

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

Two fellow BNAPSers have risen to defend the future of Newfoundland stamps first belittled by George van den Berg in the March 18 issue of "Stamps." In his article he held out very little hope for the future of Newfoundland stamps, terming the country "dead" philatelically. In the April 15 issue of "Stamps" both Gordon Harmer, BNAPS #282, and Jim Sissons, BNAPS #17, have risen to the defense and a very vigorous defense it is. In their capacities as head of the largest auction house in America, and the leading B. N. A. dealer in the United States and Canada respectively, they are well qualified to speak. Both are strong in their denials that interest in Newfoundland has waned and Gordon Harmer goes on to say that the future of the stamps of Newfoundland is very bright. Jim contends that while the prices of some of the Newfoundland stamps have declined since the high of 1946, the drop is not comparable to that experienced by choice U. S. and other philatelically live countries.

A point that everyone seems to have missed when discussing the decline in prices is that the decline seems to have taken place for the most part when the pound was devalued last September. The only ones really reaping the benefit of the reduced prices in Newfoundland stamps are the collectors from the dollar countries. Auction prices in Great Britain are every bit as high now in Pounds as they have been in the past few years. If Americans were to figure their purchases on a \$4 Pound and not a \$2.80 Pound, they would soon realize that prices have remained firm. What we have experienced is a levelling off of the world's market and not a decline in prices.

As far as we are concerned, we think the future is as bright as it ever was, particularly for the 19th century items since a good many collectors of Canadian stamps have decided to

collect Newfoundland stamps since the Confederation.

We are in receipt of a letter from Stan Calder, BNAPS #326, and he mentions an item that we haven't seen as yet and we wonder if any of our members have found a similar item. He has just acquired a very nice block of Scott #42 with a clearly broken block on the cap of the first stamp. Anyone with a similar item please communicate with Mr. Calder.

We have just come across something that was entirely new to us. Our findings are purely a result of deduction but we are presenting them here anyway in the hopes that they can be substantiated or confirmed by one of our readers. Many years ago we were surprised to learn that the first Coronation set, Scott #'s 104 to 114 inclusive, came in two different perforations. The 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c values when originally issued were comb perfed 13½, the 6c, 8c, 9c, 12c and 15c values were line perfed 14. That gave us the idea that the issue was printed in two groups. This idea was dispelled when we later found examples of the 1c, 2c and 5c values in the line perf 14. However, one of the lots in Sissons' last sale put us back on the track. Lot #323 listed this set with the 1918 emergency printing of the 1c, 2c and 5c values. An examination of this lot showed that the emergency printings were in the line perf 14. This brought us back to our original idea that some of the values were printed at one time and the balance later. We now think that we have confirmed this idea as we have but recently purchased the entire set in plate proof blocks of four in black. An examination of these proofs reveals the coincidence that the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c values were printed on thick white paper whereas the other 5 values were printed on thick

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REVIEWS

Sissons' B. N. A. Catalogue, 1950.

The latest edition of this catalogue of the stamps of B. N. A. at prices available from J. N. Sissons, has been received. Prices listed reflect the active market in these issues. Mr. Sissons states: "The early issues are firm to stronger, late nineteenth and early twentieth century in steady demand, recent speculative material off a bit. The pound devaluation has had practically no effect on British North America stamps as the holdings in the sterling area are not sufficiently large to enable any appreciable exports." Copies of this catalogue may be obtained at 25 cents, as advertised on the back cover of this magazine.

Tips for the General Collector of British Empire Issues, by Aubrey Kelson, Deseronto, Ontario. This interesting little pamphlet by BNAPS'er Kelson contains a number of valuable tips for collectors of British Empire generally and Canada and Newfoundland in particular.

The American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets, edited by L. B. Gatchell and Ian C. Morgan. Air letter sheets were used extensively by Military personnel during World War II, especially among British and Empire forces. Later they were also introduced for use of civilians, and continue in use in a great many countries today. This catalogue lists and prices the air letter sheets issued to 1949, and is published by the American Air Mail Society, Albion, Pa. (56 pages, price \$1.50).

—G. P. L.

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white card. The fact then that part of the issue is comb perfed and the proofs on paper while the balance is line perfed and the proofs on card leads us to the deduction that they were not printed at one and the same time. We would welcome any comment on this situation.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Article IV, Section 3. The elective officers of the Society shall be so elected by ballot in the odd numbered years, during January.

Nominations may be filed with the Secretary by any five (5) members in good standing not later than 90 days prior to the date of election. At least 90 days prior to the election date, the President of the Society shall select and appoint three (3) members of the Society to serve and function as a Nominating Committee whose prime purpose shall be to prepare and present a slate of nominees for each elective office to be voted. Each nomination made shall be published in BNA TOPICS not less than 60 days prior to the election date.

An official ballot shall be prepared by the Secretary containing all nominations, spaces for marking against each name, and space for the signature and number of the member casting the vote. No ballots other than the Official Ballot shall be valid. Ballots shall be returned to the Committee on Elections which shall be appointed by the President at a time prior to the election. The Committee on Elections shall canvass the vote and report the results at the election meeting and refer a similar report to the Secretary for filing and notice in BNA TOPICS. A plurality of all votes cast shall be required for the election of an officer. If no one candidate shall receive a plurality of the votes cast for such office, the Committee on Elections shall cause to be issued new ballots for the election to this office.