

# VARIETY

## HUNTING in Canada

Ron Tuckwell



### Wax Wings Melted (and Moulded)

Rated by world philatelic authorities as one of the most beautiful stamps of the century, the six cents red-brown Airmail of the 1935 Pictorial issue also ranks high with the Hunter—it yielded up several nice error items well worth the finding. The stamp is interesting because of its mythical nature; portraying "Daedalus," father of "Icarus," builder of the Cretan Labyrinth in which he and his son were imprisoned; they escaped by affixing waxed wings to their arms; Icarus however flew too close to the sun, which melted his wings, and he ended up wet and lifeless in the "Icarian Sea." All a nice, interesting fable. But it's no fable

that error items in this fine stamp will reward the Hunter.

Best of all is the "Moulting Wing" (illustrated) in which a heavy line above the left leg in wing, and short line above it, look like moulting feathers.

Other good ones: (1) Hairline from beneath "C" of "Canada" into wing and strong through "A" of "Air." (2) On Nos. 30-35, Pl. 1. LR, a line from "C" of Canada goes down through wing and crosses bottom margin into "A" in Canada of stamp below, and continuing down through head and body. (3) Hairline runs through left numeral 6. (4) Hairline runs horizontally across top of "R" in Air. (5) Line through "N" of Cents, left side.

## NEWFOUNDLAND PLATE BLOCKS

By H. A. MACMASTER

Together with many other students of the postage stamps of Newfoundland, although I knew that there were more than one plate for some of the 1932 issue, I never really knew until recently that the plates were actually numbered nor the method of numbering.

Over a period of years I have gathered together a few top left corner blocks of the 1932 issue with the sheet margins intact and small numbers in the margins about level with the top of the stamp, some of them normal and some in reverse.

I was so intrigued with these little numbers that I was inspired to write to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon Ltd. and was fortunate enough to have been put in touch with Mr. A. John Hubbard, a director in the company and a collector of the stamps of Newfound-

land. He kindly gave me as much information as was available to him.

Owing to enemy action in 1941 all the firm's records were destroyed so that he was unable to give me a complete record of the numbers which appear in the top left corner of the sheets. I did learn, however, that generally speaking, the first plate of each value has no figure 1 in the corner but rather is marked with a dot. This dot represents the number of the first plate. Mr. Hubbard was at a loss to explain the number 1 on the block of Scott #183 which I have in my collection.

Whenever new plates were made they were numbered consecutively, sometimes in reverse with no apparent reason for this reversal. On No. 183 (which was in use for a very considerable period) numbers are known

to exist up to 5. On the 2¢ I know of a dot and a 2; on the 3¢, a dot, 2 and 3; on the 4¢, a dot and a 2; and on the 5¢, which also was in use for a considerable period, I have seen a dot a reverse 2 and a 3. There may be more but if so, I have never seen them.

### New Plates Made

On the re-issued stamps of 1941, following the destruction of the Perkins, Bacon plant by enemy action, New plates had to be made and the old form of numbering was discontinued and replaced by five figure numbers, e.g.: 42430 in the center of the margin top or sides. With the exception of the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 cent values, the same number was used throughout their printing (see "Trail of the Caribou" in previous issues of Topics). In the case of these

values, there are two numbers each for the 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10 cent values, three numbers for the 4 cent and a different one for the 5 cent Cabot. In many cases this number was cut off before the stamp sheets were delivered.

Towards the end of the issue of these stamps the plate numbers were added to the plates in each of the four corners at the request of the authorities. The plates were not otherwise altered.

Corner blocks are very difficult to obtain in all four positions and side plate numbers are even more so. A complete set of matched positions in all values of this issue may well become very valuable property in the years to come. At any rate they are elusive items to try to gather together and that is the charm of the hobby.



### Prices Realized on Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Proofs Harmer, Rooke, January 9-10

Market prices on proofs and essays are fairly hard to establish, then, too, it isn't very often that sizeable collections reach the market. The high catalogue prices attached to these essays have scared me from bidding in the past, but when I saw what percentage of catalogue the items sold for, then I changed my mind. Assuming that there are other BNAPSers in a similar frame of mind, I am listing each of the lots with a description, catalogue number and price realized. Condition is assumed to be fine or very fine unless noted. (See end of list.)

New Brunswick—(5TC3) 1860, 5¢ T. C. P. P. in orange, \$17.50—\$3.50; (5P3S) 5¢ P. P. in brown overprinted "Specimen," \$15—\$3; 1860-3 (6TC3-11TC3) 1¢-17¢ T. C. P. P. in various

colors, 5 duplicates, \$49—\$10; (6aP3) 1¢ brown violet P. P. block of 4, \$25—\$9; (6aP3S-11P3S) 1¢-17¢ P. P. issued color, overprinted "Specimen" in red or green, includes 3 strips of 3, \$59.50—\$12; (6aP3S, 8P3S) 1¢-5¢ P. P. block of 4, issued color, overprinted "Specimen," \$35—\$5.50; (7P30) 2¢ orange, imprint plate block of 4 mtd. on card, \$22.50—\$9; (7TC3) 2¢ T. C. P. P. blocks of 4 in black and dull rose, \$40—\$18; (7TC3) 2¢ T. C. P. P. blocks of 4 in green and dull rose, \$40—\$17; similar lot with imprint, \$14 (8P3) 5¢ yellow green, P. P. block of 4, issued color on card, slight stain, \$22.50—\$8; similar lot only 5¢ blue green, \$25—\$15; (8TC3) 5¢, two trial color P. P. in orange (shades) on card, \$40—\$7; (8P3S, 9P3S) 5¢, 10¢ P. P. blocks of 4, issued color, over-