

If the firm saves only a few dollars, it is a reduction it could not obtain at the general postoffice, and many of the large houses in New York buy all their stamps in this way. There are a hundred concerns in New York, such as wholesale firms, commission houses, insurance, railroad and steamship companies, that use more than a thousand stamps a day, and the saving of a few dollars on each 10,000 means something in the course of the year.

"This business is well known and there is good reason to believe that some persons in New York are shrewd enough to make a fair living by beating the department, for this is a scheme that can be worked both ways. It is surprising, for instance, that you are the secretary of a large insurance company, using a thousand stamps a day. The postmaster at your town is paid by the amount of his cancellations. You are on friendly terms with him, as you are with the postmaster at another town near by, who is paid according to his gross receipts. You agree with the first to bring out your mail every evening, and are met by him at the train. With the other you arrange to take 6,000 stamps a week, which he delivers at your house in the suburbs or at your office in town. From both you get a commission, from the one for the stamps and from the other for the mailing. Now, put the two together and you will find that you are getting at least one-fourth of your stamps for nothing. The stamp bill of your firm is \$6,000 a year and you are receiving \$1,500 a year for your trouble. Quite an agreeable addition to the ordinary salary, and you also have the pleasure of knowing that you are helping two friends. As there are many men in New York who are just as wise as you, the department believes that this sort of thing has been going on for years. Of course nothing can be done with the individual, and with the postmaster the department is restricted to a dismissal.

"While this is apparently a harmless piece of business enterprise, it works great detriment to the department, to the local officers and to the postmasters. The people who are engaged in it are defrauding the government to this extent that they are compelling it to pay twice for the service performed, and they are obtaining their stamps at a discount, thus forming a favored class. Any one knows that the government has always prided itself on the fact that no matter how many stamps a person buys, he pays the same price as the purchaser of one stamp.

"The evil has spread all through the country. There is scarcely an office in the land where some one is not conducting a business of this kind and making a profit out of it. We discovered the extent of it when we took in the smaller towns about Chicago, Boston and Baltimore. In every case the receipts of the office increased, and it was due, to a large extent, to the fact that the office was getting the business which belonged to it. There is no doubt that the receipts of the New York office are greatly affected by this system, and that after the consolidation the receipts will take an upward tendency. The same postmasters will become salaried clerks, and they will no longer have the incentive to sell stamps in New York, and they will cease the practice. Both the New York postoffice and the department will be benefitted by it."

### A KINGLY LOVE AFFAIR.

The young King Alexander of Servia, with the aid of Bela Rudnay, the chief of police in Budapest, and a particularly beautiful young woman, has made a tremendous scandal which is said to

have set the Obrenovic's dynasty to tottering.

It seems that this young man, whose precocious mind, courage, and force startled the whole civilized world, is true to his heritage. He is the son of Milan, the worst spendthrift and the most immoral being in all Europe, and of the beautiful Natalie, one of the most fascinating and most dangerous of women, whose intrigues are almost worthy to be placed beside those of former King Milan, her husband.

Young Alexander became enamored of a music hall beauty. There isn't the slightest question about this. Nor is it particularly extraordinary in Servia. But the young woman was arrested, charged with trying to blackmail his majesty, and herein lies the crime. Chief Bela Rudnay declares that Miss Rosa Benko wrote letters, in connection with others, to the royal court of Belgrade declaring that unless 1,000,000 francs were deposited with a certain person very tender missives and inscribed photographs presented by King Alexander would be published in the newspapers.

The chief gave out an official report in which he declared that he had made a formal and thorough investigation and found that the woman had never known King Alexander, and it was therefore impossible that she should have received letters written to her by the king, and photographs as well.

As a matter of fact, King Alexander saw the beauty in Samosi's Orpheum, a music hall that is popular, and was strongly attracted to her. She was a chorus girl, not then having risen to the dignity of a role.

She was worthy of admiration. She was 17 years old, rather tall for a woman with a marvelous fine figure, and a face that commanded attention. Her features were finely modeled, and she had the blackest hair and eyes. Withal she had great charm of manner.

