



# THE KIWI



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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Affiliated to:- BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME XII. No. 5. SEPTEMBER, 1963

WHOLE No. 62

The next Meeting of the Society will be on September 25th, Wednesday, at 6.15 p.m. - Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth St. London.

Displays and talks by John Evans and James Riddell, upon whom we can always depend for a very interesting evening.

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Correction to statement on page one of the July issue

Write-up of the May Meeting was reported under the heading 'MY STAMP COLLECTION, POSTAL HISTORY' by G.E.C. Pratt. (who was the speaker at that particular meeting).

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MEMBERSHIP LIST.

No. 5. 9/63.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Stephens, A.J.	now at	66, Overstone Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.
Naylor, M.	now at	1, The Hermitage, Grange Road, Putney. S.W.15.
Mitchell, Mrs. E.	now at	4, Trendeal Gardens, Clarence Street, Penzance, Cornwall.
Merton, Capt.	now at	"A" Sqdn. Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Nee Soon Camp, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.
Yerburgh, D.S.	now at	11, Bond Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, Hants.

MEMBERSHIP LIST. No. 5. 9/63. (continued).

RESIGNATIONS.

W. Lawrence of Godalming            Miss J. Ady of Mitcham

Lt. Col. W.H.S. Burney of Shorne.    (Health reasons)

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. H.A. Bingham, of Deal, Kent.

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Many enquiries have been made as to the correct numbering of all the copies of the "KIWI". From the following table, members will be able to correct their copies, and once more, be up-to-date.

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No. of Issues.

1952.	Vol. 1.	1 to 8	Correct
1953.	Vol. 2.	1 to 5	Correct
1954.	Vol. 3.	1 to 4	Correct
1955.	Vol. 4.	1 to 4	No. 4 should read Vol. 4.
1956.	Vol. 5.	1 to 3	Vol. No. should read 5.
1957.	Vol. 6.	1 to 5	" " " " 6.
1958.	Vol. 7.	1 to 5	" " " " 7.
1959.	Vol. 8.	1 to 6	} ALL NEW NUMBERING Required (Whole No's. 52 to 57. " " 58 to 62.
1960.	Vol. 9.	1 to 5	
1961.	Vol. 10.	1 to 6	
1962.	Vol. 11.	1 to 6.	
1963.	Vol. 12.	No's 1,2,3,4,& 5.	

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W. Hasler Young.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING on 31st JULY, 1963.

The first member to take the floor was Mr. John D. Evans (Sheen), who produced for discussion four sheets of the 6d. blue full face, of which the first issue date is generally accepted as the 1st July 1871.

27 stamps were on view ranging from the deep blue (Verne Collins 146), blue (SG.135), pale blue (SG.136) and chalky blue (Verne Collins 147), and included in the range were 4 copies of perforation 10 x 12½ (SG.129) in deep blue and (SG.130) in pale blue, and specimens in deep blue and pale blue of Pims No. 124, which is the compound perforation of 12½ on three sides with perforation 10 at foot.

In the range was a block of 4 unused perforation 12½ blue shade recently bought from the Burrus Collection.

The object of this small display was to shew by reference to the plate wear particularly to the right of the Queen's head and in the engine turning, that the deep blue shade was the first issue and that as the shades grew paler the wear of the plate increased. There were two dated copies of March and September 1873 of the pale blue shade, and it can be seen from the order in the various catalogues that the deep blue shade, where mentioned, is not included first, and Campbell Paterson Catalogue lists a milky blue as distinct from a chalky blue which was a distinctive palish shade produced by a white pigment being mixed with the blue and with thicker application of the ink.

Whilst with the deep blue shade it looked as if owing to the relative absence of the plate wear that it probably is the earlier, there was quite extensive wear on the later copies in the other variations of the shades and it was suggested that since the inks may not have been uniformly used throughout the 3 years when the stamp was in use, it might not be possible to classify the later shades, after the deep blue shade in any sort of date order by reference to plate wear alone.

