to pass as being franked by these half stamps. On the matter coming to the ears of the Head Office at Hobart, he was, however, cautioned not to allow such irregularities to occur in future. It is probable that a considerable number of these fragments were passed through the Ellesmere office by the enthusiastic manufacturer before official attention was called to the matter; but there can be no doubt that from first to last there was more design than accident in their production.

In September last another enthusiastic, but misguided, Hobart collector being on a visit to the little mining township of Zeehan, and finding a difficulty in obtaining Two Penny stamps, stamped two letters with the two halves of a Four Penny stamp divided diagonally, and these were passed both by the Post Office at Zeehan, received at the Head Office at Hobart, and delivered in due course without comment.

There can be no doubt that although no regulation or official authority exists as to the acceptance of mutilated stamps in prepayment of postage, a certain tacit understanding exists that if the receiving postmaster is satisfied that the fragment tendered in prepayment is really a *bonâ fide* unused stamp thus severed to represent a half rate, he may use his own discretion and receive it in payment of such rate; but these "split stamps," especially the two latter varieties, can scarcely claim a place in a collection as legitimate issues.

CHAPTER XVI.

REPRINTED AND SPECIMEN STAMPS.

PRIOR to 1879 no provision had been made for a supply of specimen sets of stamps to meet the continually recurring demands of foreign Governments. As a rule, any official or well-authenticated application for such a specimen set was granted. The stamps then current and any obsolete ones obtainable were forwarded, the face value credited to the Accountant of Stamps, and an authority for the expenditure obtained from the Colonial Auditor.

Requests, however, became more frequent, and the Tasmanian Postmasters-General from time to time made collections of foreign stamps for their own amusement, applying to foreign Post Offices for sets of stamps, which were generally supplied with a request for reciprocity, so that the roundabout system became irksome. So many applicants also wanted specimens of not only the current stamps, but also all obsolete varieties, that as no remainders had been kept in stock, these requests could not be granted.

Early in 1879 the Secretary of the Post Office decided to print off a supply of stamps from the old plates. He forwarded the plates to the Government printer, obtained the necessary authority for the printing from the Treasurer, and in order that everything might be in correct form wrote thus to the Colonial Auditor :

“*March 28th, 1879.*”

“The Honourable the Treasurer’s authority for the printing of specimen sheets of the postage stamps, now obsolete, in order to comply with applications for them from foreign Governments, is forwarded herewith to the Auditor.

“These stamps are now being printed—viz., two sheets of each, 240 stamps to the sheet—

1d., 2d.,*	3d., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s.,	4d.,	2d., 1d.,
1st issue	Bill Stamps	1st issue V.D.L.	2nd issue V.D.L.

and 8d. and 4d. (*yellow*), of recent issue.

Two sheets of 5s., 1s., 10d., 9d., 6d., 4d. (*blue*), 3d., 2d., 1d. were printed as specimens in the year 1871, a sufficient supply of which is now on hand to accede to requests from foreign governments for specimens.

“(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary.*”

As I have before explained, in the official acceptance of the term, a “sheet” means 240 impressions, that number being contained in the plates of the One Penny, Two Pence, and Four Pence, of 1855, the Six Pence and One Shilling of 1858, and the fiscal Three Pence and Two and Six Pence of 1863–4. The plates of the One Penny and Four Pence of 1853 contained only 24 each. The Five Shilling and Ten Shilling fiscals of 1864 were on one plate, 120 impressions of each, and the issues of 1870 and subsequent dates contain 120 impressions each to the plate. Consequently the order to the Government printer would mean the

* *Sic.*

striking off of ten impressions from each of the plates of the 1853 issue; two from each of the plates of the 1855 issue, and the Three Penny and Two Shillings and Six Penny fiscals; and four from those of the Five Shilling and Ten Shilling fiscals, and Four Pence and Eight Pence of 1876-8; the two "sheets" printed in 1871 of the other values being in reality four impressions from each plate.

Under date 20th July, 1865, the Secretary of the Post Office, writing to the Secretary G.P.O., London, said, "I have been unsuccessful in obtaining ten specimens of the stamps (One Penny blue) referred to in the latter part of your letter. . . I believe you are aware that the plate for printing them has long since been destroyed, which is the cause of so much difficulty being experienced in collecting them now."

I cannot now ascertain the exact date of the destruction of these plates, but it probably took place shortly after the receipt of the plates of 1855 from Perkins and Bacon.

This destruction was effected by striking cuts across the face of each stamp with a chisel. The reprints of 1879 bear this unmistakeable imprint of their true nature, in addition to which, for convenience of separating the specimens, the printer perforated the sheets. The better and finer engraved of the two plates of the Four Pence (*Plate B*) was used on this occasion.

Towards the end of 1886, or early in 1887, Mr. Douglas caused a few impressions to be struck from the coarser plate of the Four Pence of 1853 (*Plate C*) on thick white lithographic paper; more, however, for the advance of philatelic research than for supplying foreign governments.

The reprinted stamps being printed only for transmission to foreign Governments, were never sold, although many applications were received for them.

The following is a description of the three series of reprints above mentioned, grouped chronologically :

PRINTING OF 1871.

Types and values of issue 1858; steel plate, engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., London; 240 impressions to the sheet; soft white wove unwatermarked paper; perf. 11½. (*Illustrations* 4, 5.)

Six Pence, red-lilac (shade of March, 1867).

One Shilling, vermilion-red.

Types and values of issues 1870-1; typographed from Messrs. De la Rue and Co.'s plates; 120 impressions to the sheet; soft white wove unwatermarked paper; perf. 11½. (*Illustrations* 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.)

One Penny, deep rose.

Two Pence, green.

Four Pence, blue.

Ten Pence, black (issue 1870).

Three Pence, reddish-brown.

Nine Pence, blue.

Five Shillings, mauve.

This series is very superior in appearance to the actual postal series, being printed on a better quality of paper.

PRINTING OF 1879.

Types and values of 1853; engraved by C. W. Coard, Hobart; 24 impressions to the sheet; tough, thin, handmade unwatermarked white paper; perf. 11½. (*Illustrations* Plates A and B.)

One Penny, blue. The first twenty-three types are defaced with two deep horizontal chisel cuts, and the twenty-fourth with three horizontal cuts.

Four Pence, brownish-yellow. All the types, with the exception of Type 12, are defaced with two more or less vertical chisel cuts; Type 12 shows the cuts crossed.

Types and values of 1855; engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., London; 240 impressions to the sheet; tough, thin handmade white paper; unwatermarked; perf. 11½. (*Illustrations* 1, 2, 3.)

One Penny, brick-red. | Two Pence, grass-green. | Four Pence, pale blue.

Types and values of the fiscal issue of 1863-4; engraved by Mr. Alfred Bock, Hobart; 240 impressions to the sheet of the Three Pence and Two Shillings and Six Pence, 120 impressions to the sheet of the Five Shillings and Ten Shillings; same paper as last; unperforated. (*Illustrations* 6, 7, 8, 9.)

Three Pence, yellow-green.

Two Shillings and Six Pence, carmine-rose.

Five Shillings, dark brown.

Ten Shillings, yellow.

Types and values of 1876 and 1878; typographed from Messrs. De la Rue and Co.'s plates; 120 impressions to the sheet; same paper as last; perf. 11½. (*Illustrations* 12, 18.)

Four Pence, yellow. | Eight Pence, dull lilac.

All these reprints may be easily distinguished from the originals—the 1853 issue by their defacing cuts and perforation, the 1855 and other issues by the absence of watermark.

From 1879 to 1886 these reprints were distributed amongst applicants without bearing any cancelling or other mark denoting their character. In 1886 Mr. Douglas caused them all to be surcharged "REPRINT" in Roman capitals in black; and at the same time the examples of the Platypus and Saint George and Dragon stamps in their 1880 colours, supplied with the reprints, were surcharged "SPECIMEN" in the same manner.

PRINTING OF 1887.

Type of 1853. The coarser plate of the Four Pence, engraved by Mr. C. W. Coard, of Hobart; 24 types to the sheet; thick white lithographic paper; imperf. (*Illustration*, Plate C.) Four Pence, reddish-brown, black.