The chorus girl, who lived in the poorest surroundings and to whom the simplest new gown was an event in her life, was taken to the royal palace of Belgrade about the first of last year. She was provided with costly dresses and fine jewels.

Natalie, the king's mother, knew of Rosa Benko's antecedents, but the former queen said that her son must marry before long and that he must learn how to make love.

The chorus girl from the music hall was introduced in court circles as the niece of the king's physician and a gentlewoman of birth. She quickly adapted herself to her new surroundings.

A court that had endured King Milan for so long was not to be disturbed by an incident like this. It will be remembered that on different occasions Milan introduced whole burlesque and comic opera companies into his palace and entertained them or days.

But it appears that the chorus girl who had won the fancy of the king in a music hall did not return his affection, although he was the most devoted of admirers. She had more freedom than might have been supposed, for it was feared by those anxious for the king that he might become so deeply entangled with the music hall girl as to marry her and that would never do at all. So every possible obstacle was placed in Alexander's way to prevent him from seeing Rosa. And this accounts for the many letters and the photographs which he sent her.

Rosa herself was the ablest ally of those who were fearful of the results of the king's infatuation. After four months of the joys of the palace she showed that she preferred others to the king. Alexander suspected that his chamberlain had supplanted him in Rosa's regard.

The young king of Servia is no weakling. He is only 22, but he proved his

power when he was 17. Up to that time he ruled under a regency and had little power. He was not to become king in fact until he was 21. But the hoy ruler effected a coup d'etat that startled Europe. He calmly announced that he should rule, dismissed the regent and arrested the ministers. He was thereafter a real ruler.

When Alexander found that Rosa was a flirtatious minx he wasted no time in entreaties. He swiftly ordered her out of the palace and left her to shift for herself.

Rosa Benko returned to Budapest. It was natural enough that she should talk about her experiences in court. Harzmann, the owner of a music hall, who has since come to New York, engaged her for his stage. It was first necessary that her voice should have a little training.

The young woman's debut was announced to take place six weeks ago. She was advertised as Rosa Benko-Rogot Alexi-Obrenovica, queen of the Orient.

This was carrying matters to a great step. If King Alexander chose to take a singer of burlesque into his palace it was one thing and the world was not supposed to know about it. But when the young woman advertised as the declared sweetheart of the king it was another.

The day before Rosa was to make her appearance Chief of Police Rudnay summoned the young woman and Manager Harzmann before him. The official said that Rosa could not appear under the advertised name. Of course the manager and singer said they would obey the order.

When Rosa Benko returned to her home she found another high police official waiting for her. He had a search warrant and on the strength of it he took away all the letters that King Alexander had sent her as well as the pictures.

That is, the official took all the letters he could find. The most important packet the far-sighted young woman had concealed elsewhere. And she still has them in her possession.

It is true that two men did attempt to extort money by blackmail, and Joseph Kovacs and one Weiss were tried for the offense. It was not deemed wise to try Rosa because of that packet of letters, so the police a few weeks ago escorted her to the frontier and told her never to enter Hungary again.

These things have stirred up the Servians. It may result in the overturning of the dynasty. It will be remembered that King Milan was forced to abdicate because of his escapades, and if his son follows in his footsteps he cannot last long as a ruler.

Rosa Benko is furious, and she threatens to disclose many things which would add to the fever in Servia.

### NORTH CAROLINA'S HOSPITALITY.

Trenton, Jones Co., N. C.

January 31, 1898.

We highly appreciate the news from Utah and other parts contained in your paper, and especially the good reports from Elders of Israel in their respective fields of labor. It always causes our hearts to rejoice to hear of the success of our co-laborers in truth.

We are pleased to inform you that we have splendid success in our labors here in Jones county; many very kind friends to entertain us, and some who are earnestly investigating the glorious plan of salvation—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many are converted here, but they haven't had the courage to come out and accept it yet, because Mormonism is not popular with the world. The Gospel has never been in sympathy with the majority of mankind, for Christ said (John, 15th chap.