

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



While the 1950 Gibbons has gone a long way in listing those stamps that exist in both line and comb perforation, there are still quite a few that they have overlooked. Under the Gilbert Issue they say "P 13½ or 14." This is not entirely true as the stamps are not all perf 13½ or 14, but rather some of them are comb perf 13½ and line perf 14. This condition exists in only seven values and the line perf stamps are the scarcer of the two varieties. It is only the 7c, 9c, 10c, 14c, 20c, 24c and 32c values that are found in both perforations. This might be as good a time as any to get all the varieties before they are given separate listings and the prices increased. The other stamp missing from the list is the 4c rose, Scott #189 which is also found in comb perf 13½ and line perf 14 condition. As was the case previously, the line perf variety is the scarcer of the two. Among the earlier stamps we find this omission, the 1c, 2c and 5c values of the 1911 Coronation Set also exist in two perforations, comb perf 13½ and line perf 14. We hate to repeat ourselves constantly, but the line perf variety is also the scarcer of the two in this instance.

Bill Kemp, BNAPS #85, writes in to tell us about a block of #75 that he bought and believes rare because the difference between the bars on the top two stamps is 17mm, whereas on the bottom two it is 18mm. This is not at all strange since in examining a proof of the setting of this surcharge we find that in the first horizontal row the difference between the bars is 17mm, in the second row it is 18 mm, in the third row it is 18½ mm and in the fourth row it is 18 mm. This would lead us to believe that Bill's block is from the first two rows. We did not concern ourselves with the fifth row as this row does not contain #75 but No's 76 and 77. Bill also asks about the 15c Airmail, Scott #C9, with the "GREEK CROSS" watermark. There isn't much we have to

tell as Bill knows everything that we know about it, having gained his information from the late Chris Goulden, the same place we got ours. We understand that it was Chris' contention that only 28 such blocks were in existence, but how he could set such an odd figure we never did find out. We don't know whether there are 28 or 1000, but we do know that they are rather rare and a welcome addition to any specialized collection of Newfoundland.

Dr. R. Willan, BNAPS #568, writes us concerning our bit in the July "Trail" re the two different printings in the 1911 Coronation Set as surmised from the proofs and the different perforations. It is his opinion that Whitehead Morris Co. probably subset part of the contract and that six values were done by one company and the other five by another company. This would account for the differences we discussed in the July "Trail." Dr. Willan also advises that he believes that the line through the "CE" of cents in the 10c black, Scott #59, occurs on the sixth vertical row. Can any member substantiate this statement? Dr. Willan also wants to know if any of our members have in their possession or know of the existence of pairs of C10 and C11, with one stamp watermarked and the other unwatermarked.

This last bit is out of the July 29th issue of "Stamp Collecting," and appeared in the column of W. E. Fyndem. It concerns a shade variety of the 15c Caribou listed by Gibbons as Prussian Blue, #139a. There has been a considerable amount of controversy concerning this stamp, some of the correspondents insisting that the shade variety did not exist. Mr. Fyndem quotes an English collector who says that the stamp does exist as he has several. He does go on to say that the stamp while fairly hard to find mint is extremely rare used and it took this particular collector four years hunting before he located his copy!