(All the types are defaced by two deep chisel cuts, more or less vertical on Nos. 1, 7, 8, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 24; horizontal on Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23; and diagonal on Nos. 12 and 15.)

About a dozen impressions were printed in reddish-brown (said to be some of the original colour), and two or three in black.

In 1889 a further set of reprints was struck on white card without gum, and imperforate. The stamps were not surcharged in any way, and were chiefly made for presents to countries in the "Universal Postal Union." The following is a list of these varieties:

Types of 1853.	1 penny, pale blue, black.	(<i>Illustration</i> , Plate A.)
	4 pence, yellow, black.	(" " B.)
	4 " "	(" " C.)
" 1855.	1 penny, vermilion.	(" 1.)
	2 pence, olive-green.	(" 2.)
	4 " pale blue.	(" 3.)
" 1858.	6 " red-lilac.	(" 4.)
	1 shilling, vermilion.	(" 5.)
" 1863-65.	3 pence, yellow-green.	(" 6.)
	2 shillings and 6 pence, rose.	(" 7.)
	5 " brown.	(" 8.)
	10 " yellow.	(" 9.)
" 1870.	4 pence, blue.	(" 12.)

CHAPTER XVII.

PROOFS AND ESSAYS.

IT has generally been the practice to destroy any proof impressions of postage or other adhesive stamps as soon as the definitive colour had been decided upon. Hence any existing proofs are either chance specimens that have escaped the general destruction, or impressions struck from the plates before they arrived in the Colony.

Very few proof impressions have come under my immediate observation, but in this chapter I shall endeavour to describe those that have survived and come within my knowledge.

Of the issue of 1853 I am not aware of the existence of any proofs, unless the impressions from the more roughly-engraved plate of the Four Pence, printed on the laid paper with lines far apart, can be regarded as such.

No proof impressions of the 1855 issue were sent out by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co.; and as the order for preparing these stamps particularised the colours required, there was no apparent necessity for them.*

Of the issue of 1858 the *Oceania Catalogue* records the existence of proof impressions of the Six Pence and One Shilling in black upon plain white paper. These were struck from the plates.

Impressions of the Six Pence were also struck in the adopted colour on unwatermarked paper, as will appear from the following curious circumstance:

On the 20th December, 1861, two men were arrested on the race-course, Hobart Town, for having, "on the 29th November, 1861, offered for sale at the Post Office, Hobart Town, a sheet containing 240 postage stamps purporting to be Tasmanian postage stamps of the value of Six Pence each, the said stamps being forged stamps."

On inspection it was found that the watermark of 6, distinctly visible on each *bond fide* stamp, was wanting, and that the lined watermarks round the margin and passing through the top row of such stamps were wanting, or rather had been cut away. These circumstances, and the fact that the original issue of stamps from the authorities in England were on a different paper, and that subsequently the plate from which they had been printed had been forwarded to this Government with the same description of paper whereon to print them in this Colony, led to the conclusion that they were forgeries.

* Proof impressions in black on white card, struck from the *dies* of the One Penny, Two Pence, Four Pence, Six Pence, and One Shilling are known.—NOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.

The men stated that they had received them from a member of the detective force in Melbourne, through whom they were eventually traced to a man who stated that he had received them from his father in London, and produced, in support of his statement, letters dated April, November, and December, 1858, in which mention was made of £6 worth of stamps being sent, with a statement that they came in a barge with some stuff from a fire at a stationer's in the city. They had never been gummed, and the father suggested that his son should "get a pennyworth of gum and make something of them."

As there was no evidence of fraud on the part of these men, who had received the stamps in exchange for some jewellery, they were discharged. The sheet of proofs is now doubtless "on record" among the depositions in the case.

Possibly the One Shilling was also struck on unwatermarked paper in the same manner, but did not escape the "fire in the city."

Of the fiscal issue of 1863-4 we have Mr. Bock's statement that he struck off proofs in black from each plate. He says that the Government only allowed him to print one sheet of each value in black prior to handing the plates to the Treasurer. These impressions have been distributed by the engraver among his friends from time to time, and doubtless a good many of them are still extant. Mr. Bock was good enough to present me with specimens of the Three Pence, Five Shillings, and Ten Shillings, all of which are in black on thin yellowish wove paper, without watermark.

It was at first intended to print the Three Pence in bright pink, and proof impressions were struck in that colour, but shortly afterwards destroyed.

Messrs. Thomas De La Rue and Co. sent out various proof impressions with their plates of 1870 and 1871. The majority of these seem to have been destroyed, but a few specimens were preserved by the late Hon. T. D. Chapman, Postmaster-General, at whose suggestion the design had been adapted from the Nova Scotia stamps. Some of these are now in the possession of Mr. Chapman's family. They are printed in Messrs. De la Rue and Co.'s finished style on glazed unwatermarked white paper, and are imperforate. The following are the colours of the specimens I have been permitted to examine (*Illustrations* 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16):

- One Penny, rose (adopted colour).
- Two Pence, bright green, lighter than the adopted shade; in fact, exactly the same as the 1878 issue printed in England.
- Three Pence, pale chocolate (adopted colour).
- Four Pence, light blue (adopted colour).
- „ greyish-black.
- Nine Pence, magenta (a lighter shade than the present Five Shillings).
- „ bright purple, and deep purple-black, or prune.
- Ten Pence, bright purple.

The appearance of these proof impressions is very fine as compared with the locally printed originals.

In February, 1875, the Secretary of the London Post Office wrote with reference to the change of colour of the Tasmanian stamps of One Penny, and the Nine Pence in yellow, and Ten Pence in violet. Mr. Douglas replied that the changes never took place, and that specimens of the Nine Pence, blue, and Ten Pence, black, had previously been forwarded. Six of the One Penny stamps then in use were enclosed, as the shade might possibly differ slightly from the last.

Doubtless the change in the One Penny referred to was the vermilion shade which appeared in 1873; the others possibly were proofs, although I have found no record of a Nine Pence in yellow.

So far as I am aware there are no proofs of the Five Shillings of 1871 in existence, nor were there any of the subsequent issues of 1878 (1d., 2d., and 8d.) and 1880 (Platypus type).

ESSAYS.

From the fact that the engraving of the Tasmanian stamps was never submitted to competition, it may be easily understood that essays of design would be entirely wanting. Such is really the case, but I may be permitted to record under this heading an essay of paper and an unappropriated type.

With reference to the first, on the 4th August, 1875, Mr. Douglas wrote to the Colonial Treasurer:

"SIR,—The Colonial storekeeper has recently received from London two packets of postage stamp paper containing altogether 500 leaves. These have been forwarded by the Crown Agents for experimental purposes. I have therefore to request your approval of my receiving the paper from the Colonial storekeeper for the purpose of printing thereon One Penny postage stamps."

Under date the 5th August, 1875, the Government printer's memorandum-book of stamps printed contains the following entry:

"24 sheets of 1d., £24, on *plain* paper, received from England as sample."

I do not know what became of these stamps; they were not used for postal purposes, and were in all probability burnt. The balance of the paper is still in the office of stores: it is a fine glazed white paper without watermark.

As to the unappropriated types, in October, 1885, an order was sent to England as follows:

"One new plate containing 120 impressions for printing Tasmanian Postage and Revenue stamps of the value of 10s.; colour to be in light slate.

"One do. do. do. Two Shillings and Sixpence; colour to be in pink.

"Design herewith for both values. It is desired that the design of the present 2d. and 1d. stamps be followed by the engraver as closely as possible, introducing the word "Tasmania" and the words "Postage and Revenue," as per sketch.

"200 sheets of 120	.	.	.	.	10s.
200 ,, 120	.	.	.	.	2s. 6d.

"To be gummed and perforated; watermarked "TAS"; the plates to be shipped with the stamps."

The sketch contained the words "Postage and Revenue" in place of the pearled border round the central oval of the current type.

Instead of executing this very definite order, Messrs. De la Rue & Co. ventured to make a few suggestions as to the inadvisability of retaining the same design for both high and low values. They forwarded a number of sketches for the two new values required, all of which were of a very large size, and anything but artistic in design.

