

Stamp Gossip and Notes on New Issues

Swiss Economy Issue

A new Swiss issue is an interesting pointer to the difficulties that confront the remaining neutral countries on the Continent. It consists of a 10c. stamp printed in German, Italian and French to cover the three languages commonly spoken in the various Cantons. The wording reads "Hold Firm—Save all Waste Materials." The object is to encourage salvage so as to reduce the buying of raw materials from outside Switzerland.



"The devil himself hath not such a name" ("Merry Wives of Windsor" Act II, Sc. 2).

charging of Australia's 2d., 3d. and 5d. issues to increase their values, each by halfpenny. The method of surcharging the first two gives them more than usual interest. The 2d. value in the former has been blotted out by a great black circle covering the whole of the King's shoulder, and the new value has been super-imposed on the circle.

Similar treatment has been given to the 3d. stamp, but in this case the value appears on both sides of the portrait. The left hand figures have been blotted out by four cancelling bars, and the right hand side by a great black square on which the new value is shown in gold figures. The 5d. stamp has received orthodox treatment, the left hand figures being cancelled by five horizontal bars and the right hand side showing the new value, 5½d., surcharged over the existing 5d.

Forthcoming Articles

In our next issue, we shall deal with further aspects of wartime topical stamp collecting, based on the many interesting pictorial stamps that show towns and cities in the recent war news. Later we shall describe and illustrate stamps bearing portraits of leading figures in the United Nations.

Three postage and three air mail stamps showing scenes in Mexico were issued on 14th February to commemorate the founding of Guadalajara, the second city of Mexico.

We thank Messrs. H. R. Harmer, 131-137, New Bond Street, London W.1, for their courtesy in loaning the stamps from which the illustrations for these pages have been made.

A Great Britain Colour Change

Shortage of the special brown pigment used in printing the current 2/6 stamp has led to the re-issue of this stamp in a bright green colour. This change was made very unexpectedly and without the publicity that has been given to the colour changes in the low values.



"A tree whose boughs did bend with fruit" ("Cymbeline" Act III, Sc. 3).

The change differs in another way from the earlier alterations, all of which were to a lighter shade, in that it was made for the sake of economy in dyestuffs and not because of a definite shortage. The demand for this stamp has increased very largely in recent months, due to its popular use for telegrams sent across the Atlantic by Canadian and American troops stationed in the British Isles, and also for entry forms in Red Cross Radio Competitions.

The Best War Stamp

South Africa's 1½d. War Effort stamp is likely to prove one of the most popular of all British war stamps. The design shows a portrait of Wing-Commander H. C. Kershaw, the first South African airman to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order in the present war.

Wing-Commander Kershaw gained this coveted award in the course of the campaign against the Italians in Abyssinia. He was then a Flight Lieutenant. His Squadron Leader had been shot down over the aerodrome at Diredawa. Kershaw dived down after

him, grounded his machine only a few yards away, lifted out the wounded pilot, carried him to his own machine and made good his escape through a tremendous barrage of anti-aircraft fire.

The stamp portrait is based on an oil-painting by the famous South African artist, Neville Lewis, and the design also



"Are those stars or suns upon it?" ("King Henry V" Act III, Sc. 6).

shows two Hurricane fighters climbing.

The Waste Paper Drive

From a news cutting we learn that recently 10 tons of the tiny pieces of paper punched out by a stamp-perforating machine have been sent to be repulped.

We cannot even venture to estimate the number of stamps that were perforated to produce this volume of waste. Indeed, it must be so astronomical a figure as to seem improbable. The cutting did not disclose any details other than those given above.

Zum Durchhalten	POUR TENIR	PER RESISTERE
Altstoffe sammeln	RECUPEREZ LES	RACCOGLIETE
HELVETIA	MATIERES USEES	LA ROBA VECCHIA
HELVETIA	HELVETIA	HELVETIA

The new Swiss stamp with inscriptions in three languages, referred to on this page. The slogan exhorts the Swiss to save raw materials of all kinds.