

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Magazine.

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain it for reference purposes. Vol. 13, No. 6 — JANUARY, 1962. Issued Monthly—Subscriptions, 6/- per annum. All lots offered subject to being unsold and will be sent on approval to known clients. Complete satisfaction is guaranteed on all lots offered.

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by Peter Oldham NEW ZEALAND DEPENDENCIES

Readers will be pleased to hear that in response to many requests from clients, we have decided to commence dealing in stamps of the Dependencies of New Zealand. We invite you, therefore, to submit your want lists for **Aitutaki, Penrhyn, Niue, Cook Islands, Samoa and Tokelau Islands**. In due course we hope to extend our dealings to certain other Pacific Islands and we shall be pleased to hear from readers who have any special preferences.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We were completely deluged with Christmas cards this year and we wish to express our sincere thanks to the many clients who remembered us and who were instrumental in making our office so colourful over the festive season.

CORRECTION — 3d Kowhai variety mentioned as R2/1 at the end of last month's notes should read R1/2.

(Continued from December, 1961)

Several different types of cylinder were in use on different machines. There was the one with successive three rows of stamps inverted in relation to each other — these for Booklets, of course; did my mouth water as I saw stacks of lovely imperforate tete-beches! Then there was the endless one: this cylinder is completely covered by impressions and as it revolves so does an endless sheet of stamps come forth. To one who has been stamp conscious all his life there is something positively mesmeric in the resulting roll of stamps — I did not measure it, but it must have been all of four feet in diameter and about two feet wide, for all the world like a good-sized garden roller and all solid stamps through and through! Imperf, too. The purpose of this huge roll is the making of coils for slot machines. A later stage is the cutting of the sheet into strips by an ingenious series of circular cutters under which the sheet is led. The resulting strips are rolled by the same machine. I understand this particular machine embodies numerous inventions and refinements thought up by a member of the senior staff.

The same "local" inventiveness accounts for the amazing speed of production seen in the Booklets. I believe even more automation is on the way, but to me it was difficult to believe that the job could be done more quickly and efficiently. The Booklets are made up in large "sheets" and only later cut up into the individual Booklets as sold in the post offices.

Harrisons by no means confine their activities to stamp production. Some beautiful multi-colour printing was coming off the presses and although my interest was mainly in the stamps I stopped to admire a very long press which was printing three different colours in non-stop sequence. The great necessity with this type of printing is, of course, to use a very fast drying ink. For this reason spirit inks are used; the spirit dries in a second or two and so it becomes possible to print second and third colours "further down the line" while the first colour continues in action at the top. I understood Mr. Harrison to say that it is possible to print up to eight colours in sequence on this machine, but in fact the maximum attempted at the present time is three. I have not actually said so, but I presume it is clear that all this high-speed printing is done on an endless roll of paper — there may be some but I do not recall seeing any flat-bed printing on paper in sheet form.

Before I actually leave the printing I should mention the "doctor blade" as used in normal photogravure printing from cylinders. The "doctor blade" is a knife edge which removes all the ink from the surface of the cylinder (leaving

(Continued on back page)

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD., Room 44, 4th Floor, Lewis Eady Bldg., Queen St., Auckland, C.1. Telephone 49-118. Box 5555.

MINIATURE MOUNTED COLLECTIONS

We have lately added considerably to our already extensive stock and are in a position to make some outstanding offers — also for those who have been thinking of making up want lists — NOW IS THE TIME. As indicated, the following are all attractively mounted on Favourite size leaves.