They also, to supply the demand while awaiting the preparation of the new plates, sent some sheets of "temporary expedients" (not to give them a worse name), and forwarded the following bill to the Crown Agents:

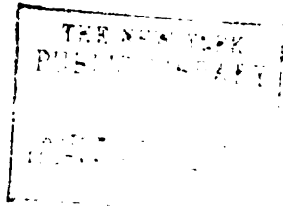
"LONDON, 110, BUNHILL Row,

"Feb. 9th, 1886.

"Crown Agents for the Colonies Drs. to Thomas De la Rue & Co.

"TASMANIA STAMPS.

"1886.	Making two temporary overprint formes, 'Tasmania, Postage				
Feb. 9.	and Revenue,' 'Ten Shillings,' and 'Two Shillings and				
	Sixpence,' at each £3 3s.	.	.	.	6 6 0
	205 sheets, duty 2s. 6d., temporary postage and revenue				
	200	"	"	10s.	"
	405	"	of 120=48,600 at per m. 3s. 6d.	.	8 10 1
					<u>£14 16 1</u>



CHAPTER XVIII.

IMPRESSED REVENUE STAMPS AND POSTAL NOTES.

THE Stamp Act No. 3, 29 Vict. No. 33, which came into force on the 1st November, 1865, provided:

"Sec. 2. The Stamp Duties imposed and made payable by this Act shall be denoted by a stamp, either *impressed* upon the paper whereon any such instrument is written, or by an Adhesive Stamp affixed thereto.

"Sec. 4. The Stamp Duties imposed and made payable by this Act upon all Drafts and Orders for the payment of money, and all Receipts and Discharges given for or upon the payment of money, which are issued or given by the Colonial Treasurer or by any officer of the Government of Tasmania for or on behalf of the Government of Tasmania, shall be impressed thereon."

The schedule to this Act contains the following particulars of stamp duties:

"On every Draft or Order on a Banker for the payment of any sum amounting to Forty Shillings or upwards, One Penny.

"On every Receipt or Discharge given for or upon the payment of any sum of money amounting to Forty Shillings or upwards, One Penny."

The object of Section 4 of the above Act was to avoid the necessity of affixing an adhesive stamp to the Government receipts, a course which had previously been necessary, and which naturally was objectionable as occasioning the useless expenditure of adhesive stamps and the multiplication of accounts in receiving the stamps from the Post Office and afterwards accounting for their use.

A handstamp was prepared to denote the stamp duty payable on all Government cheques and receipts, and impressions were struck from it on all official receipt forms and Public Account cheque-books, which were taken to the Treasury for that purpose.

The design of this handstamp consists of the Royal Arms surrounded by the words "TASMANIAN STAMP DUTY" above, and "ONE PENNY" below, in Roman capitals, the whole being surrounded by a single circular line. (*Illustration 60.*) Struck in shades of vermilion and red from November, 1865, until the issue of the Platypus impressed stamps.

In 1871 the system of impressing the stamp duty was extended to unofficial cheques. An order for a die and requisites was sent to England in the following terms:

"TASMANIA, HOBART TOWN,

"28th January, 1871.

"One Screw Embossing Press and Die complete, for stamping cheques and other documents for stamp duty.

"The die to be of the same size as the pattern attached, and to be engraved with the words 'Tasmanian Stamp Duty—One Penny,' round the circumference, and in the centre the 'Royal Arms.'

"Care to be taken that the engraving be executed distinctly, and in such a manner as to avoid as much as possible any risk of cutting the paper that is to be stamped.

"The Press to be strong, and of the best metal, that there may be no danger of breaking it while in use.

"As great inconvenience would be caused if stamping documents should be prevented at any time through any portion of the stamp or press getting out of order, it is necessary that the whole be executed in the best possible manner."

The following letter and enclosures relate to the execution of this order :

"OFFICES OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
"LONDON, 4th May, 1871.

"Requisition No. 2359 and 6/71.

"SIR,—We have to acquaint you that the undermentioned articles, consigned to the officer administering the Government of Tasmania have been shipped on board the *Lincolnshire* to Port Philip, and we enclose the documents specified below relative thereto.

"We have the honour to be

"Your obedient Servants,

"(Sd.) PENROSE G. GULYAN, }
"W. E. SARGEANT, } *Crown Agents.*

"To the Colonial Treasurer, Tasmania."

"R 2359.

"One box containing a Screw Press and Die for impressing a Penny stamp duty on cheques and other documents as requested in your letter dated the 28th January, 1871."

"R 6/71.

"One case containing a Postage plate (9d. stamp) with overlays for the same and six sheets of proofs printed in different colours for selection."

"Enclosures.

"Bill of Lading, dated the 20th April, 1871.

Shipping Agent's Freight, &c., Account, £1 6s. 10d.

Invoice, Messrs. Warrington and Co., £9 18s. 0d. for Press, &c.

Invoice, Messrs. De la Rue £100 for Plate, &c., &c., including the cost of *die* which is retained by the Crown Agents for future use."

"23, GARRICK STREET, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
"LONDON, W.C., 1871.

"The Crown Agents for the Colonies Drs. to Warrington and Co., Engravers,
Copper Plate, Letter Press Printers.

		£	s.	d.
"1871.	A round 1½ inch Die, Tasmanian stamp duty One Penny,			
April 15.	with Royal Arms and supporters	1	18	0
	A screw spring press for ditto, with brass slide for leathers	6	10	0
	Extra slide, 1 dozen leathers for slides, and 1 dozen rubber springs	0	18	0
	Packing ditto and Case lined with tin	0	12	0
		9	18	0"

This die came into use early in 1872, and was superseded by the Platypus die in 1880. The design was exactly as described in the order above quoted, the inscriptions being in small capitals on a circular band with double inner and outer lines. It was embossed, in white relief, on cheques only, no other kind of documents being stamped by means of it.

In April, 1875, the Secretary of the Post Office, remarking on a letter from the Colonial Secretary of New Zealand with reference to the working of the "Stamp Act," says: "The stamps used for postage stamps in Tasmania are allowed to be used for the purposes of the Stamp Act. . . . The introduction and compulsory usage of impressed stamps, wherever they can be availed of, is in

my opinion highly desirable for carrying out a Stamp Act. . . . The One Penny adhesive stamp is convenient for receipts, but no adhesive stamp should be of a higher value, and if possible it would be decidedly better for the impressed stamp to be wholly used. The Revenue then would be completely protected."

Following out the opinion thus expressed on the 5th January, 1877, an order was sent to England for a series of dies to be used for denoting the stamp duty payable on various documents.

The central design of these stamps was to be the same as that of the adhesive Revenue stamps (Chapter X.), with ornamental borders differing for each value. The order was as follows :

"Steel Dies with moveable date plugs, each Die to have engraven thereupon the design forwarded herewith of the "*Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*,"* with the value of the stamp.

"Dies will be required for stamps of the undermentioned values ; viz.,

"One Penny, Two Pence, Three Pence, Six Pence, One Shilling, Two Shillings and Six Pence, Five Shillings, Seven Shillings and Sixpence, Ten Shillings, One Pound, Five Pounds, Ten Pounds, Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings, and Twenty Pounds.

"One strong lever or screw press."

The notice of the 10th April, 1880, given at length in Chapter X., applied to and denotes the date of issue of these Impressed Revenue Stamps, which, although supplied by the engravers within a year from the date of the order, were not used until May, 1880. (*Illustrations* 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59.)

Another notice bearing upon the subject was published in the *Gazette* :

"COLONIAL TREASURY, HOBART TOWN,

"4th May, 1880.

"STAMP DUTIES.

"It is hereby notified for public information that the impressed stamps heretofore used upon cheques are still available, and that persons having stamped cheque-books are at liberty to continue to use such cheques without any other stamp being impressed thereon or affixed thereto.

"The law officers of the Crown have advised that it is still lawful to use One Penny adhesive Revenue stamps upon cheques, but the general use of cheques bearing an impressed stamp is strongly recommended as being more convenient."

