

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



Upon several occasions we have written about the existence of the 4¢ rose lake, Scott #189, in line perforation 13.7 and 14.1. We had no idea when these line perforation varieties first appeared as the first printings were comb perforated 13.4. We recently had the occasion to purchase 600 unpicked used copies and we jumped at the chance. An examination of the stamps we bought showed cancellations from 1933-1935, and everyone was comb perforated. We admit that the line perforated stamps are considerably scarcer than the comb perforated variety but not in the percentage shown by our experiment. The only conclusion we can come to, and this purely by deductive reasoning, is that the line perforated stamps are the later issues and did not make their appearance until after 1935. In the case of the 15¢ magenta, Scott #195, which is also known in comb perf 13.4 and line perf 14.1, we have seen the line perforated stamp used on cover from St. John's as early as June 9, 1933, which would indicate that this stamp made its appearance in the line perforation rather early.

At the auction held by Irwin Heiman on Feb. 15, 1951, a superb copy of the 3¢ on 6¢ provisional with the 5 mm. black surcharge, Scott #160b, sold for \$127.50 against a catalogue valuation of \$160. We've been reading about the deplorable state of Newfoundland stamps and were anxiously looking forward to the sale as we expected to be able to buy this stamp that we need for our collection at a very reasonable figure. Need we add that we didn't think that a reasonable figure but we did come away with the firm conviction that the prices on good items were still as high as ever.

We have Jim Sissons' 1951 B. N. A. catalogue in front of us and we note that more and more Jim is trying to make it a specialized catalogue for Newfoundland collectors. He follows the lead of Stanley Gibbons and prices the elusive comb perforation stamps of the long Coronation set. He goes a step further and beyond Gibbons in that he prices the 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ values of the 1911 set in the line perforation. Why not go all the way Jim and really make your catalogue a handbook for the B. N. A. specialist. Why not price the line perforated Gilberts, the line perforated 4¢ rose, Scott #189, and the rough perforated stamps of the re-engraved unwatermarked Publicity issue of 1929. With your extensive stock you should certainly be in a better position to accurately price these varieties, so dear to the heart of every specialist, than any other firm. Instead of following, why not take the initiative and price these stamps. They are not too difficult to procure and you undoubtedly have them in stock. The many Newfoundland collectors would thank you, and the rest of the publishers would have to follow you. What say Jim.

Also to hand is the Stanley Stamp Company's NEWSLETTER dated March 1951. It is rather newsy and of prime interest to the collector of Newfoundland is a price list of Newfoundland plate blocks. It is the first I have ever seen, but they say that it has run once before and that the response was terrific. No reason why it shouldn't have been, the prices look reasonable and the plate blocks are not too easy to come by as they only appeared on the later printing of the last Newfoundland set to be issued.