

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

Dr. H. Maitland Young, BNAPS 539, writes in to state that he has a cover with a full set of the 1933 Gilbert Is., issue, presumably a First Day Cover, postmarked Sept. 21st, 1933, as well as the 5c Gilbert used on a First Day Cover postmarked Aug. 3, 1933. He wishes to know which is the true first day of issue. According to all authorities, and substantiated by numerous First Day Covers in our own collection, the first day of issue was Aug. 3, 1933. However the question brings up a very good point, that very often we must go beyond the postmark or markings on the cover to get at the true story. It is very possible that the chap that mailed the Sept. 21st cover merely had some extra envelopes about and wished to use them up.

Mr. J. A. Singmaster, BNAPS #336, writes in to advise that he has a set of 6, 2d, 4d, 6d, 6½d, 8d and 1/- lithographed counterfeits of the orange-vermillion pence set on rough soft paper. He wants to know more about them. The entire matter with an appropriate illustration was discussed in the Jan. '47 issue of TOPICS. At that time we advised that they were probably the work of Panelli, and appeared in the three issued colors of the pence stamps, scarlet-vermillion, orange-vermillion and rose. The set was printed in a block of 36, (6x6) with each value occupying a complete horizontal row of 6. The 2d value was at the top horizontal row and the 1/- value at the bottom. It is therefore possible to get vertical pairs showing two different values.

Mr. Lester N. Littlefield, BNAPS #561, advises that included in a recent purchase of postal stationery was one of the rarest of all Newfoundland Postal Stationery items. The piece in question is the TWO CENTS provisional surcharge of 1889 on the 1c card of 1880, with the broken "T" in the word TWO. It is reputed that only 700

of the entire provisional card were issued and the broken "T" variety seems at least 5 to 10 times as scarce as the normal variety. Interest in Newfoundland Postal Stationery seems to be on the definite upswing if we are to judge by our correspondence of late. We have received numerous letters inquiring as to the relative scarcity of some of the items and the one card that turns up most often among the needed is the 1c Green King Edward VII issued in 1904. While rather common in used condition this card is a "sleeper" in mint condition and exceedingly hard to come by. We know from experience as we were months in getting a copy for our own collection of postal stationery. In fact we were unable to get it from any of the postal stationery dealers but were fortunate in finding one amongst a lot of postal stationery we bought at auction. Did we say fortunate, we knew right well that card was in the lot, that's why we bought it!

Lot #1111 in the Harmer, Rooke Sale of the Reford collection to be held Friday March 3, 1950, is one of great interest to Newfoundland collectors. The lot is described as 8d. rose. Margins all around. Tied to piece by light grid cancel. "Kings Cove, Ju. 9, 1864" postmark. If this stamp was actually postally used prior to 1866, it is the first instance brought to our attention as we had always been told that the 8d. rose, though sent to the colony late 1861 or early 1862, had never been sold over the post office counter and we have always believed that those used copies with the 10 bar grid (and we have them ourselves) were used in the late 1860's. If the cancellation is authentic, it will prove rather conclusively that these stamps were in use during the current life of the rose pence issue from 1862 to late 1865 when Newfoundland changed over from the pence and shilling currency to cents and dollars.