On the 23rd April, 1880, a requisition was sent to the Colonial Storekeeper for additional dies as follows :

"One Shilling and Six Pence.	Additional dies of the values as per
Two Shillings.	margin are required to be obtained from
Three Shillings.	London to fit the embossing press now in
Three Shillings and Six Pence.	use in this office ; and so as to insure
Four Shillings.	accuracy of fit, &c., one of the dies—
Four Shillings and Six Pence.	viz., that of the value of Two Pence—
	belonging to the press is sent herewith.

"As the designs upon the face of the dies at present used differ from one another, it will be necessary that those on the faces of the new dies asked for shall likewise be different from one another, as well as from those now used, copies of which are enclosed as a guide for the designer of the new dies.

"Date, month, and year plugs will not be required, as a duplicate set is held here ; but the leather forces for the new dies should be forwarded.

"The Two Penny die sent with this as a pattern is to be returned with those of the new values asked for in this requisition.

"(Sd.) A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary*."

* More correctly "*anatinus*"—"duck-like."

The *illustrations* of the six dies mentioned in the foregoing requisition are Numbers 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51.

For some time these impressed stamps were merely embossed in plain relief on the documents required to be stamped, but the plan of impressing the stamps in colour possessing marked advantages over the other system, steps were taken to adopt that method.

On the 4th of February, 1881, an order was sent to England for

“One Richmond Automatic Cameo colour stamping press for producing coloured stamps from the dies furnished by De la Rue and Co. Particular notice to be taken of the fact that the dies from which coloured impressions are to be taken were originally prepared for plain relief-stamping.

“Best special embossing ink of the colour of the Twopenny stamp attached, a sufficient quantity to colour 36,000 stamps.”

I do not know what “Two Penny stamp” was sent as a sample of colour required, but it was probably one of the red embossed stamps used in England.

On the 14th February, 1881, an order was sent for an additional die for embossing a revenue stamp of the value of One Penny. This was to be used for stamping cheques in plain relief, the other being used for colour stamping.

On the 30th May, 1882, the coloured impressed stamps were first brought into use, all documents being impressed with the stamps in colour, with the exception of cheque and receipt books. The Stamp Act of November, 1882, repealed the Stamp Duty on receipts, and from that date cheques only were stamped in plain relief. The ink used for the coloured stamps is a bright red.

On the 11th July, 1889, an order was sent to England for additional dies of the following values: Nine Pence, One Shilling and Three Pence, Six Shillings, Seven Shillings, Eight Shillings, Nine Shillings, and Two Pounds Ten Shillings, the border surrounding the central design to differ in each value, and to be different to all values before supplied, types of which were sent as guides to the engraver.

POSTAL NOTES.

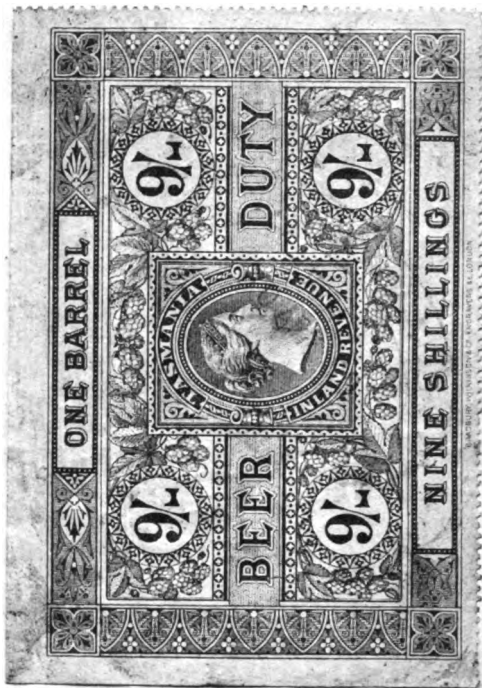
The postal note system, authorised by 52 Vict., No. 52, came into force in Tasmania on the 1st January, 1890. The design of the “Poundage” stamp is as follows: Head of Queen to left, on lined ground, within pearled rectangular border, which is surrounded by an ornamental circular band, inscribed “TASMANIAN POSTAL NOTE” in white capitals, on coloured ground. The word “POUNDAGE” in white capitals, on a coloured label, breaks the circular band at the base, and the value is inserted in small coloured capitals, within an oblong Greek border placed beneath the circle. The poundage stamp, spaces for stamps of issuing and paying offices, and central groundwork are printed in blue; the rest of the note is type-printed in black, and enclosed in a type-set frame composed of square ornaments. Printed at the Government Printing Office, Hobart, on the paper formerly used for the Van Diemen’s Land stamps of 1857–70, watermarked with large double-lined figures of value. The values of notes and poundage are:

Notes.	Poundage.
1s., 1s. 6d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
2s., 2s. 6d., 3s., 3s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d.	1d.
5s., 7s. 6d.	2d.
10s., 10s. 6d., 15s., 20s.	3d.

THE
LIBRARY
OF THE
MUSEUM OF
ART AND
ARCHITECTURE
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



62



64



61



63



60

CHAPTER XIX.

BEER DUTY STAMPS.

AN Act to Impose a Duty on Beer" (43 Vict. No. 10) enacted that on and after the first day of March, 1880, there should be paid on all beer, ale, porter, and all other malt liquor made in imitation of beer, a duty of Three Pence per gallon.

Section 17 enacted that the provisions of "The Stamp Duties Act, 1870," should extend to the duty chargeable and payable under the Beer Duty Act and to the stamps therein mentioned so far as the same were respectively applicable; that suitable stamps should be provided by the Treasurer denoting the amount of duty required to be paid on the hogsheads, barrels, casks, or other vessels or packages of beer respectively liable to duty under the Act; that such stamps should be sold only to brewers carrying on business; and that it should not be lawful for any person to use for the purposes of the Act stamps made and sold under any Act relating to the Post Office.

Section 19 provided that the stamp denoting the amount of duty payable upon such beer should be fixed upon the spigot or taphole of the vessel in which the beer was contained in such a way that the stamp would be destroyed upon the withdrawal of the liquor from such vessel; and at the time of affixing the stamp the same should be cancelled by writing or imprinting thereon the name of the brewer by whom the beer was made and the date when cancelled.

Section 22 imposed a penalty of £50 for the withdrawal of beer from any vessel without destroying or defacing the stamp affixed thereon.

Section 27 made the forging of stamps or dies a felony punishable by imprisonment for any term not exceeding four years.

Section 34 imposed a penalty of £10 upon the removing or defacing, in any manner not authorised by the Act, a stamp affixed to any vessel.

A provisional issue of stamps took place in March, 1880. They were lithographed at the *Mercury* office printing establishment. The design is printed in blue and the designation and value in red on thick white wove paper. The perforation is 11½. (*Illustration 61.*)

The next issue took place later in the same year. The design was similar, but each value was separately lithographed, and in a different colour. They were also lithographed at the *Mercury* office printing establishment on thick white wove paper, and perforated 11½. (*Illustration 62.*)

The series consisted of

One keg . . .	One Shilling and Three Pence . . .	Yellow.
One firkin . . .	Two Shillings and Three Pence . . .	Ultramarine.
One kilderkin . . .	Four Shillings and Six Pence . . .	Vermilion.
	Six Shillings and Nine Pence . . .	Mauve.
One barrel . . .	Nine Shillings . . .	Green.
One hogshead . . .	Thirteen Shillings and Six Pence . . .	Black.

In January, 1881, an order was sent to the Crown Agents for the Colony for

“ 18,000 stamps at One Shilling and Three Pence.
18,000 ” Two Shillings and Three Pence.
50,000 ” Four Shillings and Six Pence.
12,000 ” Six Shillings and Nine Pence.
3,000 ” Thirteen Shillings and Six Pence.

“Plates for the above to be engraved according to the designs furnished by the Collector of Customs. The stamps to be printed in sheets, each to contain ten perforated impressions.”

The order was executed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, & Co., London, and their invoice, dated 18th July, 1881, is as follows:

“To designing and printing six Beer Duty Labels for 1s. 3d., 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., 6s. 9d., 9s., and 13s. 6d., with Queen’s Head in centre, ornamental work of hop plants, and ruled border, at £6 10s. . . . £39
 “Printing Labels on fine cream wove paper in colours different for each value and perforating. (Nos. as ordered.)”

