

NEWFOUNDLAND PROVISIONAL, 2c on 30c

After a seven year hiatus, a provisional appears again in Newfoundland, a worthy companion to the 1897, 1920, and 1929, and 1939 provisionals. While it is still too early to know all the fact regarding this latest issue, the following information is at hand:

Due to a shortage of 2c stamps, the 30c Memorial College stamp was overprinted TWO CENTS to serve as local postage. It was overprinted in sheets of 50, and as far as is known at present, both the right and left hand panes were overprinted. No errors have come to light as yet, though a study of the sheet will clearly show that stamp #26 boasts a broken T. While the settings are fairly consistent, the specialist can easily manage to discern varieties if he is so minded.

The provisional was publicized in advance in the Newfoundland press and a great crowd was at St. Johns' post office on March 21, 1946, the first day of sale. Mr. E. H. Hiscock, #234, writes to say that the issue was virtually bought out that day, and that from then on, until April 1, 1946, the Postal Authorities refused to sell any mint stamps over the counter but required that the letter be handed in to have the stamp affixed to it. He adds that the arrival of the 2c stamp and the subsequent withdrawal of the provisionals on April 1, 1946 were publicized in the Newfoundland press. Since no information is available to the contrary, it is assumed that these provisionals were available only at St. Johns. We know from Mr. H. E. Wyatt, #205, that as late as March 27th the provisional was not available at any post office in Heart's Content.

Charles F. Foster, #184, volunteers the information that 500,000 of the provisionals were issued, most of which were corraled by a number of local speculators. He adds that very few were legitimately used as postage, and that great quantities of the stamp are being offered to Canadian dealers at 10c per stamp.

If my memory serves me right, there is a rumor around that the overprint was tried on the current 5c stamp but was abandoned because it was not sufficiently clear. Where are these essays?

What are the odds that the ubiquitous invert will rear its ugly head one of these days?

WILLIAM S. MEYERSON, #11

ANNOUNCING BOND ON CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

I have finally completed the catalogue of Canadian Postal Stationery on which I have been working for more than four years. This catalogue lists and prices all proven varieties of Canadian post cards, letter cards, envelopes, wrappers and post bands issued by the Post Office Department for general use. In addition there are supplements on Official pictorial post cards, railway pictorial post cards, Dead Letter Office seals, International Reply coupons, postal note stamps and kindred items not commonly catalogued.

The manuscript of this catalogue which I honestly believe to be the most complete and accurate ever compiled—is ready for printing. Issued as a private venture, its publication represents a considerable expenditure, wherefore I should like to assure myself of a market for the book before giving the printer the "go ahead" sign.

It is estimated that the catalogue, issued in an attractive hard binding and copiously illustrated, must retail at approximately \$2.00 per copy. I am therefore bringing the query squarely to you, the collecting public. Is such a catalogue worth that much to you? If so, I should appreciate receiving your firm order for a copy of the volume, to be delivered when off the press—probably this summer.

Please send no money now! A post card expressing your willingness to buy a copy when available will give me a key as to the volume's sales potentialities. If a sufficient number of favorable responses are forthcoming, the book will appear. If not, publication will be cancelled. In either case, an announcement of my decision will be made in these pages.

It's up to you. I love laboring in the vineyard of philately—but I can't afford to go broke riding my hobby. So if you want this catalogue, drop a post card to:

NELSON S. BOND

Willow Road

ROANOKE 17, VA.

Grove Park