The talk was quite interesting but Mr. Evans forgot to mention that various values of the full faces were still held by some Post Offices as late as 1882, and were called in to the G.P.O. at Wellington just before the issue of the second side face issue in that year.

Mr. Evans also produced a sheet shewing 4 of the circular Province of Auckland date stamp, said to be issued to newly opened Post Offices in Waikato early in 1864. Each date stamp

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING on 31st JULY, 1963 (contd).

had a serial number No. 1 to 8 and there is some evidence that these date stamps were generally used as reliefs. The date was altered as required.

It was explained that Mr. R.M. Startup of Marsterton, New Zealand had in 1958 written a pamphlet on these date stamps and at that date there were 33 recorded examples. They were sometimes used with the "Headquarters" and the "Queens Redoubt" cancellations of the second Maori war, and there are rare examples where the cover contains one of those cancellations and the Province of Auckland date stamp.

As the date stamps were used as reliefs it was explained that unless there was some evidence as to the origin of the cover it could not be said for certain where the date stamps were used owing to the change of local offices at the time of the use of the date stamps as reliefs, or that the date stamps were sent when required for use at local Offices.

Mr. Evans explained that Mr. Startup had stated that of the 8 date stamps examples of No. 1 to 6 inclusive, and one impression of No. 8 serial number had been traced in the 33 examples and that the serial number appears underneath the word "of" in the date stamp. Date stamp No. 7 had not been found, but Mr. Evans shewed a pair of 2d. blue 1864-7 issue (Sg.113) shewing clearly Province of Auckland date stamp with serial No. 7 dated 30th December 1864 with the figure 3 of 30th inverted.

He said he had purchased this about a year ago at an auction on the footing that it was a possible Maori war cancellation. Mr. Evans stated that it appeared to be the only known example so far and that it was indeed a find.

Of the other copies shewing the date stamp, 2 were of the 6d. brown value both of serial No. 2, one dated the 4th February 1865 on the 1864-7 perf. 12½ issue (SG.122) and the other of the 6d. red brown imperf, dated the 24th February 1865 (SG.43). These shew either that the perforated and imperforated stamps were both being used after the issue of perforated stamps in 1864 because the date of the cancellation of the imperf. is some 20 days later, or possibly that whoever used the imperf. stamp might have held it for some time after purchase.

The remaining copy was of the 2d. blue (SG.115) and merely shewed part of the date stamp but no serial number or date.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING on 31st JULY, 1963 (contd).

With earthquakes in the news Mr. Michael Burberry (Bickley, Kent) produced his Burrus acquisition of four airmail covers flown by the N.Z. R.A.F. as part of the emergency postal measures following the Hawkes Bay and Napier earthquake on 3rd February 1931.

Each cover was stamped in purple :

Although Vol. III states that no cachet was applied, Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia, Part IV, gives the period of the emergency air mail service as 4th to 27th February.

As a visit to a philatelic library produced no results, Mr. Burberry was hoping for information - or where to find it - concerning :

- (1) Area affected by the earthquake.
- (2) What were the emergency postal arrangements.
- (3) From which fields did the planes operate.
- (4) Who put on the purple stamp (Verne Collins?)
- (5) Which pilots flew the mail.
- (6) Why did the pilots sign the covers and when.
- (7) Any other information, such as number of covers flown etc.

Postscript. As no cachet was officially applied to the envelopes, it is possible that members have examples in their collection unbeknown to them. The dates to remember are 4th to 27th February, 1931 and (from the above mentioned covers) cancelled Hawkes Bay or Napier.

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The following notes from Field's Catalogue of "Airmail Stamps and Airposts of the World" 1932 under New Zealand may be of interest in connection with the above:-

The following is a list of the chief flights in connection with the serious earthquake at Napier in February, 1931. Covers carried bear a special cachet, "EMERGENCY EARTHQUAKE AIR MAIL".

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING on 31st JULY, 1963 (contd).