The stamps are printed in sheets of ten, and perforated 14½. (*Illustrations* 63, 64.)

The 4s. 6d. stamp was issued about December, 1881, the other values following at intervals up to the present date. The 13s. 6d. being the least used, has only recently been put into circulation. The second issue of 1880 is even now occasionally found.

The cancellations are as directed by the Act; and as there is a heavy penalty for removing the stamps without first destroying them, it is almost impossible to obtain perfect specimens.

The colours of this series are somewhat similar to the last, but differed slightly in shade. They are as follows:

1s. 3d., orange.	4s. 6d., scarlet.	9s., pale green.
2s. 3d., ultramarine.	6s. 9d., mauve.	13s. 6d., violet-black.

The numbers obtained up to date are—

1s. 3d., 121,000.	4s. 6d., 380,000.	9s., 45,000.
2s. 3d., 122,000.	6s. 9d., 109,000.	13s. 6d., 8000.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE MARCH, 1880.

Lithographed in the Colony on thick white wove unwatermarked paper; perforated 11½. (*Illustration* 61.)

1 shilling and 3 pence, blue and red.
2 shillings ” 3 ” ”
4 ” ” 6 ” ”
6 ” ” 9 ” ”
9 ” blue and red.
13 ” and 6 pence, blue and red.

ISSUE LATER IN 1880.

Lithographed in the Colony on thick white wove unwatermarked paper; perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. (*Illustration 62.*)

1	shilling and 3 pence,	yellow.
2	shillings „ 3 „	ultramarine.
4	„ „ 6 „	vermilion.
6	„ „ 9 „	mauve.
9	„	green.
13	„ and 6 pence,	black.

ISSUE END OF 1881 TO 1890.

Engraved and printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, & Co., of London, upon medium white wove unwatermarked paper; perforated $14\frac{1}{2}$. (*Illustrations 63, 64.*)

1	shilling and 3 pence,	orange.
2	shillings „ 3 „	ultramarine.
4	„ „ 6 „	scarlet.
6	„ „ 9 „	mauve.
9	„	pale green.
13	„ and 6 pence,	violet-black.

CHAPTER XX.

POSTMARKS AND CANCELLATIONS.

PRIOR to the introduction of postage stamps postmarks of various kinds had been used; but these are of minor importance, as the object of this chapter is to describe postmarks and cancellations with reference to their immediate bearing upon the stamps found upon letters, or to explain the absence of such stamps.

I may, however, mention three types of postmark in use prior to 1853, as they continued to be used after that date.

These were: (a) Circle formed by a single line containing small crown, beneath which is the word "Free" in large block letters, followed by the date of the month and year in two lines. Stamped in red. Denoted that the letter was officially franked. (b) Single-line diamond containing the words "Prepaid" in an arch and the date in two straight lines. Red. Denoted that the postage had been prepaid, and subsequently to 1853 that stamps of sufficient value to pay the postage were on the letter. (c) Single-lined circle containing the word "Launceston" in block letters in arch above, date and month in a straight line in the lower part of the circle, and year in arch below. Black. Date stamp of the Launceston office.

The postmarks and cancellations found on letters after the introduction of adhesive stamps are numerous and varied. I will endeavour to describe as many as possible, but as many of the small country Post Offices resorted to various makeshifts of a more or less temporary character, the list must necessarily be incomplete, still for all practical purposes it will be useful as a guide to the source from which the letter or stamp emanated, and the approximate date on which it was posted.

In October, 1853, the Post Offices were numbered afresh and supplied with the stamps for obliterating purposes which had been engraved by H. and C. Best. (See Chapter II.) These stamps consisted of the office number with four diminishing horizontal lines above and below, and flanked on each side by three curved vertical lines of the same length, the whole forming an oval. The following is a list of the Post Offices, with their respective numbers (which commenced at No. 10):

10. Antill Ponda.	17. Breadalbane.	24. Cullenswood.
11. Avoca.	18. Campbell Town.	25. Deloraine.
12. Brighton.	19. Port Arthur (Cascades).	26. Evandale.
13. Bothwell.	20. Circular Head.	27. Emu Bay.
14. Bridgewater.	21. Carlton.	28. Fingal.
15. Brown's River.	22. Carrick.	29. Falmouth.
16. Bishopsbourne.	23. Cleveland.	30. Forcett.

31. Green Ponds.	43. Macquarie Plains.	54. Sorell.
32. George Town.	44. New Norfolk.	55. Spring Hill.
33. Glenorchy.	45. Norfolk Plains.	56. Spring Bay.
34. Grove.	46. New Town.	57. Westbury.
35. Hamilton.	47. Oatlands.	58. Waterloo Point.
36. Huon.	48. Ouse, altered to Cas-	59 & 60. Launceston.
37. Jericho.	cades Oct. 13, 1854.	61, 62, } Hobart Town.
38. Jerusalem.	49. Port Sorell.	63 & 64. }
39. Kangaroo Point.	50. Perth.	102. Norfolk Island.
40. Kelly's Point.	51. Prosser's Plains.	65. Three Hut Point.
41. Lake River.	52. Ross.	66. Port Cygnet.
42. Macquarie River.	53. Richmond.	67. Barnes Bay.

From time to time subsequently fresh offices were established and new numbers assigned them, but I have no list of these. The numbers were all changed in 1870.

In the *Hobart Town Gazette* for Tuesday, 25th October, 1853, among the "Regulations for the guidance of the Post Office Department, under the Act of Council 17th Victoria, No. 6," are the following, bearing upon the subject of this chapter :

"DISPATCH AND RECEIPT OF MAILS.

"10. *Name of Post Office and date to be written on every Letter.*—Each Postmaster is to write carefully on the face of every Letter put into his Post Office the name of his Office, with the date on which each Letter may be posted, until stamps are provided with moveable dates, which will be done as soon as possible, in order to decrease the Postmaster's trouble in carrying into effect this instruction.

"11. *Stamps provided as soon as possible. Great care required in changing correctly the moveable figures daily. Great care in changing the letters denoting the month.*—When the Stamps alluded to in the foregoing Rule are supplied to the Postmasters, it will be most important that all Letters should bear a clear impression of the dated stamp of the office at which they may be posted ; and great care must be taken that the moveable figure be correctly changed at the commencement of each day, when an impression of the Stamp must be made in a book to be kept for that purpose. The like care must be taken that the moveable letters denoting the month be correctly changed on the morning of the first day of each month before any Letters be stamped.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

24. *"Obliteration of Postage Stamps. Particular care enjoined thereon.*—When Letters are posted all Stamps on them must be carefully obliterated with the Stamp furnished for that purpose. In the obliteration of Stamps the black composition supplied for the purpose must *always* be used ; and Postmasters and others are enjoined to be particularly careful in the performance of this part of their duty."

The principal obliteration found on the stamps of 1853-5 is of course this black numbered cancellation. The mixing of the composition, however, or the temporary exhaustion of printing ink, was the cause of many stamps passing through the post with either a very slight cancellation or with none at all. This laxity called forth a circular to all Postmasters dated 9th May, 1854, calling attention to the fact of stamps having been frequently allowed to pass without being duly obliterated, and the Postmaster-General enjoined great care in the obliteration by means of the numbered stamp, and added, "In the event of any Postmaster

being out of printing ink the postage stamps are to be obliterated with a common pen and ink, thus *III*.

This "pen and ink" cancellation is of very frequent occurrence, especially on the Four Pence. It is not unfrequently accompanied by the office number in addition, and the form of cancellation as sketched on the circular is generally very closely adhered to.

The name of the post town and date in figures, or date alone, is also very often met with, and this latter form of cancellation is often mistaken by collectors for an obliteration denoting fiscal use; but as there was no Stamp Duty Act until October, 1863, there is no reason for any such conclusion.

Other cancellations to be found are, "N. Norfolk" and date in two lines, in black; "Macquarie Plains" in two lines, in small block letters, in black, generally accompanied by the date in pen and ink; "Camp Town" and date in oblong frame, in black, from New Norfolk, Macquarie Plains, and Campbell Town respectively.

