

on without a break ever since, compiling a monthly chronicle of new issues, headed as a rule by a note of some length upon topics of philatelic interest. From December, 1885, to June, 1890, and again from January, 1892, to December, 1895, a period of ten years with a break of eighteen months, he edited *The Philatelic Record* with most conspicuous success.

But it is by his studies of the postal issues of our own country that Mr. Westoby's name will be most constantly brought to the remembrance of philatelists of all countries. The "Great Britain" book of 1881, which we all refer to as "Philbrick and Westoby," was the first work of any importance published by the London Philatelic Society, and although as a book of reference it has no doubt been superseded by the more recent work of Messrs. Wright and Creeke, it remains unsurpassed in its method of arrangement and as a piece of philatelic literature, reflecting the very greatest credit upon both of its authors. Since the appearance of that book Mr. Westoby has not ceased accumulating information upon the subject of British postage stamps of all classes. In 1890 he produced, in celebration of the Penny Postage Jubilee, *A Descriptive Catalogue of all the Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, issued during Fifty Years*, a most useful handbook, if we may so term it, to our postal issues down to that date; and he was engaged to the very last, in collaboration with his friend Judge Philbrick, upon the work of a second edition of their earlier book, bringing it up to date and containing, we believe, a great amount of fresh information, not only upon the adhesive stamps, but also upon the stamped envelopes and other stationery, which are so neglected by the philatelists of the present day.

Side-Lights on Canada.

MR. MULOCK, Postmaster-General of Canada, has more than once been accused of working the postal affairs of the Dominion for philatelic profit; and now the suggestion crops up again. "When Mr. Mulock suddenly decided upon two cent Canadian postage (says the *Toronto Daily Mail*), it was pointed out that he had to come to it against his will, owing to the ridicule that was poured upon his proposal to charge three cents for a local letter and two cents for a letter to Cape Colony. 'Nothing of the kind,' was the prompt reply. Mr. Mulock intended it long ago, as witness his discontinuance of the purchase of three cent stamps. All the three cent stamps had been used; there were no stamps other than two cent stamps in the department. It was clear then that two cent postage was long ago determined upon. Now we are getting three cent stamps with the two cent rate printed over them. Somebody has said that the Postmaster has permitted philatelists to corner these surcharged issues. The reply comes promptly and unhesitatingly that no 'corner' could be effected. Why? Because the department which, according to the story of nine months ago, had got rid of all its three cent stamps, has still 9,000,000 of them in stock."

The Changes in British Stamps.

ON the subject of the projected colour-changes in British Stamps, a representative of the *Sun* recently went to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited—the Mecca of all newspaper men in quest of philatelic light—and politely asked why we could not have a more up-to-date portrait of Her Majesty on the British stamps. It was not a matter that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, could control or even influence; but the manager of their firm, never known to be at a loss, replied as follows:

"The reason is a very simple one. Her Majesty objects to any change being made, and there is an end of it. There is a very wide desire—almost a national one, probably—for a portrait which would live with us during the years to come, showing her as we know her best, but, of course, there is no appeal from her expressed wish."

"Has a specific request been made to Her Majesty?"

"Oh, yes. That is to say, a number of new designs have been submitted, but she has rejected them all in favour of the old."

"There is to be a change in the colour?"

"In several of the stamps, not the penny one only. That will be distinctly red, reverting to the old colour; the half-penny issue will be green, and that for twopence-halfpenny blue. The shilling will also be a new colour, but it is not yet settled what it shall be."

"Some of the Colonial or dependencies' stamps have a more up-to-date portrait, have they not?"

"Many of them. Newfoundland, for instance"—and so on, so forth.

Readers of the *GUARDIAN*, being philatelists, can finish that little lecture for themselves.

Mr. Bacon on Reprints:

WE have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, the latest addition to their useful library of Philatelic Handbooks, namely, Mr. E. D. Bacon's very carefully compiled volume on "The Reprints of Adhesive Postage Stamps" price four shillings. From cover to cover this is a book full of information valuable to everyone associating himself with the philatelic hobby. It is more than merely desirable; it is almost a necessity. Reprints play an important part in Philately. At almost every turn the buyer of stamps is haunted by the fear that one or more of the specimens he is acquiring may be either a Government or a private reprint. At such moments of doubt Mr. Bacon's book is a friend indeed. Therein we find the reprints of all nations fully but succinctly described, as to paper, perforation and shade. So far it is possible to obtain finality in such a pursuit as Philately. Mr. Bacon's work on "Reprints" is certainly "the last word." We have called it a work of compilation, but it is but just to the author to state that in many countries, and notably in the case of the Native States of India there is a quantity of matter never hitherto published.

The "Great Unused Question."

WE feel that every reader of the *GUARDIAN* will be deeply interested in the series of articles we are publishing under the heading of "The Great Unused Question," and that, consequently, there will be less occasion for the apology we now present for the great proportion of space accorded to this feature in the present issue of the *GUARDIAN*. We regret having to hold over to No. 4 a mass of other almost equally interesting matter.

Death of Mrs. Stanley Gibbons.

WE hear, with great regret, that the founder of the big firm in the Strand sustained this severe loss on November 23rd. Mr. Stanley Gibbons will have the sincere sympathy of his numerous philatelic friends in his bereavement.

A Score for London this Time.

A YOUNG provincial dealer recently arrived in town and whilst handling some envelopes of stamps in the shop of a dealer whom we will call "N," was observed to "pouch" some of them. Said N—, "That is a fine overcoat you are wearing, allow me to see how it would suit me." After some demur the Y.P.D. consented. "Rather bulgy" said N—, "let take these things out of the pockets—why, bless me! these are my stamps!!!" *Exit Y.P.D.*

The Board of Trade Stamps.

THE Rev. P. E. Raynor writes:—

Referring to your note on p. 16, I beg to say that I have the following Board of Trade Stamps (perforated crown over B.T.)

½d. two specimens—one bearing London postmark, Feb. 1896
1d., postmarked London, Oct. 30, 96
5d., postmarked London, Feb. 96
6d.

All are, of course, of the Jubilee issue.

I have often wondered why these stamps are not catalogued and collected. Surely they are as collectible as any of the other departmental stamps of the British Government?