

Synopsis: Configuration and sourcing of machinery needed for new Stamp Act.

Summary: Local sourcing of embossing machines, wire stitching machines, and other necessary appliances in connection with stamps and postal notes. Number of items embossed so far. Details of stamp face values to be created.

The Postmaster-General has kindly supplied us with some additional information relative to the steps which have been taken to fulfil the provisions of the Stamps Act. The statement which has appeared to the effect that he had while in Melbourne bought stamping and embossing machines, Mr. Todd says is wholly incorrect. As a matter of fact while in the capital of the sister colony he inspected at Messrs. Sands & McDougall's office, the Government Printing-Office, and the General Post-Office embossing machines, wire stitching machines, and other necessary appliances in connection with stamps and postal notes, and obtained the prices. If possible, the machines will be got here. All the dies will be cut in Adelaide, and some are being made now. With a view to economy all dies of high value to be placed on documents on which the charges are to be ad valorem will have movable blocks and figures, which will be necessary in order to provide for the many different values. Up to Monday night 548,000 cheques had been embossed, the greatest number done in one day being 51,000. Two embossing machines worked by hand, each embossing four cheques at once, have been used. While in Melbourne, however, Mr. Todd saw a very handsome double - action embossing machine, driven by a small gas engine. As the number of penny stamps which will be printed will be very considerable it is probable that a similar machine will be used here. It should also be mentioned that 2,886 bills of lading and a few hundred promissory notes and other documents up to a stamp value of 3s. 6d. have been embossed. When in England the Postmaster General saw some excellently designed postage and revenue stamps, in which by means of an over-print plate the same design does for any value up to £1. Mr. Todd has obtained over-print plates for 2s. 6d, and 5s., and is having plates for values up to £20 made. At present the Post-Office Department has movable dies for 5s , 10s., 15s., £1., £2, £2 ;10s., £3, £4, and £5. The colors of the different adhesive stamps will be as follow;- 2s. 6d., mauve; 5s.,pink; 10s.,green; 15s.,orange; £1, blue; £2, brown; £2 10s.,red; £3, olive green; £4, yellow; £5, carmine; £10, lavender; £15, silver bronze; and £20, gold bronze. Each stamp will be of the size of two ordinary postage stamps, and will bear the Queen's profile. The Post-Office Department have separate embossing dies for 1d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d., 3s., 3s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d., and 5s. The counterpart of each embossing die is made of leather, over which is a thin layer of india rubber to prevent the die cutting the paper.