Under date the 19th December, 1853, an estimate of articles required by the Post Office Department for the year 1855 contains the following particulars:

"*Engraved stamps* (for stamping letters), with moveable dates and boxes of Type for changing the letters denoting the several months of the year, and figures for the dates of the month—Eighteen—. Remarks: These stamps are desired to be similar to those used in the General Post Office, London. Impressions of the several stamps required are annexed.

"*Engraved Stamps*. Four of each with the words, "Insufficiently Stamped," "Not Stamped," "Registered," "Too Late"; two each of "Missent to Hobart Town," "Missent to Launceston," "Advertised but Unclaimed," "Not Known," "Cannot be Found."

"*Composition Boxes and Balls*, or pads and brushes for inking, same as used in the London office.

"*Red and Black Printing Inks*.

"Office seals, small. Three. Small, oval shape, with Crown in centre, and the words, "General Post Office, Hobart Town, V.D.L.," encircling the Crown.

"Office seals, small. Same as last, but with "Launceston" for "H.T."

"Office Seals, small. Two. With Royal Arms, and same with words, "Post Office, Launceston."

I have seen impressions from these office seals struck in black ink as makeshift postmarks.

The articles required were obtained and put into use early in 1855, and the Post Office letter book contains the following list of

*"Impressions of Stamps in use at the General Post Office, Hobart Town,
Tasmania.*

STAMP.	PURPOSE.
"Large circular stamp; General Post Office, Hobart Town, over crown, date in two lines below crown; red	} Ship letters outwards.
Oblong, with rounded corners; 'Ship Letter Inwards Free' in block letters in semi- circle, enclosing date in two lines; red	
Circle; 'Pre-paid' in semi-circle, date in two lines below; red	} Inland letters outwards.
Same circle as last, broken with straight line at bottom; red	
	} Inland letters inwards.

Circle; containing crown over 'Free,' and date in two lines; red	} Franked letters.
Oblong; containing 'Pre-paid' 10 (1) (4) o'clock, and date in two lines; red	} Respective deliveries of District or Town Post.
'Registered,' 'Missent to Hobart Town,' 'Not Stamped,' 'Insufficiently Stamped,' 'Too Late' (in Italics), 'Advertised but Un- claimed,' 'Not Known,' 'Cannot be Found;' all in red	} According to their respective circumstances.
Oval formed of four horizontal lines and three curved vertical lines containing block figures '61,' '64,' '68,' thus <u>(((68)))</u> .	} Obliteration of postage stamps."

In addition to the above I have seen one consisting of the words "To be delivered—free of postage" in two lines enclosed in a single-lined oblong frame struck in red beside the stamp.

Generally speaking, the Hobart obliterating stamp contains no number, the space being filled up with the slightly curved vertical lines, fifteen in all.

A not uncommon cancellation found on the stamps of 1855–7 (wmk. star is a large figure 4 struck in black.

Macquarie Plains during 1857–9 used a black circle composed of four segments, which has much of the effect of the Sicilian postmark when surrounding the Queen's head.

About 1863 the Post Offices were supplied with a postmark consisting of the name of the post town in a half circle, the lower portion of the circle being filled up by a single line, enclosing the date in three lines. There are two types of these—one entirely enclosed in a single line circle, the other with the upper half of the circle formed by the name of the post town.

In 1870 the Hobart and Launceston obliterations were further altered by having the name "Tasmania" inserted between the horizontal lines; and in 1889 this was further altered by the substitution of "Hobart" and "Launceston, Tas" for Tasmania.

Stamps cancelled "Late Letter" are those posted after the advertised hour of closing of the mail, and which are charged a late letter fee.

Letters bearing the imprint "Posted out of course" are those placed in the wrong box at the G.P.O., through which error they might have missed a mail.

"Insufficiently stamped" letters are stamped at the Post Office when called for by the addressee and cancelled with those words.

The large "Ship letter outwards" postmark does not seem to have been used much after 1870, its place being taken by the date stamp and obliterator conjoined.

A roulette obliterator, consisting of a series of horizontal lines and the letters "G.P.O.," was received from Melbourne in June, 1870, but was not much used. It was intended to use it for cancelling large batches of stamps on parcels, but was seldom required, and soon fell into disuse.

All adhesive fiscal stamps were obliterated by the date written across in pen and ink, and occasionally the stamp of some office, such as the Judge's Associate in addition.

RETURNS of Postage Stamps printed and issued to the Post Office Department from 1st October, 1854, to September, 1870, inclusive.

"MR. HENRY BEST, *Printer.*

Description of Stamps.				Number of Stamps.		Value.
One Penny	.	.	.	65,976	...	274 18 0
Four Penny	.	.	.	266,400	...	4,440 0 0
				<u>332,376</u>		<u>£4,714 18 0</u>

Issued to Stamp Saleroom.	One Penny	.	8,448	...	35	4	0
"	Four Penny	.	25,584	...	426	8	0
Issued to Country Postmasters.	One Penny	.	13,176	...	54	18	0
"	Four Penny	.	65,664	...	1094	8	0
Issued to Authorised Agents.	One Penny	.	17,492	...	72	17	8
"	Four Penny	.	36,109	...	601	16	4
Remaining on hand 2nd day of	One Penny	.	26,860	...	111	18	4
Jan., 1854.	Four Penny	.	139,043	...	2317	7	8

“(Sd.) HENRY BEST, *Printer of Postage Stamps.*”

Date.		Description.	Number.
1 January to 31 January, 1854	. .	One Penny	Nil.
" "	. .	Four Penny	Nil.
1 February to 28 February, 1854	. .	One Penny	66,984
1 March to 31 March	" . .	Nil return	...
1 April to 30 April	" . .	Nil return	...
1 May to 31 May	" . .	One Penny	Nil.
" "	" . .	Four Penny	84,000
1 June to 30 June	" . .	Nil return	...
1 July to 31 July	" . .	One Penny	Nil.
" "	" . .	Four Penny	70,440
1 August to 31 August, 1854	. .	Nil return	...
1 September to 30 September, 1854	. .	One Penny	31,200
" "	" . .	Four Penny	42,000

Date.	Description.	Number.
1 October to 30 October, 1854 . .	Nil return ...	...
1 November to 30 November " . .	One Penny ...	Nil.
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	83,520
1 December to 31 December " . .	Nil return ...	...
1 January to 31 January, 1855 . .	One Penny ...	30,120
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	20,400
1 February to 28 February, 1855 . .	One Penny ...	Nil.
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	43,560
1 March to 31 March " . .	One Penny ..	Nil.
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	25,848
1 April to 30 April " . .	One Penny ...	31,800
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	61,800
1 May to 31 May " . .	One Penny ...	10,800
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	45,168
1 June to 30 June " . .	One Penny ...	10,200
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	38,160
1 July to 31 July " . .	One Penny ...	10,800
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	20,400"

From this date the return states that the stamps were received from the Colonial Treasurer (star wmk.).

1 August to 30 August, 1855 . .	One Penny ...	Nil.
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	120,000
1 September to 30 September, 1855 . .	One Penny ...	52,080
" " " " . .	Two Penny ...	4,080
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	Nil
1 October to 31 October * . .	Two Penny ...	12,000
1 November to 30 November " . .	Four Penny ...	56,160
1 December to 31 December " . .	Nil return ...	...
1 January to 31 January, 1856 . .	One Penny ...	36,000
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
1 February to 29th February, 1856 . .	One Penny ...	12,000
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
1 March to 31 March " . .	Nil return ...	...
1 April to 30 April " . .	One Penny ...	67,680

(Printed by Mr. Best.)

1 April to 30 April, 1856 . .	Two Penny ...	60,000
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	60,000

(Received from Colonial Treasurer.)

From 1st May to 31st October stamps were received from the Colonial Treasurer only, and Best certifies to have printed none.

1 May to 31 May, 1856 . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
1 June to 30 June " . .	Nil return ...	...
1 July to 31 July " . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
1 August to 31 August, 1856 . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
1 September to 30 September, 1856 . .	Nil return ...	...
1 October to 31 October " . .	Two Penny ...	24,000
" " " " . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
1 November to 30 November " . .	Four Penny ...	60,000
" " " " . .	One Penny ...	77,760

(These last from Best.)

