

# Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



All those who have had fears for the future of Newfoundland can forget them now if the prices realized at the Moody sale held by H. R. Harmer in New York on May 16, 1951 are any indication. The prices realized were excellent and in most cases they brought more than Mr. Moody paid for them when he bought them from some of the famous collections auctioned off in the past ten years. A superb 2d scarlet in used condition was sold for \$360. An equally superb 4d scarlet part o.g. with a small crease in the bottom margin brought \$600. A superb 4d scarlet on cover which Mr. Moody paid \$245 for in 1944 realized \$380. A complete mint sheet of 20 of the 8d scarlet sold at a new high when it was knocked down at \$725 against a catalog valuation of \$600. An 8d scarlet in bisected condition on front which brought \$210 when sold in the 1st Pack Sale this time went for \$260. One of the few 1sh orange on vertically laid paper to ever be offered sold for \$1200 in spite of the fact that it had a tiny flaw on the back. An unused copy of the 4d orange which cost Mr. Moody \$235 showed him a profit as it went for \$270 this time. In the same vein a brilliant unused copy of the 6d orange which had originally cost \$360 now realized \$430. The last item was a superb unused copy of the 1sh orange which was knocked down at \$1400 as compared to a catalog valuation of \$2000. As we have often said, the only Newfoundland items that have suffered in price are the recent items, and they have not suffered any more than have the other Colonials.

We notice an error in our column in the May TRAIL. At that time we said that Boggs had listed the perf. 14 in the case of the 5¢ Caribou, #191. However in rereading the book we learn that he referred to #190

and thus far this variety has never turned up.

Alec MacMaster, BNAPS #484, who discovered the existence of the 10¢ Postage Due stamp on watermarked paper is also to be congratulated for his discovery that setting in the case of the watermarked stamps was one of 50 subjects and not 25 as was heretofore the case. That took quite a bit of research. Now to cap these two discoveries I am in receipt of a letter from Alec that advises that he has just discovered three sheets of the watermarked 10¢ Postage Due with the two top rows of stamps imperforate between. Alec doesn't advise whether the stamps are imperforate between vertically or horizontally but it is our guess that the stamps are imperforate between so that you get vertical pairs. If we're wrong Alec, please correct us.

We've often wondered why Scott lists #160b and #160c with the note that they were unissued or trial printings and yet omits the color trial surcharge of #127. In this last instance one pane of 25 (5x5) was overprinted in red, and then the stamp was issued with a black surcharge. We could use a little more consistency.

We've watched all of the auctions for the past ten years and yet there is one stamp we have never seen offered for sale. It is in the catalog, both Scott and Gibbons and yet neither one quotes any price for this stamp. The stamp in question is #130b, the inverted surcharge of the 3¢ on 35¢ Provisional. Gibbons calls it #147a. It is also listed in Boggs and he goes on to say that 25 exist, a conclusion that is to be expected as the original setting consisted of 25 subjects. If there are 25 copies, where are they keeping themselves, or are they being privately held. What's the story?