1931 (February 4th). Wellington - Hastings. Flown cover (12 carried) ... ..	£10.
1931 (February 6th). Gisborne - Hastings. Flown cover ... ..	£3.
1931 (February 6th). Hastings - Auckland Ditto. ... ..	£6
1931 (February 6th). Hastings - Wellington .. Ditto.	£3
1931 (Feb. 7th & 9th) Wairoa - Hastings. Flown cover ... ..	£7

Owing to the serious dislocation of services through the earthquake a number of Gisborne business men formed the "Gisborne Air Transport Ltd." Mail was first carried on March 10th, and after arrangements with the Postal Authorities a special envelope was issued, inscribed "Gisborne Air Transport Ltd., - Route followed - First Flight".

1931 (March 10th). Gisborne - Hastings, by the Gisborne Air Transport Ltd. Flown cover (185 carried) ... ..	20/-
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On the return flight a similar number of covers was carried. A special rubber cachet was later employed bearing a similar inscription to that described above.

(Hon. Editor).

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Mrs. I.J. Willis (Tunbridge Wells) then delighted the members with a short display of non-New Zealand material - 9 pages - 'Thematic' "Wine in Philately". On each page, stamps of many countries depicting grapes and wine making; were arranged in and around drawings of the appropriate wine glass. This was considered rather hard to members such as myself who were strict T.T. Mrs. Willis then showed a page of the ½d. Peace Issue 1946, (Flaws). Two of the stamps showed a cracked plate near the right hand, as this flaw is not unique, other members must possess same. Mrs. Willis requests any member to inform her as to the sheet position, etc.

(Abbreviations - T.T. = Temporarily Thirsty).

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING on 31st JULY, 1963 (contd).

The final display of the evening was provided by Mr. H. Hayward (Enfield) and comprised a study of the Royle "Dot" plates of the Penny Universal. In his opening remarks, Mr. Hayward said that he had an ulterior motive in shewing the stamps inasmuch as he had encountered certain plating difficulties and he hoped that these could be resolved with the assistance of members present. Three plates were used and stamps printed from them were first placed on sale in February, 1904. There were no distinguishing identification marks on the plates when received in New Zealand but after receipt one, two, or three, short lines were cut diagonally immediately above the central arrow in the bottom selvedge to provide the means of identification. Blocks shewing these marks are of considerable rarity and this has been partly responsible for the difficulties encountered in allocating the stamps to their respective plates.

In his handbook on the subject, Mr. G.R. Lee states that there are no "general characteristics which would enable the stamps from the three dot plates to be distinguished". However, as a result of his studies, Mr. Lee has formed certain conclusions based on (a) the "pattern" of the dots which, for example, are not centrally placed in Plate I, (b) the irregularity in the alignment of the base value panels, particularly noticeable in Plate I and (c) the partial horizontal guide lines, traces of which appear in some (but not all) examples from Plate III only.

Mr. Hayward said that Mr. Lee had also apparently succeeded in allocating re-entries and re-touches to their respective plates and examples of these (from Mr. Lee's collection) were included in the display.

Mint blocks of varying sizes were shewn covering all the known shades, including specimens of the scarce deep carmine-lake, and all the perforation varieties except the 14 x 11 and the "slot machine" issues. In addition, the collection contained an unused strip of Plate I, row 1, Nos. 19 to 24, aniline carmine, imperf. at top. There were also several pages of used strips and blocks arranged in chronological order of postmarks, dating from early March, 1904.

At the end of the talk, members present were invited to furnish comments, particularly on the question of plate identification. It seemed to be generally agreed that, for a variety of reasons, it was not possible - certainly for the average collector - to allocate every stamp in the group to its respective plate with absolute certainty, and that even in

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING on 31st JULY, 1963 (contd).

those cases where research had brought to light certain varieties and characteristics associated with a particular plate it was necessary to exercise caution.

W. Hasler Young.

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT.

I hear very strong rumours that next year New Zealand will change her currency to a decimal system with a dollar unit equivalent to 10/-.

I wonder if we shall be told that to use up stocks of stamps, surcharges will be printed on current issues? I wonder whether the current issue will continue with changed values, or whether another series is in course of preparation.

