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CONDUCTED BY PERCY C. BISHOP.

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ONE PENNY.

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forced out of circulation, the new ones being given in exchange. The result is the gigantic pile that is now to fall under the auctioneer's hammer.

Over ten years ago, on the introduction of the stamps bearing in relief the effigy of D. Luis, all the stamps of the Serviço Postal series and of the Crown series (surcharged and unsurcharged) were, by order of the Minister, returned to Portugal and sold by public auction. These stamps could at all events claim the fact of postal naturalization in the colony, to recommend themselves to the favour of philatelists. The bulk of the stuff now being sold, however, has never left the Lisbon mint!

PEN-MARKING POSTAGE STAMPS IN INDIA.

REGARDING a suggestion recently made to the Indian Government by the Calcutta Trades Association for the issue of a unified one anna stamp to serve both for postage and revenue purposes, as in Great Britain, it seems that the whole matter hinges on whether the Indian Public will now consent to abandon the present privilege of pen-marking postage stamps.

This is a privilege not allowed at home and so long as it continues in India it is considered to interfere with the introduction of the desirable reform which the Trades Association advocate, since there is no way of discriminating between stamps legitimately pen-marked on the envelope to prevent theft and others fraudulently re-used for postage purposes after having done duty on receipted bills where pen-marking is a recognised form of obliteration.

The postal authorities, we are told, are in no way opposed to the change, and the only reason for its not having been introduced long ago is the consensus of public opinion which was found to exist when the question was last raised against the rescinding of the pen-marking privilege. The "mild Hindoo" is a conservative kind of creature, and he can no more restrain a temptation to steal the postage stamps from letters given to him to post (if they be not pen-marked) than the proverbial negro can quit the habit, if once it is contracted, of looting the fowl-run!

ARE THE DANISH WEST INDIES SOLD?

It is now freely stated that the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States is practically an accomplished fact, the ratification of the treaty by the U.S. Senate being the only formality necessary to complete the "deal." The price is \$3,500,000. Whether this "includes anything" is not stated. It might be found to include a block of remainders of D.W.I. stamps, for Uncle Samuel is always open to do business, and he should know by this time to a dollar what the philatelic public is "good for."

Philately at Home and Abroad.

PHILATELISTS AND THE GIBRALTRA BUDGET.

MR. H. F. J. MAXTED has been kind enough to send us the following from the Annual Colonial Report on Gibraltar for 1899 (the last published). The excerpt speaks for itself:—

POST OFFICE RECEIPTS.

A decrease of £2952 caused partly by the reduction in postage between British possessions from 2½d. to 1d., and partly by reduced sales of stamps to collectors.

In 1898 the values of the stamp issue was changed from Spanish currency, and the new issue led to a heavy demand from collectors.

PORTUGUESE COLONIAL REMAINDERS TO BE AUCTIONED!

PORTUGUESE papers report that a large quantity of the postage stamps of the colonies are shortly to be disposed of by public auction at Lisbon. Their total face value is 1,400 contos, or nearly a quarter of a million sterling!

What an enormous quantity of remainders there must be, when one bears in mind that the highest denomination until recently for the colonies was 200 reis, or 8d!

This accumulation (remarks Mr. J. Godino in the "Philatelic Journal of India") has been caused by issues of new types being periodically brought out in supersession of those in use. The quantities printed have been far in excess of the postal requirements of the several colonies. The centenary celebration stamps interfered with the regular and gradual exhaustion of the regular series in use, and partly contributed to the increase of the remainders. The public were not allowed to use the stamps in their possession. For instance, in Goa, a peremptory mandate of the Governor-General ordered the return to the Treasury of all the postage stamps