- 591 (a) **Edward VII perf 14 x 14½ mint collection** on seven pages including the complete four values of two perf combination, 3d, 5d, 6d and 8d in **blocks of four**. A lovely range of shades made up of 15 blocks, 18 pairs and 16 singles. Cat. over £50 £32/10/-
- (b) **Geo. V Recess print collection on fifteen pages**. This is a beautiful ready made mint collection of shade blocks, pairs and singles and includes the scarce two perf combinations in **blocks of four**. The 3d, 4d violet, 5d, 6d and 1/- values particularly are a sight for sore eyes. It could be a while before we are able to offer such a lot again, and look at the price. Cat. over £73 £57/10/-
- N.B. — We are prepared to sell this collection without the two perf blocks, the price then being £32/10/-
- (c) **Geo. V Recess Perf 14 line on Pictorial paper**. A small two page mint auxiliary lot to the above, featuring a block of each value known on this paper, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 6d, plus an extra two perf no watermark variety block of 1½d and the four values in pairs including "no watermark" 1½d and 3/-. The two pages Cat. £4/10/- £3/5/-
- (d) **Edward VII Officials**. A fine page of five mint blocks 3d, 6d, 8d in both perfs and a block of invert. wmk. £3
- (e) **Geo. V Recess Officials**. Two pages of nine mint blocks. The first page has 3d, 6d, 8d values, plus 1/- in orange-verm. and salmon, the second four two perf blocks being two shades of 3d, plus 6d and 1/-. These two pages £7/10/-
- (f) **Early Pictorial, Universal, ½d Green Mt. Cook and Long Type Officials**. Three outstanding pages in mixed block, pair and single form, beautifully presented and a pleasure to behold. Naturally the 1907 Pictorials are complete to 5/-. All mint and catalogued £8/10/- £6/10/-
- (g) As above, a used collection of three pages on similar lines, but not including the duty stamps. These are nice — right up to the 5/- Pictorial again and including a used block of the 1/- Kea £6/10/-
- (h) **1931 Airmail in mint blocks**. The full set of five, including 5d and 7d Provisionals. All in blocks of four except 7d Trans-Tasman which shows horiz. strip of three all "broken N" variety and a choice block of 8 with the lower two showing broken N. Tastefully mounted on two pages £12
- (i) **1935 Keyhole Health**. A page of four blocks showing Pl. No. in all four positions £3
- (j) **1936 Lifebuoy** on two pages showing Plates 1 and 2 in all positions. The eight Pl. No. blocks £5
- (k) **1906 Christchurch Ex.** Two wonderful pages holding the four values of this set mint in fresh, perfectly centred block form. How often do you see them thus? Cat. £20 £16
- (l) **1913 Auckland Ex.** The above remarks as to condition also apply fully to those four blocks £25
- (m) **Cowan paper Arms Type**. A neat and very colourful page of this original issue from 1/3-10/- in clean mint. Fourteen stamps including pairs of both 1/3 lemon and orange. This fine page of beauties catalogued £9/14/- £5
- SOME FURTHER LOTS NOT NECESSARILY MOUNTED**
- 592 (a) **1935 Jubilee Plate Nos. complete**. We offer the full set of two ½l, four 1d and one 6d values. Cat. £3/7/- £3
- (b) **1936 Anzac, as above**. Four Plate No. blocks of each value in all four positions £1
- (c) **1936 Commerce Plates complete**. This is rather an outstanding offer in plate blocks, as quite a number of blocks are needed for a complete showing. The offer then is of 24 blocks which includes both plates of the 1d value and of course the 6d re-entry block. This outstanding lot £6/10/-
- (d) **1935 Air plates**. These three colourful, wide selvage, plate No. blocks £1/5/-

1935-36 PICTORIAL PLATE VARIETY LOT

- 593 An interesting lot for someone wishing to have a section illustrating some of the better known flaws, re-entries and retouches of this much discussed issue. Contains four ½d, three 1d, two 4d, seven 2/-, three 3/-, and includes ½d clematis flaw, R5/17 re-entry, 1d R6/1 plate crack, 4d R3/8 triple mountain, 2/- coconuts, COQK, etc. Good value here at £6