I expect we shall soon know more and it will be interesting to see if the present disparity between New Zealand and Australian currency will continue in the same ratio when Australia changes also to a decimal system.

I will take a list of prices realised for the Burrus "New Zealand" collection to our next meeting but in the meantime I have sent to "KIWI" Editor a broadsheet of the highlights, issued by the Auctioneers - Robson Lowe Ltd. I must comment on Lot No. 9, a very fine copy of SG.1 valued at £300, which is the full catalogue price, and which made £750. Other less fine copies made £350, £275, and £100. John Evans and Michael Burberry brought to our last meeting some items for which they had bid successfully. It is interesting to see some items offered in a Newsletter received from New Zealand this morning. Robson Lowe's catalogue descriptions are rather more subdued than those in the Newsletter, but I can understand the enthusiasm aroused by the receipt in New Zealand of some of the choice items from this really wonderful collection.

The individual members who contributed to our enjoyment at our last meeting promised to send to Albert Hard details of their sheets displayed and I hope they have done so. A most enjoyable evening was the verdict of those who attended.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT (contd).

At our next meeting on Wednesday, September 25th, Messrs. John Evans and James Riddell - two of our own members will entertain us. You will regret it if you miss this meeting, so come along at 6.15 or earlier on that evening.

Harry Bartrop.

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RECORD "BURRUS" RESULTS.

The sale of the New Zealand section of this collection on the 23rd July at 50, Pall Mall added a further £25,770 to the total. The 1855 London prints provided some exceptional prices, the mint pairs of the 1d. and 2d. fetching £2,400 and £620 respectively. The mint 1/- on blue went for £640 while the copy on white paper sold at £375. The finest used singles fetched extraordinary prices - the 1d. £750 (the unused single was comparatively inexpensive at £320), 2d. £75 and 1/- £200. The slightly defective strip of 1/- realised £420. The cover with two examples of the 1d. failed to find a buyer but the other values made up for this lapse.

The best prices among the later issues included:

1855 on blue unused: 1d. £130, 2d. £70, 1/- £240;  
used: strips of six - 1d. (defective) £260,  
2d. £220; pairs - 1d. £110, 2d. £75; singles -  
1d. £36, 2d. £80, 1/- £130.

1858 on white used; pin roulette 2d. £85, serrated 6d.  
£130 and 1/- £135, rouletted 1/- £90.

1862 Star mint blocks of twenty; 1d. £750, 6d. £1,000,  
1/- £1,550.

1862 Pelure unused; 1d. £90, 2d. £150, 6d. £130;  
rouletted 6d. £90; perf. 1d. £75, 2d. £105,  
1/- £190.

1864 NZ unused: 1d. block £230, 6d. £260, 1/- £100;  
used 1/- block of eighteen £300.

1864-67 Star 12½: mint blocks of 1d. carmine (60) £175,  
1d. pale orange-vermilion (95) £180, 3d. (15) £75,  
1/- (25) £125.

The unique block of sixty 4d. on Saunders paper did not find a buyer but the block of four 1931 35/- fetched £380.

## MY STAMP COLLECTION.

There are many sidelines to my collection: they comprise covers and other postal history material.

The principal is a series of collections of the cancellations of Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin.

These grew out of attempts to organise a collection of the history of cancellations. This grew so disorganised that some rationalisation was needed. So I concentrated on these four but had to forego the small towns and villages, whose cancellations other collectors prefer. Thus these four collections serve to ration the postal history material that I retain: the circulating packet benefits by the remainder ( unless I can find an excuse to include it in the collection illustrating changes in Postal Rates).

Wellington is understandably the largest of these collections. It starts with a pre-stamp entire whose contents could never be written by a modern writer. This is followed by a range of day-to-day cancellations, down through the period of the squared circle, and the multiple circles, but I have still to find the Second Class Mail dotted ring on cover or wrappers.

Then there are the early machine and slogan cancellations. These start with the publicity for Penny Postage, the Flag cancellation (used in Canada at earlier dates) followed by publicity to encourage saving during World War I.

There is also a range of special cancellations, such as "Paid" stamps and "Frank" stamps.

