

will be accepted in prepayment of postage. Adhesive labels must bear the full name and address of the addressee and be completely gummed down. If a loose label is used it must be strong enough to withstand the wear-and-tear of passage through the post without becoming separated from its parcel.

(b.) Impressions on pieces of paper may not be affixed to mail-matter in the same manner as postage-stamps.

(c.) Faulty or faint impressions of dies of automatic stamping-machines on letters or telegrams are not to be accepted. The impressions must be absolutely distinct in every respect. The attention of holders of machines is to be called to the fact when the impressions are not acceptable.

251. Although the renewal of pads is solely a matter between the vendors and the purchaser of the machine, officers deputed to collect the charges are required to make a careful examination at regular intervals to see that the pads are in good order.

252. (a.) An automatic stamping-machine impression may be made upon a receipt in place of a duty-stamp.

(b.) Automatic stamping-machine impressions are not allowed in place of the usual Government impressed stamps on cheque forms.

#### GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE: POSTAGE.

253. Postage must be paid on Government and public-service letters, packets, and telegrams, with the following principal exceptions:—

(a.) Letters, packets, and telegrams from His Excellency the Governor-General;

(b.) Letters, packets, and telegrams from any of His Majesty's Ministers;

(c.) Addresses and petitions to Parliament, marked as such, provided they do not exceed 2 lb. in weight, and are forwarded without covers, or in covers open at ends;

and others as set out in the official correspondence list. The correspondence described in (a), (b), and (c) is to be passed free of charge. Letters and packets forwarded by or on behalf of His Excellency the Governor-General or any of His Majesty's Ministers are enclosed in covers imprinted or marked "Official, paid, Government House," or "Official, paid [*Name of the Minister's office*]"; or franked by the signature, or a facsimile thereof, of His Excellency, or the Minister, or of any officer to be designated by him.

254. Except as prescribed, all Government letters, packets, and telegrams, and letters, packets, and telegrams on public service from local bodies and from the Bank of New Zealand must be paid for by means of postage-stamps or by impressions of automatic stamping-machines of the value representing the charges, to be affixed to the letters and packets before posting or to telegrams before presentation. Government Departments posting at one time for delivery in New Zealand not less than one hundred pieces of mail-matter may, however, by arrangement with the Post Office, hand such letters, &c., unstamped, to a responsible Postal officer, together with a certificate of posting. (See Rule 343 (b) (2).)

255. Government Departments authorized under section 8 of the Official Postage Regulations to issue printed envelopes must have superscribed on the envelopes the words "Postage payable on Delivery," and Chief Postmasters will report to the Secretary any case in which appears any other superscription. Officers must give strict attention to charging at the point of delivery unpaid mail-matter posted under the Official Postage Regulations.

256. Unpaid or short-paid official letters, &c., addressed to Government Departments are, if not superscribed to the effect that