

POST OFFICE PERPLEXITIES

By F. W. CAMPBELL

The illustration on page 82 of the June *TOPICS* offers some interesting study for the student of postal and post office history.

The "REGISTERED" would date its use as after May 1855, since that was the first possibility for the registry marking. The style of postmark was first used in 1846. That would indicate that Rochester originated as a Post Office after that basic period of the townmark origin (Rochester was established in August 1854).

Rochester is near my 'native village' and thus offers a personal interest for study. It was changed to Belle River in 1874. This change in itself is also perplexing. In old P.O. lists, if an office was three miles from the next office site, it would hardly be considered as "changed to" something. In this case, the date of change fitted both offices and the Postmaster came with it to the new office, so, the change was unusual.

Another consideration is introduced in the problem of post office names and listings. English language listings at times used the French name (in Quebec)—but place it alphabetically in the list according to the English translation—thus, *Guillaume* (William) is found in the "Ws" and *Traverse de Peterson* (Peterson's Ferry) is placed under the "Ps".

This changing and translating names certainly creates and could create much confusion. The office of Isle Verte in Quebec with manuscript markings by the Postmaster on free mail where he was supposed to sign his name had the English translation of it—"Green Island"—as his post office, with the postmark spelling in French. *Belle River* might be *Belle Riviere* if changed to the French but we run into the fact that a Belle Riviere existed in Quebec at that time, established in 1854 in Two Mountain County.

If you want to add to the confusion, as a friend of mine in Teaneck, N. J. suggested, try changing the office "Qu'Appelle" to the English, "Who Calls". Or, change these Indian names of Canadian office—Kazubazua, Wikwemikong or Shebeshkong.



MORE on the NEWFOUNDLAND 2c on 30c

I read with great interest the article on the Newfoundland 2c on 30c as offered by William Meyerson in the May issue of *TOPICS*. I've been able to do some further checking into the history of this overprint and offer my findings for the readers.

The surcharge was necessitated by the lack of both the 2c and 4c values of the regular issue. Experimental printings were tried on the 5c (#259) but were abandoned due to curling of this stamp and the 30c was chosen instead. I am assured by the post office official who superintended the job that the 5c Essays were all destroyed.

500,000 of the 30c stamps were overprinted by "D.K. Thistle"—King's Printer (better known as "Trade Printers"). Sheets were divided into vertical panes of 50 each for printing and both the top and bottom sheets were used. Thus, there are four separate panes having the overprint in this printing.

The first day of sale was March 21, 1946, and by mid-afternoon of that day, stocks at the City branch postoffices were completely exhausted, and so badly depleted at the G. P. O., that a halt was called on all sales.

A further printing of an extra 500,000 was immediately ordered, but as the first setting had been defaced and broken up, it was necessary to re-set another plate. Thus, there are two distinct settings for the overprint, and as all four panes were again used for the second printing, there are therefore eight different panes.

After the first day, sales of stamps in mint condition was limited to 10 copies per person—for a few days. This was soon changed however and during the last two or three days, letters had to be handed in over the counter to have the stamps affixed (I'm speaking of St. John's *only* in this connection. Outpost offices having supplies of the stamp could sell at will).

Arrival of supplies of the regular 2c stamp on or about March 31st rendered further use of the overprints unnecessary and they were withdrawn (from St. John's offices *only*). Remainders on hand were used to fill accumulated orders (collectors and dealers) in full or in part, according to the quantity required and as far as the stock would go.

I cannot say if *all* outpost offices were sent supplies of the stamp, but I do know that offices in widely scattered sections had them and in some instances, for some little time after they were discontinued at St. John's. In any case, such offices would have to await supplies of the regular issue before discontinuing the overprint.

Apart from the 'Broken T' variety mentioned in the May article (and I'm given to understand that a speck of paper or dirt is the real cause), I don't believe there are any constant errors, but there are any number of 'Phantom' double overprinting. The two printings are hard, if not impossible to tell apart when broken up, but in full sheets are readily discernable. Incidentally, the same post office official I mentioned earlier assures me that all freak items, etc., were duly and positively destroyed.

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E. H. Hiscock

years until in 1889 the weight was changed from half an ounce to one ounce. A reduction of the rate was made on January 1st, 1899, 2c. being substituted for 3c. as the rate for a one ounce letter. This rate remained till 1915 when a 1 cent war tax was added. In 1926 the 2-cent rate was restored, until 1931 when again it became 3 cents, a 1 cent tax being imposed by the Government, and 4 cents in 1943 when a special war tax was added. Undoubtedly a considerable part of the increase in Post Office revenue resulted from new services added by the Post Office Department from time to time and which may be dealt with in chronological order with a word or two as to the growth since the introduction.

Money Order service was in operation at Confederation and in 1868 there were 515 money order offices the amount of orders issued by them being \$3,342,574; in 1944 the number of money order offices had increased to 7,362, the aggregate value of orders issued being \$262,297,330.

The Post Office Savings Bank was not in operation prior to Confederation, it was established in April 1868 and at the end of the first year there were 213 post offices acting as Savings Bank offices with deposits at the end of the first year amounting to \$861,655. In 1944 the number of offices authorized to transact Post Office Savings Bank business numbered 1,741 and the aggregate balance to the credit of depositors was \$28,299,712.

In 1871 post cards were introduced in Canada.

In 1882 the first railway mail service in the West was established over the Winnipeg-Brandon section of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In the following year the service was extended to Calgary. Continuous daily mail service from the Atlantic to the Pacific commenced in 1886.

1898 was marked by the introduction of the special delivery and Postal Note system. In 1898, 1,746 offices were authorized to sell Postal Notes, and the aggregate value of Postal Notes paid was \$771,489,28. In 1944 Postal Notes were sold at 11,232 Post Offices, the aggregate value being \$25,593,818.

In 1908 rural mail delivery was introduced and there has been a steady expansion in this service since that time.

In 1914 the parcel post service was established in Canada followed in 1921 by the insurance of parcel post and in 1922 by a C.O.D. service. These two latter services in conjunction with the parcel post system have been of enormous benefit to business men of Canada and have facilitated trade to an almost unbelievable extent.

In 1924 there was an improvement in the Savings Bank system, and increase in indemnity for registered articles.

In 1925 the limit of weight for parcel post was increased from 11 pounds to 15 pounds which in 1937 was raised to 25 pounds, and for the first time in any postal system in the world cash registers were used for postage-paid-in-cash on parcels.

(To Be Continued)

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