

brought under the notice of the officer at fault, and also reported to the Secretary. It is most important that date-stamp impressions should be perfect in every respect, and any failures will be severely noticed.

(b.) Form P.O. 79 is to be used at chief post-offices for communicating with sub-offices at which the date-stamping is observed to be indistinct. Chief Postmasters are to provide for frequent revision of the work of date-stamping at sub-offices, with a view to maintaining its clearness and correctness.

(c.) A copy of poster 57, "Postage-stamps not Obliterated or Imperfectly Obliterated," is to be exhibited permanently in the mail-room at each permanent and railway office and in each railway travelling post-office.

332. (a.) The impression of the date-stamp on letters, post-cards, books, parcels, and newspapers should be as follows:—

On the Front

All articles when first posted (excluding newspapers and intrinsically valueless packets prepaid in cash), whether prepaid or not. The impression must be legibly made on the postage-stamps unless the stamps are affixed in contravention of any of these rules.

All articles missent.

Unclaimed letters, &c. (at sub-offices in black ink; at chief offices in red ink).

Redirected letters, &c. (at office where redirected).

Delivered letters returned to the post-office.

Newspapers bearing stamps posted at Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington are not to be date-stamped, the obliterating of the postage-stamps being done with felt stamps. These stamps may also be used at the same offices for postmarking packets in cases in which clear impressions with steel stamps cannot be obtained.

On the Back.

Letters received at any office (except chief post-offices, railway travelling post-offices, and the larger sub-offices) from another office

Insured letters.

Letters for delivery at counter.

(b.) Post-cards, newspapers, commercial and printed papers, books, pattern and sample packets, and parcels need not be date-stamped, except at the offices at which they are posted.

333. Letters or packets which appear to contain photographs, cards, or other fragile articles are to be stamped lightly.

334. At offices at which letters are stamped on the back the letters received from a sub-office should be placed on the stamping-table with the point of the flap turned away from the stamper, and those received from a chief office with the point of the flap turned toward the stamper.

TYING AND SEALING MAIL-BAGS.

335. A wooden device is to be used for the measuring of string in suitable lengths for the tying of mail-bags. The string is to be wound around the wood lengthwise and then cut at one end. This will give pieces of string of sufficient length. The device is to be used at all permanent offices and the more important railway offices. In order to use the many spare pieces collected of