

and so on. Mr. Beswick's machine is not for office use only. He proposes to attach one to every letter-pillar where there is likely to be any business. Then letters can be stamped at the pillar at any hour of the day or night.

Mr. Beswick has been in communication with the Postmaster-General (Mr. Mauger), and has induced him to favourably consider the proposal. Mr. Mauger has agreed to pay Mr. Beswick £10 for installing one machine on a postal-pillar to be selected. This is by way of trial. If the trial is successful, the department will purchase 100 machines, which Mr. Beswick will supply at about 12/6 or 15/ each, and will refund the £10 paid by the department for the trial machine. If the trial does not satisfy Mr. Mauger and his officers, Mr. Beswick will retain the £10, and no more machines will be purchased. Those who have examined the new machine speak highly of it, and the postal officials are looking forward with interest to the practical test which is to be made.—“Argus.”

Australian Punctured Officials.—From investigations we have made we have ascertained that all the O.S. stamps required for use in Victoria, Tasmania, and West Australia are punctured before they leave the Melbourne Government Printing Office (where the stamps for these three States are printed). The size of the letters are in every case identical, and, so far as we have discovered up to the present, only one type has been used from the beginning.

BREVITIES.

Stamp Machine a Success.—According to newspaper report, Postmaster Morgan, of New York, is reporting favourably on the stamp vending machines which have been placed on trial in the post office here. The machines sell 1, 2, and 5 cent stamps, and, with the exception of the first few days, when the mechanism was somewhat disordered by transportation, their operation has been satisfactory. It is believed that the machines will eventually be placed quite generally in drug stores, post office sub-stations, and other places convenient to the public. This is the type of machine that uses the ordinary perforated stamps.—“Scott Stamp Circular,” U.S.A.

We regret to learn from “Gibbons' Stamp Weekly” that Mr. Frank Allen, a well-known collector of Wellington, New Zealand, lost his valuable collection of stamps in a fire on board one of the White Star steamers while on a voyage to England. Mr. Allen was especially strong in Australasians, more particularly New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland. Fortunately he has a complete list of the stamps, from which Mr. C. J. Phillips, of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., has been able to make a valuation, and it is to be hoped Mr. Allen's financial loss will not be great. Every collector should see to it that his collection is insured—if possible. We know there are difficulties in the way, as many insurance offices fight shy of covering a class of property regarding which it might be a difficult matter at times to assess the loss. There are, however, some offices more liberally disposed than others.