

## Newfoundland Metered Mail

By Dan Meyerson

It is amazing how little the average collector of Newfoundland knows about Metered Mail from that country. In fact I daresay that many Newfoundland collectors are unaware that metered mails are used there. For most of the following information we are indebted to Mr. Werner Simon, who very graciously supplied the check list which appears at the end of this article. Boggs in his book has a chapter dealing with Metered Mail and some of that information is incorporated into this article.

There are two different meter models in use in Newfoundland, namely the Midget and the Neopost, made by two different meter manufacturers both of British origin. The first use of Metered Mail was early in 1930 when a Midget machine was put in use by a St. Johns firm. These machines as near as can be determined are three denomination machines. The explanation for the four values from Midget machine #6 is that in all probability the 3c value die was replaced by the 4c value die because of a change in postal rates, so at no time did the machine ever print more than three values at a time. To date there have been only three Midget machines identified from Newfoundland.

About 1933 a Neopost machine with limited value dies was also put into operation at St. Johns, and the earliest use of the Neopost machine that I have record of is a cover from Neopost machine #18, dated April 10, 1933. There are twenty recorded machines of the Neopost design and they come in two types, those with a frame line around the design and those without the frame line. The machine with the frame line around the design operates with separate dies of value for each denomination, whereas the machines without the frame line have an opening for the figure of value which is mounted on a rotary segment. By a lever the desired denomination is brought into position for printing through the opening of the frame die. The impression is always in red and it is noted that the machines used outside of St. Johns have no townmark but bear a regular cancellation.

The cuts below will illustrate graphically the difference between the Midget and the Neopost machines. The Neopost Meter, an example of the type without a frame line around the design, bears a Corner Brook cancellation and reference to the list below will show that it was used by the International Power & Paper Co. with offices at Corner Brook. The Midget Meter was used by the Avalon Telephone Co. from St. Johns and for that reason bears no regular cancellation.

I trust that the following check list will stimulate interest in this phase of collecting and that any of our readers who can add to the list will please drop me a note so that the information can be passed along to the rest of our members who may be interested.

### Midget:

No.

- 1 Avalon Telephone Co.—1, 2, 3,
- 5 Imperial Tobacco Co.—1, 2, 3
- 6 Bowring Brothers—1, 2, 3, 4

### Neopost:

- 2 Newfoundland Light & Power Co.—2
- 4 Harvey & Co., Ltd.—2, 3
- 7 James Baird Ltd.—1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20
- 8 Colonial Cordage Co.—2, 3
- 9 Job's Store Ltd.—2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10
- 11 G. Browning & Son Ltd.—2, 3, 5
- 12 ? ? ?—2
- 13 Geo. Neal Ltd.—2, 3
- 14 St. Johns Municipal Council—1, 2, 3
- 15 Newfoundland Railway—1, 2, 4, 5
- 16 Newfoundland Timber etc. Co.—4
- 17 Great Eastern Oil Co.—2
- 18 T. & M. Winter—2, 3, 4, 5, 10
- 19 Royal Stores Ltd.—2, 3, 4, 5, 20



MIDGET



NEOPOST

- 20 Intern'l Power & Paper Co.—2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 20
- 21 Harvey & Co., Ltd.—2, 3, 4, 5
- 22 Steers Ltd.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10
- 23 Harvey & Co., Ltd.—2
- 24 Royal Stores Ltd.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10
- 25 Bowaters Neld. Pulp & Paper Mills, Ltd.—4, 5