

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



At the July meeting of the New York Group we were amazed to hear from Harold Meyers, the Circuit Manager, how few members availed themselves of the circuit. If we had any sense we would say no more because we have picked up so many bargains that we ought to keep this source to ourselves. Our outstanding purchase from the circuit was a used block of nine of the 1¢ long Coronation in the scarce comb perforation for \$1. This same stamp lists in Gibbons for 50/. each. In addition this block has the minor variety with the fishhook in mouth. At the last meeting we found four copies of the 20¢ long Coronation in the line perf 14.1, priced as ordinary copies. Though it is not listed in the catalogs, in the case of the 20¢ stamp the scarcest perforation variety is the line perf 14.1. In addition we purchased a superb mint copy of the 10¢, Scott #169 in the odd rough perforation. Nothing has been said about this variety but it is much scarcer than the normal perforation. Out of the same circuit Arthur Moll found two copies of the 5¢ Caribou in the Die 1, Scott #191a, priced as the much more common Die 2. These examples are only the most recent as there have been many more on previous occasions, amongst them line perforated copies of the 4¢ Prince of Wales, Scott #189, booklet singles and other comb perforated varieties of the long Coronation set. The line perforated varieties of Scott #189 have not been listed to date, but I'm certain that they will be included in the next edition as they have been receiving quite a bit of attention in the English periodicals. From the way Harry Lussey goes through the Canadian items in the circuit I'm certain that he occasionally must come up with compar-

able Canadian items. So just take this word of advice, if you aren't on the circuit list—get on it. You won't pick up sleepers all the time, but certainly often enough to make it worth while.

We just got ourselves involved in something that we know nothing about and we aren't bashful in asking for help. Just recently we purchased 59 copies of a Newfoundland Cigarette Excise stamp in imperforate condition and everyone of the stamps had a printed control letter and number and everyone was different. The stamp proper shows a Caribou and it has the denomination 20, twice over the stamp. The controls are far more varied. We have fifteen different letters starting with "A," then "B," "E," "EE," "I," "L," "N," "O," "Q," "QQ," "S," "T," "U," "UU," and "Y." In addition each of the stamps bears a number somewhere between "4" and "9." Another odd fact is that at least four different fonts were used in the printing of the letters. In the case of the letter "N" we have three different fonts, "N4 and N5" are small serified letters, "N6 and N7" are large block sans-serif letters and "N8" is a small block sans-serif letter. We are reasonably certain that the letters and numerals mean something. Who can supply the answer?

1¢ Cards Still on Sale—The Post Office has ordered the overprinting of all 1¢ postcards and envelopes on hand at the time of the recent postal rate rise. However, as recently as July 4 a Toronto office was still selling 1¢ cards, to which an extra 1¢ stamp had to be affixed.