

# Trail of the Caribou

Freres Meyerson

**FLASH!** We have just been advised that no Newfoundland will be sold at the Office of the Trade Commissioner for Newfoundland after Feb. 28th. No additional supplies are expected, and all material on hand will be sold, first come first served, until that date. It is our belief that the present small supply will be sold out before the 28th, so it behooves you to order your material in a hurry. The address is 620 Fifth Ave., N. Y., N. Y.

We welcome correspondence on matters concerning Newfoundland even more now than we did in the past. About 3 months ago we received a letter from England from Major J. W. Staff, BNAPS #399, concerning a marking on a Newfoundland stampless cover in his possession. Although Maj. Staff had seen a considerable number of Newfoundland pre-stamp and stampless covers (having handled the "Hunt" correspondence) he wished to know about a handstruck black 1/ mark on a cover sent from St. John's to Montreal and dated Nov. 11, 1858. We wrote we had never seen a handstruck black 1/ mark although we had seen several in manuscript form. When Maj. Staff replied to our letter commenting on the evident scarcity of this handstruck marking, we bestirred ourselves and looked through the "Gaden" correspondence that we had purchased several years ago. Sure enough, in going through what we had thought were manuscript markings, we found a perfect example of the handstruck 1/ mark, but ours was in red as it was a prepaid letter. The cover bears the red St. John's-Newfoundland-Paid circular strike and a black Harbor Grace circular postmark, both dated May 13, 1862. We are indebted to Maj. Staff for stimulating us into finding an item among our duplicates that we probably would have disposed of unwittingly but for his letter.

BNAPSer Ken. Minuse, #67, writes to inquire when registered mail was first used in Newfoundland.

Registered mail was begun Apr. 1,

1858, and the instructions issued to the Postmasters were as follows: 6d currency local letters, 6d sterling United Kingdom or British Colonies. Letters for British possessions or foreign countries passing through the United Kingdom liable to a further charge. The Postmaster General did not guarantee safe delivery but held Postmasters responsible for the mail and required anyone in neglect of duty on this point to make good any loss that was sustained thereby.

## TABLE OF FINES

Omission to enter on letter bill a registered letter .....	10/
Omission to enclose a registered letter in a green cover .....	5/
Misdirection of a green cover enclosing a registered letter ...	2/6
To each missending of a registered letter .....	2/6

We owe an assist to Rev. Kirby on this subject. We found the answer to Minuse's question among some material sent us in the past by the good Reverend.

BNAPSer Geo. S. Johnson, #218, asks us to throw some light on the perforations of certain Newfoundland stamps referring specifically to the Gilbert issue and the 2c Guy issue.

Scott refers to two perforations in the Gilberts, 13½ and 14. From the way they are listed one would assume the entire set is found in both perfs but such is not the case. After more than 5 years of assiduous checking we can report that although the entire set is found comb perf 13½, only the 7, 9, 10, 14, 20, 24 and 32c values are found line perf 14. Several other collectors who have worked on these perforations independently have all come to the same conclusion so it appears quite definite that only the values listed will be found perf 14. The perf 14 is also the rarer of the two perfs and should be collected in blocks wherever possible to show that it is line perf.

The 2c Gut issue of 1910 is listed by Scott as existing in two perfs, 12 and 12x14. In addition Winthrop S. Boggs in his book on Newfoundland lists a third perforation, 12x11½. The last variety is by far the scarcest.