I have tried to include covers from the suburban and other subsidiary post-offices, such as Wellington Railway and the Government Buildings. These latter seem to be reasonably available but the suburban post-office cancellations are poorly represented.

Being a keen collector of Postal Stationery, there is some official stationery with Wellington cancellations, but this is a meagre showing.

In these four collections a few of the philatelic covers with special one-day cancellations are included out of the many that have come my way. To include many of these makes the collection look artificial and I can never understand why a reputable philatelic society - even to raise money for its own exhibition - should sponsor or provoke the issue of such material.

## MY STAMP COLLECTION (contd).

Another sideline is a small collection of Forces mail from the two World Wars including the cancellations of the various camps. Unfortunately, this section is still very thin.

The most interesting to me is a collection of covers which could not be delivered as originally addressed. Some had to be re-directed and scarred with the record of a pertinacious series of attempts to find the addressee. The principal seems to have been to continue trying as long as there was space on the cover - however cramped - for further re-direction attempts.

Cancellations on mail returned to sender are a study of their own. Although normal cancellations are virtually standardised, each Post Office appears to have been left to use its own initiative for rubber stamps on mail returned to sender for one reason or another. The reasons are many and the initiative has been so considerable that discussion of this is best deferred to a later issue.

G.E.C. Pratt.

## N.Z. MARINE POST OFFICE DATE STAMP MYSTERY.

A recent purchase of a complete cover has led to an unrecorded N.Z. Marine Post Office Date Stamp coming to light or an illustration being wrong in Vol. 3 of the N.Z. Handbook. The details are as follows:

The letter had been sent from Auckland to Sutton in Surrey and impressed on the sealing flap was NORTHERN CLUB AUCKLAND, N.Z. The cover was franked with two fairly worn copies of the 1d. Universal Local Plates Perf. 14. These had been cancelled with the PACKET BOAT in a double lined rectangular block, marking No. 39, Page 268. Vol. 3 N.Z. Handbook. The date stamp adjacent to the stamps was the N.Z. Marine P.O. R.M.S. "SONOMA" in double lined circle the impression was in blue, date 25th Dec. 1903 No. 20 Page 265 Vol. 3. The strange thing about the date stamp is the distinct stop after "SONOMA" which is not shown in the Handbook's illustration or in Franks Postal History Catalogue N.Z., possibly his illustration was taken from the Handbook. If the statement on Page 264 is correct that only one cover has been seen it may be that the stop was omitted when the

## N.Z. MARINE POST OFFICE DATE STAMP MYSTERY (contd).

line block was made for the illustration. On the reverse of the envelope is a C.D.S. marked SUTTON JA 25 04.

Mr. R.J.G. Collins in answer to a letter about this cover states, I quote, "I did not have an opportunity to examine the "Studd" (this is the owner of the only other known cover mentioned on Page 264 Vol. 3.) and from memory I believe I copied the SONOMA date-stamp for Vol. 3 from a photograph. It is quite possible that there may have been a stop after "SONOMA" which did not show clearly and that I omitted it from the drawing". It would be interesting to hear if any members who study N.Z. Postal History can throw any light on this matter.

R.E. Heath.

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## RURAL DELIVERY SERVICES

This service, still important to many New Zealanders in country areas, is little known to collectors in the U.K. though it has been the subject of recent references in the "KIWI".

The vast amount of mail so delivered bears no postmark evidence. Even re-addressed mail is likely to be noted by hand with the new address.

Rubber stamps are available for eventual use after a period of re-direction - "Please notify correspondent new Address" - and for such purposes as mail which has to be returned to sender. These are the only "Postal History" evidence of this Service.

Recipients on a Run - a main P.O. may serve up to half-a-dozen runs - pay £1 a year for the service. They are then entitled to place a big tin mail box on a post by on the road side. It has to be on the right-hand side of the normal Run direction, no matter if you live on the left hand side of the road so that the "Mail Man" can deliver mail or parcels from the driving seat of his car or lorry.

