

Massacre at Belgrade. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., and Mr. J. S. Marshfield write to point out that the stamps are a new set which it had been intended to issue at an early date. The stamps have never appeared in an unsurcharged condition.

It is reported, according to a recent number of "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," that some £4,000 worth of orders for these stamps had reached the Belgrade Post Office within a short time of the issue. The stamps, it is added, were placed on sale to the public on July 8th and the 1 para had all been bought up by the afternoon of the following day and were being offered by speculators at 2 or 3 francs each, 200 or 300 times their face value!



Fifty times as many 5 paras as 1 para were issued, but it is believed that a new 1 para provisional will be made by surcharging remainders of a previous issue, as the value is required for use on printed matter.

Seychelles.—Surcharges on King's Head stamps are beginning already! From Seychelles we have a 3 cents. provisional, which, we fancy, is the first surcharge of this character on a King Edward postage stamp.

Surcharged on King's Head: "3 cents" on 15c. blue.

Regarding this issue, the following is an interesting extract from a letter received from Messrs. Whitfield, King and Co.

"The 2c. and 3c. stamps of the new King's Head type are completely exhausted, and the 6c. nearly so, and as it is not expected that fresh supplies could reach the Colony before the end of August, a provisional issue of 3c. stamps became necessary, and in consequence the 15c. stamp was surcharged as per enclosed specimen; a notice was published by the Post Office that no one person would be permitted to purchase more than one sheet of 60 of these stamps, but our correspondent in sending us a few specimens writes us as follows:—"By mail I send you a few surcharged stamps—all I could get. I am sorry they are so few, but I did my best. I was in town before the Post Office opened in the morning and gave different people money to buy sheets for me, but no one could get near the door. I am afraid they have nearly all got into the hands of one man, who had a crowd of 50 niggers there. I do not think there is anything worse than to get among a crowd of unwashed niggers. I only succeeded in getting one sheet. There were 33,000 stamps surcharged, of which I know 300 were destroyed, as they were not well done."

Venezuela.—Apropos the "Rebels" stamps, illustrated in the last FORTNIGHTLY, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' have received four distinct sets of these labels—two sets for Guayana, one set for Marino, and one for Maturin. Of the very large stamps, with Arms of Venezuela, issued for Guayana only, there are five values: 5, 10, 25, and 50 centavos, and 1 bolivar. Of the smaller stamps, with ship in centre, there are the same five denominations, but separate sets of these are issued for Guayana, Marino, and Maturin, the only difference being the substitution of the different name at the right.

The Stamps-on-Approval System.

A correspondent sends me a couple of communications which have been addressed to his little boy by "R. King & Co.," who describe themselves as "stamp importers," of Baldwin-street, Bristol. It seems that after the youngster had written to these people for a three-penny packet of stamps, which they advertise in various papers, they took upon themselves to forward to him "on approval," a sheet of foreign stamps, priced at the time, at half-a-crown. No stamped envelope was enclosed for the return of the sheet, and the lad's father, who considered this method of foisting goods on children objectionable, told him not to send it back. Shortly afterwards, the boy received a post-card from R. King and Co., asking for the return of the stamps or the remittance of half-a-crown "within seven days." The post-card was ignored, and a fortnight later there came a printed paper headed "Notice before proceeding in the County Court," and threatening action against the boy for the recovery of 5s. unless that sum was paid in the following week. The money has not been paid, but the father has informed King and Co., that the stamps will be returned if they forward a stamped addressed envelope for the purpose, and apologise for their conduct. I think, myself, that even this offer shows more consideration for King and Co., than they merit.—"Truth."

Mr. S. N. Sherman, of Perth, W.A.

From the Bureau of Intelligence, Perth, Western Australia, we have received urgent warnings concerning one S. N. Sherman, alias Sharman, who is stated to have carried on extensive frauds on various Westralian traders. Messrs. Hamilton, Macrae, Limited, the well known stamp dealers, were victimised to the tune of £33 10s., and Sherman also secured fancy goods, jewellery, guns, cameras, bicycles, etc., from various other firms to the amount of some hundreds of pounds.

Sherman, it seems, was on his way to Europe at the time the mail bringing us the Intelligence bureau's letter left Perth. "Unfortunately for our clients and others interested" (proceeds the Bureau's letter) "his departure did not become known here till the day after the ship had passed Colombo, or his extradition would certainly have been applied for. The heavy expenses, however, appertaining to such a process at this stage deter those concerned in proceeding further in this direction; but they trust that this notice together with such particulars of the fugitive's personal description as we have been able to glean at short notice, and which we attach, will prove useful to those who may receive a visit from S. N. Sherman, who, by the way, is said to have lived in London, Paris, Rome and Venice, and where he stated he acted as a Company Promoter and Stamp Dealer (?). It is further believed that he has a brother—a Jeweller—residing either in London, Manchester or Birmingham in the old Country."

Enclosed with the Intelligence Bureau's letter is the following "Description of S. N. Sherman, alias Sharman."

Believed to be a French Jew, but described by himself as an Austrian by birth. Of good appearance, well educated, and polished and polite in his manners. Speaks English, French, German, and Italian fluently. About 30 years of age, of medium height and build in proportion, fresh complexion, between colours—i.e., neither fair nor dark.—but inclined to be sandy, with large, floating moustache, no beard, brown eyes, mixed nose. i.e., blend of the Roman, Celestial and Grecian, with the Roman predominating, good set of teeth, well dressed, wore a gold chain of the tapping kerb pattern, diamond cluster pin, with green (?) stone in centre, gold ring, with stones (oval shape), of greenish colour, fond of smoking cigars, erect, smart, and alert in gait. Accompanied by an Italian lady, described as his wife, and a child just starting to walk.

Finally, Messrs. Hamilton Macrae, Limited, supply the following list of the stamps obtained from them by Sherman:

Books: No. 340, Foreign, value £3 5s.; No. 331, ditto, £2 8s.; No. 2086, Mixed, £11 15s. 8d.; No. 2088, W. A., mostly official, £4 4s. 7d.

Sheet No. 4086, Australians, value, 15s. 5d.; No. 5017, ditto, 9s. 2d.; No. 4018, ditto, 11s. 8d.; No. 5007, Foreign, 6s. 10d.; No. 5022, Australians, 10s.; No. 4017, British Columbia, £1 13s.; No. 4036 ditto, £1 1s. 3d.; No. 3074 ditto, 14s.

Also W.A.'s. (Cat. £12). £3 3s.; and various packets and sundries, making a total of £33 10s.

Initials on the back of Postage Stamps.

Messrs. W. H. Everett and Son (Limited), of Bell's buildings, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street, send us a letter from the General Post Office granting them permission to mark their stamps on the back and thus prevent them from being stolen. "For 15 years past," they write, "we have been trying to obtain this, and have at length succeeded, thanks to the fact that you have from time to time inserted letters from ourselves, and the replies to the same." The passage in the letter from the General Post Office giving the necessary permission runs as follows:—"If . . . you still consider it necessary, in order to prevent pilfering, to adopt the practice of printing your initials on the back of your postage stamps, the Postmaster-General will not withhold his assent to your taking this course; and in the event of your doing so, instructions shall be given to the effect that stamps printed on the back are not to be repurchased at post offices."—"The Times."