COOK ISLANDS

- 594 **George V Surface printed** (all mint):
- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------------|-----|
| ½d green (S.G.50) | 4d | 2d yellow (S.G.53) | 1/2 |
| 1d carmine (S.G.51) | 5d | 3d chocolate (S.G.54) | 1/6 |
| 1½d orange-brown (S.G.52) | 7d | | |
| The set of 5 mint | | | 3/9 |
- 595 **George V Engraved** (all mint), **Perf 14 x 14½**:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|------|
| 2½d blue (S.G.55) | 1/9 | 6d carmine (S.G.63) | 2/9 |
| 3d chocolate (S.G.57) | 3/6 | 9d sage green (S.G.66) | 2/9 |
| 4d violet (S.G.59) | 2/3 | 1/- vermilion (S.G.68) | 4/6 |
| 4½d green (S.G.61) | 1/9 | | |
| The set of 7 mint | | | 18/- |
- 596 **Perf 14 x 13½** (all mint):
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 2½d blue (S.G.56) | 1/3 | 7½d red-brown (S.G.65) | 3/9 |
| 3d chocolate (S.G.58) | 4/6 | 9d sage green (S.G.67) | 2/6 |
| 4d violet (S.G.60) | 1/9 | 1/- vermilion (S.G.69) | 4/- |
| 4½d green (S.G.62) | 2/3 | | |
- 597 **Vertical Pairs. Perf 14 x 14½ and 14 x 13½** (all mint):
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-----------|------|
| 2½d blue (S.G.56a) | 7/6 | A block | 15/- |
| 3d chocolate (S.G.58a) | 17/6 | A block | 35/- |
| 4d violet (S.G.60a) | 10/- | A block | 20/- |
| 4½d green (S.G.62a) | 10/- | A block | 20/- |
| 6d carmine (S.G.64a) | 17/6 | A block | 35/- |
| 9d sage green (S.G.67a) | 17/6 | A block | 35/- |
| 1/- vermilion (S.G.69d) | 17/6 | A block | 35/- |
| The set of 7 in pairs | | In blocks | £9 |
- 598 **1920-25-27 Pictorials. S.G. 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 91, 92.** The mint set of 10 (Cat. S.G. 40/-) 27/6
- 599 **1921 Long "Duty" type of New Zealand overprinted Rarotonga:**
2/6 brown. Fine used 12/6 2/- blue. Mint 10/-
- 600 **1926 Admirals (mint), overprinted Rarotonga:**
2/- Jones paper (S.G.88) 12/6 2/- Cowan paper (S.G.89) 9/-
3/- Cowan paper (S.G.90) 10/-
The set of 3 mint 30/-
- 601 **1931 2d on 1½d Black and Blue.** A set of 4 blocks, 3 being No Watermark (S.G.93) in shades with overprint varieties, one in carmine with the overprint defective, and one watermarked block (S.G.94). The set of 4 mint blocks 35/6
- 602 **1931 Arms Type, overprinted Rarotonga.** A mint set of 4 (S.G. 95-98), including 2/6 brown, 5/- green, 10/- carmine, £1 pink (Cat. S.G. 85/-) 65/-
- 603 **1932 Pictorials, No Watermark. Perfs 13 and 14.** S.G. 99, 99a, 100, 100b, 101, 101a, 102, 102a, 103, 103a, 104, 104a, 105. The mint set of 13 (Cat. S.G. 86/4) 55/-

COLONIAL CORNER

We hope to be able to offer something a little bit out of the ordinary each month in this section of the Newsletter, so watch this corner in future issues.

Seychelles:

- 608 **Original issue of 1890, Die I.** S.G. 1-8 inclusive, mint. The condition is good, but S.G.4 has a slight tear under the hinge. The set of 8 (Cat. S.G. 126/-) 60/-
- 609 **Die II.** S.G. 9-14 inclusive, in fine mint condition. The set of 6 (Cat. S.G. 47/-) 30/-
- 610 **Surcharge issue of 1893.** S.G. 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, all in fine mint condition, plus a used copy of 15c on 16c on a very thick paper, which could be S.G.18. The set of 7 (Cat. S.G. 87/6) 45/-
- 611 **1897-1900 issue to IR.** S.G. 32-38 inclusive, in fine mint condition. The set of 7 (Cat. S.G. 99/6) 50/-
- 612 **1903-4 issue.** S.G. 53-63 inclusive, but excluding S.G.62. The mint set of 10 (Cat. S.G. 115/1) 60/-
- 613 **3c Surcharge issue.** S.G. 64, 65, 66. Fine mint. The set of 3 (Cat. S.G. 40/-) 22/6