The Mail Man will also collect outward mail from the box if you leave erect a red tin flag which is affixed to the Mail Box. He may also have a stock of low value stamps for sale.

## RURAL DELIVERY SERVICES (contd).

The box is usually shaped like a miniature Nissen Hut. One end hinges upwards. It is wise to suspend a weight on a piece of wire attached to the lid to keep out nesting starlings. Otherwise they could push up the lid and fill the box with nesting debris between deliveries. However, a weight is too heavy for them to lift the lid whilst on the wing.

The usual thing with Registered Mail is to deliver a notice of it, and then the addressee could meet the Mail Man next morning to take delivery and sign the receipt. If it was not always possible to meet the Mail Car and an indemnity has been signed, any registered mail could be delivered the same day into the Mail Box, without a receipt being given. Similar arrangements apply to mail on which there is a Postage Due or Customs charge to pay.

The Post Office calls for tenders, for a suitable period, for mail delivery on R.D. Runs. The Grocer or Butcher usually tenders for the Run as he could get orders and deliver same per mail run. Sometimes, however, someone wanting a job with a car may tender successfully.

The post on which the Mail Box is mounted can also carry a plaque, supplied by the newsagent to show the daily paper required. But the paper man was more likely to throw the paper on to the ground as he passed. This is all right in dry weather but in the wet the paper usually lands in a puddle, and has to be baked dry before it can be read.

One indirect advantage of numbered Rural Delivery Runs based on a Main Post Office is to reduce difficulty with mail addressed to incorrectly spelt Maori names. A study of the list of N.Z. Post Offices shows the possibility of error.

D. Edsall.

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One of our legal Members has sent me a cutting below set out, from The Solicitors' Journal of 13th December 1862, and is sure that the learned Editor would not object to publication in the "KIWI" :-

"THE SOLICITORS' JOURNAL" 13th DECEMBER, 1862.

On 13th December, 1862, The Solicitors' Journal published a visitor's amusing account of proceedings in a Maori court of law in New Zealand. "Old Riwai sat as judge. The case, one of slander, was introduced and argued by two young men - lawyers - each having received a fee of ten shillings. The judge was quickly confused by them, and sent to ask me how to proceed. I replied that I was there as a spectator only, and wished to see how such cases were conducted. Plaintiff then began on behalf of her daughter, of ten years of age, whose gentle birth had been maligned and in a screaming speech, with abundances of grimaces, demanded damages of £50 to be paid down at once. On this, loud laughter rose on every side. The child's father came forward to show how reasonable was the demand, saying that though the mother was a slave, he was a chief, and a great one too, and that the sum was little enough for having his daughter called a .... slave. He was quickly supported by aunts and uncles, in abundance, who all doubtless thought the £50 ready cash would be a good thing for the family and so they all stood up and chattered together making confusion worse confounded. By this time the two lawyers were nearly fighting, pacing about and speechifying one against the other and the court was about to decide in favour of the plaintiff, who had gained judgment solely through strength of lungs and impudence, when up jumped the defendant, a wretched looking old woman, and in tatters, and, rushing into the ring, she first divided the lawyers, then assailed the plaintiff, then abused the witnesses, heaped scorn on all parties, and justified the libel, then repeated it most expressively and dared them all to their faces. The whole court was instantly in an uproar, like Bedlam let loose, each person siding off to his party, and every speaker grinning at the rest, and all speaking and rushing about together, when my interference was again requested by the judge. Poor old man - he was all in a nervous sweat, and had evidently lost the train of his ideas. Order being restored, I took the case in hand ... and within a quarter of an hour the whole evidence had been extracted and the decision given. Judgment was still for the plaintiff, but only ten shillings damages, and yet all the parties were pleased with the result".

My correspondent does not know who Old Riwai was. Davies whose prints of the "Full Faces" had just appeared and those who were then experimenting with hand wheels to produce perforations of a kind were probably more engrossed in these pursuits than in the local laws. The tone of the extract does, however, give a glimpse at the local conditions when the stamps were being issued and good copies are so difficult to find.

John D. Evans.

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ALBERT A. HARD - Hon. Editor.