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INSURANCE STAMP PERFORATIONS Bulletin 263 Page 8.

BILL COKAYNE, a former director of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd., has sent more information about the making of Ballot Machines and perforating of Insurance Stamps and Savings Cards.

The Ballot machines were made to a standard pattern for use in local and national elections. They were made from die stamped pressings which were mounted in plastic and metal frames with easy access to the punch pins. The coded shapes could be selected by the returning officer of each polling station to improve the security of the ballot, and could be anything from a single hole to any combination from 25 holes.

At the time these machines were first ordered by the Ministry the requirement was such that a special unit was set up for manufacturing them and supplemented by the use of outworkers to pin up the assembled dies. When the original orders were completed some of the operators were kept on for training in other types of work. The original requirement by the Ministry was for 30,000 units and this was subsequently supported by repair and replacement orders until the closure of the company.

Referring to the Savings Stamps Cards being perforated to cancel redeemed stamps, this has been used by a number of companies usually by punching a single hole through each stamp while the card was folded. A model 40 heavy duty perforator was fitted with a die specially designed for the purpose.

Turning to the use of the yellow and green stamps as described on Page 19 of Bulletin 263, the information presented is fair and accurate. The errors shown on the illustration are faults at the drilling stage when the die was tested before completion after which corrections would be made. It should be noted that these sample one over dies were often produced by less experienced operators during their training.