1 December to 31 December, 1856 . .	Nil return ...	...
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* This and following returns give nil to other values.

Date.	Description.	Number.	Source.
1 January to 31 January, 1857 ...	Four Penny ...	60,000 ...	Treasurer.
* " " " " ...	Two Penny ...	37,200 ...	Henry Best.
1 February to 28 February, 1857 ...	Four Penny ...	84,000 ...	Treasurer.
1 March to 30 April " ...	Nil returns.		
1 May to 31 May " ...	Four Penny ...	171,600 ...	Henry Best.
1 June to 30 July " ...	Nil returns.		
1 August to 31 August " ...	One Penny ...	60,240 ...	Henry Best.
" " " " ...	Two Penny ...	38,400 ...	"
" " " " ...	Four Penny ...	59,760 ...	"
1 September to 30 September, 1857 ...	Four Penny ...	60,000 ...	"
1 October to 31 October " ...	Two Penny ...	21,120 ...	"
" " " " ...	Four Penny ...	120,240 ...	"
1 November to 30 November " ...	Two Penny ...	59,760 ...	"
" " " " ...	Four Penny ...	241,440 ...	"

NOTE.—These last two, and all subsequent lots printed by Best, were deposited with the Colonial Treasurer, and re-issued to the Post Office as required.

1 December to 31 December, 1857 ...	Four Penny ...	24,000 ...	Treasurer.
" " " " ...	One Penny ...	60,240 ...	Henry Best.
" " " " ...	Four Penny ...	237,360 ...	"
1 January to 31 January, 1858 ...	Six Penny ...	360,000 ...	England.
" " " " ...	One Shilling ...	360,000 ...	"
(These last two lots also were deposited with the Treasurer for re-issue.)			
1 January to 31 January, 1858 ...	One Penny ...	24,240 ...	Treasurer.
" " " " ...	Four Penny ...	48,240 ...	"
" " " " ...	Six Penny ...	12,000 ...	"
" " " " ...	One Shilling ...	12,000 ...	"

From this date it will only be necessary to mention the returns of stamps printed, as in all cases they were deposited with the Treasurer, and re-issued as required by the Post Office.

1 April to 30 April, 1858 ...	Two Penny ...	177,600 ...	Henry Best.
1 May to 31 May " ...	One Penny ...	120,480 ...	"
1 November to 30 November, 1858 ...	Two Penny ...	180,240 ...	"
1 February to 28 February, 1859 ...	One Penny ...	60,480 ...	"
1 May to 31 May " ...	Four Penny ...	138,960 ...	"
1 August to 31 August " ...	One Penny ...	300,960 ...	John Davies.
1 November to 30 November " ...	Four Penny ...	403,440 ...	"
1 February to 29 February, 1860 ...	Two Penny ...	360,000 ...	"
1 March to 31 March " ...	Six Penny ...	360,000 ...	"
1 February to 28 February, 1861 ...	Four Penny ...	120,000 ...	"
1 April to 30 April " ...	Four Penny ...	239,520 ...	"
August, 1861 ...	One Penny ...	359,280 ...	"
February, 1862 ...	Four Penny ...	120,960 ...	"
March " ...	Four Penny ...	240,000 ...	"
24 March, 1863 ...	Four Penny ...	359,040 ...	{ Jas. S. Birchall (for Davies).
April " ...	Six Penny ...	300,000 ...	"
28 October " ...	{ Two Shillings and Sixpence }	60,000 ...	M. L. Hood.
16 November, 1863 ...	One Penny ...	360,960 ...	"
18 January, 1864 ...	Ten Shillings ...	30,000 ...	"
21 " " ...	Five Shillings ...	30,000 ...	"
21 April " ...	Four Penny ...	360,960 ...	"

* Unless otherwise mentioned, Mr. Best each month certified to have printed no stamps during that period.

From this date, the printing press being set up in the Government Printing Office, all stamps were printed in that Department. Hardisty, the copper plate printer who had been employed both by Davies and Hood, being also employed by the Government Printer for the work.

July, 1864	...	Two Pence	...	299,760	...	Govt. Printer.
August "	...	Two Pence	...	60,480	...	"
December, 1864	...	Three Pence	...	60,000	...	"
February, 1865	...	Six Pence	...	360,000	...	"
March "	...	Four Pence	...	358,800	...	"
September "	...	One Penny	...	359,520	...	"
April, 1866	...	Four Pence	...	360,240	...	"
May "	...	One Penny	...	359,040	...	"
February, 1867	...	One Penny	...	359,280	...	"
March "	...	Four Pence	...	360,480	...	"
April "	...	Six Pence	...	360,000	...	"
September "	...	One Penny	...	360,240	...	"
November "	...	Four Pence	...	300,240	...	"
July, 1868	...	One Penny	...	359,760	...	"
October, 1868	...	Four Pence	...	360,480	...	"
April, 1869	...	One Penny	...	359,760	...	"
September, 1869	...	One Penny	...	360,000	...	"
October "	...	Four Pence	...	361,440	...	"
November "	...	Six Pence	...	360,240	...	"
May, 1870	...	Two Pence	...	180,240	...	"
August "	...	One Penny	...	60,000	...	"
September, 1870	...	Four Pence	...	60,000	...	"

Total number of stamps printed from August, 1857, to September, 1870, of the following designations:

Van Diemen's Land, all shades, on paper with figure wmks.	{	One Penny	...	3,900,240	}	Printed in Hobart.
		Two Pence	...	1,377,600		
		Four Pence	...	4,863,360		
Tasmania	{	Six Pence	...	2,100,240	}	360,000 in England,
Do.	{	One Shilling	...	360,000	}	the rest in Hobart.
						Printed in England.

NUMBERS OF STAMPS IN STOCK ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1889.

½d., orange	.	.	.	179,580	} A few sheets of Queen's head 3d. and 6d. are included in this number.
4d., yellow	.	.	.	28,280	
3d. } Platypus.	.	.	.	695,920	
6d. }	.	.	.	111,060	
1s.	.	.	.	205,560	
9d., blue	.	.	.	6780	(of the 1871 printing).
10d., black	.	.	.	28,620	(" 1870 ").
5s., mauve	.	.	.	51,780	(a few St. George and Dragon also).
2s. 6d., carmine	.	.	.	78,540	} These numbers include the stock of Essays, also 2s. 6d. and 10s. overprinted.
10s., orange	.	.	.	34,320	
2d. (envelopes)	.	.	.	107,268	
4d. (")	.	.	.	1416	

B.

"The Post Office Department Dr. to H. and C. Best.

		£	s.	d.	
1856.	To cp. printing 282 impressions from 1d. plate, 67,680 stamps				
April 1st	at 1/9 per 1000	5	19	0	
to 31st.	„ Paper for do.		8	6	
Nov. 1st	„ cp. printing 324 impressions from 1d. plate, 77,760 stamps				
to 30th.	at 1/9 per 1000	6	16	6	
	„ Paper for do.		10	6	
1857.	„ cp. printing 155 impressions from 2d. plate, 37,200 stamps				
Jan. 1st	at 1/9 per 1000	3	4	9	
to 31st.	„ Paper for do.		4	0	
May 1st	„ cp. printing 715 impressions from 4d. plate, 171,600 stamps at 1/9 per 1000	15	0	0	
to 31st.	„ Paper for do.		1	5	0
Aug. 1st	„ cp. printing 251 impressions from 1d. plate, 60,240 stamps at 1/9 per 1000	5	5	0	
to 31st.	„ cp. printing 160 impressions from 2d. plate, 38,400 stamps at 1/9 per 1000	3	6	6	
„	„ cp. printing 249 impressions from 4d. plate, 59,760 stamps at 1/9 per 1000	5	5	0	
		£47	4	9	

C.

THE Hobart Town Gazette, Tuesday, September 27th, 1853 :

"PUBLIC NOTICE.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, 6th September, 1853.

"THE POST OFFICE ACT, 1853.

"Notice is hereby given that the new Post Office Act of 1853 will come into operation on the 1st day of November next.

"All Letters and Packets must be Prepaid.—That on and from that date all Letters and Packets (Newspapers alone excepted) posted at any of the Post Offices of this colony must be prepaid by means of adhesive stamps.

