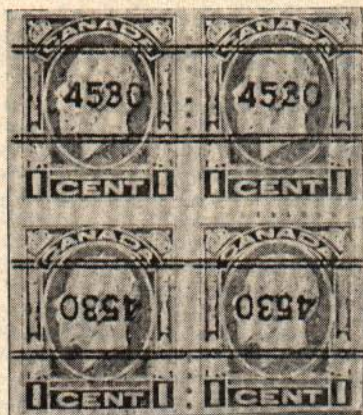


Canada Precancels

H. G. WALBURN



Mr. Jack Levine recently forwarded a photostat copy of a block of four of Toronto 13-171 for comment. This is the unusual precancel setting of the first numeral type (Hoover's U-213) on the 1c Medallion where the precancelling is tete-beche, as illustrated.

Although issued about 1933, the first mention I have found of this variety is by Charles F. Southey in *Mekeel's*, November 1937. Mr. Southey states that one horizontal row of the precancel plate was inverted, the balance being normal. I have not been able to definitely determine which row was inverted to the rest, though the evidence available seems to indicate that it was the bottom row, as all the pairs and blocks I've seen have the upper pair normal and the lower pair inverted, never vice versa.

Although this precancelling style was used on the 1c, 2c, 3c and 5c Medallion, the 1c, 2c (two), and 5c of the earlier Maple Leaf Issue, and the 1c and 2c of the 1935 George V Issue, the 1c Medallion is the only one that has been so found with the tete-beche variety. It may therefore be assumed that only one printing of one value was made in that way (Toronto is a heavy user of precancels and usually many printings are made of each value) and the error corrected before many sheets were issued. Very few pairs and blocks showing both the normal and inverted varieties are known, although Toronto 13-171a, the

Scott's Newfoundland #28 Proof or Trade Sample

BILL & DAN MEYERSON



Supplementing our article in the June 1947 issue of BNA TOPICS concerning the "Trade Sample Sheets" put out by the American Bank Note Company in 1870 as an aid for their salesmen in securing new business, we have come upon an infallible means of differentiating between the trade sample and the original proofs of the 12c value, Scott #28. An examination of the stamp illustrated will show a break in the frame line directly above the letter "L" of the word NEWFOUNDLAND. This break in the frame is found in every stamp and also in the proofs that were used to prepare the stamp previous to its issue. However, it is not found in the 12c stamp of the "Trade Sample Sheet." On this stamp, the frame line is complete and unbroken.

Examine the proofs in your collection and if they show an unbroken frame line, you have a "Trade Sample," and not a proof.

inverted variety, is often found as a single though I have never seen a block. It is possible that no full sheets were printed inverted and that all inverted singles come from the tete-beche sheets.

The double normal of this type, 13-171b, is more common than the inverted single, 13-171a, and there is a scarce double print, 13-171h, where one imprint is normal and one inverted. As only a few copies are known, it is possible that only one sheet received this type of double imprint,