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only that in the minutely recessed "coloured" portions of the design). It must be a matter of very exact precision to set the blade right, for any undue pressure caused by too close setting would soon ruin both plate and knife; a too loose setting would leave a film of ink over the cylinder, resulting in an overall colour toning of the printed sheet. In the past I have always pictured the "doctor blade" as moving over the surface of the cylinder; in fact, the blade is rigid and immovable, lying parallel to the cylinder which revolves under it. I asked how long it took a blade to wear out a cylinder — for that is what I expected was the natural result — but I was told that in fact a cylinder will outlast numerous blades. This is fortunate, since blades are obviously a cheaper commodity than printing cylinders.

We moved through many rooms, not all of philatelic interest — but I must not omit mention of two, the checking room and the engineers' workshop.

In the checking room we saw girls flicking the finished sheets over at an incredible speed. This they do all day long and contrary to what one might imagine are said to be fond of the work. Each sheet, I was told, is checked twice, both front and back. The inexperienced might justifiably wonder how any defect could be detected, by anyone moving the sheets at such speed — they move so fast that, at a guess, I'd say there would be six sheets in motion between right hand and left at any given moment. The answer lies in the same principle that lies behind the cinematograph. Moving at speed, the sheets form a single composite picture before the eye and any defect is immediately noticeable because it disturbs this picture. That errors do slip through we all know — some like 'em, some don't — but the values they command are a measure of their rarity and of the excellence of the checking system. It is always a delight to see the real expert at work on any kind of job and one girl quite fascinated us. Her job, simple enough in theory, was to count sheets into blocks of five hundred (I think that was the figure) for security checking and packing. I do not doubt this could be done by weighing, with a minimal chance of error, but this is "Security" with a capital S, so they must be counted. Speed being of the utmost importance — provided accuracy is not sacrificed — something better than the sort of speed that you and I would achieve is called for. It was, as I have said, fascinating to watch. By lifting a corner of the block and giving it a curious twist she managed to spread the sheets in such a way that at a guess (I did not time her) I would say a block of 500 would take perhaps 20 seconds to count, and that with absolute accuracy.

I saw the perforating machines at work, but for the spectator they are not exciting. One cannot actually see the pins descending; all that is visible is an imperf. sheet going under a bar and a perforated sheet coming out on the other side. Of more interest was our visit to the workshop where we found the underpart of a perforating head being given something very like a rebore. The piece in question is the bed or socket portion of the perforating head. The upper part carries the pins which descend and effect the perforations by forcing small circles of paper through the holes in the lower portion. The principle is simply that of bringing two straight edges of metal against each other to form a cutting device. In short, the pins are perfectly straight cut, not pointed or concave in cross-section. The holes are purely circular, of the exact diameter of the pins, and their rims a sharp right angle to their length. That is clumsily described — no doubt an engineer could do much better. But I hope it is clear enough. The "bed" section that I have mentioned — I wish I had asked for its technical name — was being dealt with in an interesting manner. It had become worn much as the top of the cylinder in a motor becomes worn. The fine clean edge at the top of each little cylinder (for that describes the socket holes very well) had become blunted and wider than the pins, so that clean perforating was no longer possible; in order to restore the head to efficiency a tool was being used which when struck in near contact with the rim of each hole had the effect of forcing the edges of the hole inward. After this had been done a pin would no longer enter the hole — I tried, using one from a supply on the bench — so I presume each hole would now be drilled anew. Some burnishing would probably be necessary.

It was unfortunate that we had to avoid what were probably the most interesting rooms, but we saw enough to keep us more than interested for the greater part of the day. We left quite late in the afternoon, very much indebted to our kindly and charming host and his fellow directors and staff.