

Trail of the Caribou

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

In the Dec. 1948 issue of BNA TOPICS we printed some information about Newfoundland Air Letter Forms. We stated they were first introduced on Aug. 1, 1942 for the Armed Services and on Sept. 11, 1944 were authorized for general use at 10c per air letter. To our best knowledge there have been 3 different types of air letter forms, none of them stamped. The first type that came to our notice was sent us by a friend in Newfoundland either late in '45 or early in '46. It was evidently a Canadian Air Letter form that was overprinted NEWFOUNDLAND (Fig. 1). This type is evidently rather scarce as we have never seen another example and all collectors of this type of material have expressed surprise when shown this particular form. The second type, which is by far the most common, seems to have had the longest tenure of use. It has no identifying marks and can only be distinguished as coming from Newfoundland by the postmark (Fig. 2). The third and last type came as a complete surprise. We wrote a friend in Newfoundland and requested he send us a few last day air letter forms. He complied but im-

agine our surprise to note these last day forms bore the word NEWFOUNDLAND in the upper left corner (Fig. 3). They must be of recent origin as all the forms seen during Feb. and March of this year were the same as Fig. 2. Do you know another?

Everywhere we turn we continually see articles urging collectors to lay in a supply of covers posted in Canada proper with the postage paid in Newfoundland stamps. All and sundry are of the opinion that these covers will be of great interest to future collectors of Canadian and Newfoundland stamps. The latest to tout these covers is W. E. FYNDEM in the Apr. 23rd **Stamp Collecting** of London. He writes, "Be sure you have the latest Canadian 4c commem. preferably postmarked in St. John's, Newfoundland. Also put aside a few Newfoundland stamps used in Canada while this practise is allowed. They will be in demand later for Canadian collections and to round off Newfoundland in our albums."

Two down, one to go. No, we are not discussing American football, but rather the status of the last Newfoundland set in respect to plate numbers. Prior to last week we had seen all the values except the 7c, 14c and 15c. Since then the 14c and 15c have been received with plate numbers and the only value still unreported is the 7c. The plate number of the 14c is #41789, and the 15c is #41794.

A word to the wise. In an article titled "Ten Scarcest K. G. VI Sets" by Derek Baum in the Apr. 23rd **Stamp Collecting**, the 5th set is listed as "Newfoundland, Coronation set, Perf 13½ comb." He goes on to say that the outstanding values are the 1c and 7c. Only 100 copies of each are reputed to exist. We too think that some values are scarce, namely the 7c and 14c, but we don't go along on the 1c, we've seen too many of them around. We know for a fact that mint blocks of the 1c are in the hands of Moll, Wood and ourselves. Used copies are in our possession and Meyers'. It still is a good set however, though our gauges catch it in 13¼ rather than 13½.