"Where the Stamps may be Procured.—That the stamps will be sold at Hobart Town, in large or small quantities as may be required, at the General Post Office, Messrs. Walch & Sons, Elizabeth Street, and Messrs. Huxtable & Co., Murray Street; at Launceston Post Office, and the most respectable booksellers in Launceston, and at the various Post Offices throughout the island.

"Parties posting Letters, &c., to ascertain exact Weight.—The public are particularly requested to ascertain the exact weight of their Letters and Packets before posting them, in order to enable them (the senders) to affix the correct stamps upon each Letter or Packet, as all such as may not have stamps upon them equal in value to the amount of postage to which they may respectively be chargeable cannot be forwarded, but will be detained at the Post Office at which they may have been posted.

"Daily Lists of Letters, &c., insufficiently Stamped.—That daily lists of Letters and Packets which may be dropped into the letter-boxes of the several Post Offices, and which may not bear the requisite stamps, or which may bear

stamps but insufficient in value, will be exhibited on the exterior of the respective Post Offices at which they may have been posted.

“District or Town Letters and Packets.”—Letters and Packets intended to be left till called for at the Post Office at which they may be posted, or for delivery within the same city or town, must bear a stamp of the value of One Penny for each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight.

“Inland and Ship Letters and Packets.”—Inland (or country) Letters and Packets to be forwarded from one part of the Colony to another, and Ship Letters and Packets to be transmitted to England, India, or any of the Colonies, per sailing vessels or per steamers, whether direct or *via* Melbourne, must bear a stamp of the value of Four Pence for every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight.

Ship Letters Inwards.—Ship Letters arriving from England, India, or any of the Colonies, will be delivered in Hobart Town, in Launceston, and at the several Post Offices in the interior of the colony, free, being by the Act of Council exempted from all postage whatsoever.

“Affidavits, Bankers’ Parcels, Periodicals, &c. :

<i>“Affidavits, Bankers’ Parcels, Conveyances, Deeds, Judgments, Memorials, Proceedings of any Court of Justice, Patterns or Samples of Merchandize, Wills, Writs.”</i>	} Marked as such by the sender, with his name and address subscribed thereon, and not containing any letter or epistolary communication or intelligence.
<i>“Catalogues, Magazines, Pamphlets, Periodicals, Price Currents, Proceedings of Parliament, Proceedings of Colonial Legislature, Reviews, Votes of Parliament, Votes of Colonial Legislature.”</i>	} Marked as such by the sender, with his name and address subscribed thereon, and not containing any letter or epistolary communication or intelligence, and open at each end,

must bear a stamp of the value of Four Pence for each 4 ozs. in weight.

“Books, Placards, Charts, Music, &c.”—Packets of Books, Charts, Maps, Music, Placards, and Prospectuses, when forwarded from one part of the colony to another, or when posted at Hobart Town or Launceston for transmission to England, India, or any of the colonies, must bear stamps to the value of Six Pence for every 4 ozs. in weight; and when posted at any of the Post Offices in the interior of the Colony to be forwarded beyond sea, they must bear stamps to the value of One Shilling for each 4 ozs. in weight—Six Pence being the inland rate of postage, and the additional Six Pence the ship packet rate.

“Registered Letters, &c.”—Letters and Packets may be registered at the option of the senders, but all such must bear stamps to the value of One Shilling, as the registration fee beyond the amount of stamps required for postage according to weight.

“How the Stamps are to be affixed.”—The postage stamps must be affixed upon the outside of all Letters and Packets above the address written upon them, as by Act of Council no Postmaster is bound to take any notice of or pass any stamp or stamps which may be affixed on any other part of a letter or packet.

“(Sd.) F. C. SMITH, *Postmaster-General.*”

In Regulations under 17 Vict. No. 6, *Gazette*, 25th October, 1853 :

“The letter-carriers will perambulate their several beats every evening (Sundays excepted), from five to six o’clock, ringing bells, in order to collect such Letters and Newspapers as the inhabitants of Hobart Town and its suburbs may be desirous of sending per post, whether Inland or Ship Letters, but the postage on both these descriptions of Letters must be prepaid by stamps; and the letter-carriers are authorised to demand the sum of One Penny on each Letter, and One Halfpenny on each Newspaper, which they collect as their own perquisite.”

Gazette, 22nd April, 1856, 19 Vict. No. 20, notified that arrangements had been made with the Postmaster-General (of Great Britain) for the transmission by ship of letters to and from this Colony at the following rates:

"On every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight transmitted by the Post between any place in the United Kingdom and the Colony of Tasmania, direct or through any other Colony, or through any foreign country, there shall be charged and taken in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters an uniform British rate of Six Pence.

"On every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight transmitted by the Post between Tasmania and any other of Her Majesty's Colonies, or any foreign country through the United Kingdom (whether through any Colony or foreign country or not), there shall be charged and taken in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters the rates of British postage following, that is to say:

"For the conveyance of every such letter between Tasmania or any part of the United Kingdom a rate of Six Pence; and for the conveyance of every such letter between the port in the United Kingdom of the departure or arrival of the packet or ship conveying the same, and the Colony or foreign country to or from which the same shall be forwarded, such a further or additional rate of postage as shall from time to time be charged and payable for British postage on letters posted or delivered at the port in the United Kingdom of the departure or arrival of the packet or ship conveying the same and transmitted direct between such port and any such Colony or foreign country.

"That every additional half ounce in weight should be chargeable with a full additional rate of postage.

(Sd.) H. E. F. YOUNG.

"15th April, 1856."

Gazette, 27th January, 1857, contains a notice with reference to the compulsory prepayment of the entire postage on all letters transmitted from Tasmania to any part of the United Kingdom *viâ* Marseilles; and also the British postage rates chargeable on letters, newspapers, and packets directed to British Colonies or foreign parts, forwarded through the United Kingdom, *viâ* Marseilles, or *viâ* Southampton, giving the following examples:

"EXAMPLE A.

"A letter directed to any part of the United States, weighing over $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. but not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and intended to be forwarded *viâ* Marseilles, would require:

"1st. Tasmanian Postage Stamp	s.	d.
2nd. English Postage, to be paid in cash at the window of	0	4
the Post Office at which it may be posted	0	8
3rd. French transit rate, also to be prepaid in cash	0	6
Total cost	1	6"

"EXAMPLE C.

"A letter addressed to any part of the United Kingdom, forwarded *viâ* Marseilles, if above $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. and not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. would require:

"1st. Tasmanian Postage Stamp	d.
2nd. French transit rate, to be paid in cash at the window of the	4
Post Office at which it may be posted	6
Total cost	10"

"If above $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. two stamps of Four Pence each and Nine Pence in cash.

"Letters for the United Kingdom sent *viâ* Southampton are only subjected to the Tasmanian Ship Letter Postage, prepaid by means of Postage Stamps.

"Under this arrangement all Letters, Newspapers, and Packets from Tasmania are delivered *free*.

(Sd.) F. C. SMITH, *Postmaster-General*."

Gazette, 22nd September, 1857 :

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“21st September, 1857.

“PUBLIC NOTICE.

“*Discontinuance of the Retail Sale of Postage Stamps at the General Post Office.*

“Notice is hereby given, that on and from Thursday, the 1st October proximo, the sale of Postage Stamps at the room hitherto denominated ‘The Stamp Sale Room,’ attached to this Department, and also at the window of this Office, will be wholly discontinued.

“Lots of the value of *Five Pounds* and upwards, *consisting of undivided sheets*, can, however, be obtained on application to the Postmaster-General.

“Small quantities of Postage Stamps, from the date above mentioned, can therefore be purchased only at the authorised Agents, Messrs. Walch and Sons, corner of Elizabeth and Liverpool Streets, or other vendors.

“Parties posting letters or packets are requested to take the greatest possible care that the correct Postage Stamps are placed upon them, according to their weight, in order to prevent disappointment by their detention here in consequence of their being ‘insufficiently stamped.’

(Sd.) F. C. SMITH,
“*Postmaster-General.*”

Subsequent *Gazette* notices are referred to in the chapters upon the stamps to which they immediately relate.



