

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



In the February '51 issue of TRAIL we discussed the plate numbers to be found on the Caribou Issue. At that time we mentioned that Boggs had listed plate #3 for the 1¢ value and that our collection contained an example of plate #2. We've just been looking through the "Postage Stamps of Newfoundland" by Poole and Huber and we note the following: "All values of the series are issued in Post Office sheets of 100 stamps (10x10). However, for the 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢, the plates consist of two panes of 100 subjects each, arranged side by side—the right pane being numbered 2, and the left 1. Sheets from the press are of 200 stamps; these are cut apart, and then perforated." This quotation certainly explains the existence of our plate #2 on the 1¢ value, but what about the plate #3 listed by Boggs—does it exist?

Even amongst the most common stamps there is often room for specialization. Some months ago Alec MacMaster wrote us of the possible existence of the 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ values of the Royal Series, 1897-1901, on thinner paper. Subsequently the Stanley News Letter advertised the three values in used condition for the sum of 49¢. Now, months later in going through Poole and Huber, I find this phrase in discussing the Royal Series, 1897-1901. "A consignment of 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ received early in 1907 was on thinner paper and in slightly different shades to the original printing." Why not go through your duplicates and see if you can come up with these three varieties?

The firm of J. E. Lea of Manchester has been most co-operative. In the September TRAIL we discussed re-entries that they had offered for sale and they have very kindly sent examples on for our inspection. A-

mong those sent along were two copies of the 1d., Scott #1, showing a constant plate flaw, a vertical line in the lower left value tablet as well as a blurring in the lower half of the word "ONE PENNY." The samples shown are mint and used, but the plate position is unrecorded. Can anyone be of any help? The copies of Scott #26 with the re-entry are the same as those found in Scott #40 and are far too numerous to mention or describe. For the most part they consist of re-entries in the word "NEWFOUNDLAND." In the case of Scott #39, the re-entry was virtually a doubling of the lower quarter of the stamp. We went through all our copies of #33, #34 and #39, and only found one copy with a re-entry. This was also Scott #39 but the re-entry was a different one as our copy showed a doubling of the entire left side. We know nothing of the positions of these two re-entries, but forewarned is forearmed and someday we hope to be able to position them. The last re-entry offered by J. E. Lea, was on Scott #36, but we can't go along with them on this copy as to our unpractised eye it really seemed like flyspeck hunting. There was supposed to be some doubling in the lower portion of the stamp, but we couldn't see it and therefore will not report it.

The 1952 Scott is at hand and there are very few changes. In all there are 45 minor revisions of which 41 were in an upward direction. For the most part the changes are in the used column, reflecting the improved interest in used stamps. There are no changes in the listings and we must admit we were disappointed not to see the 10¢ Postage Due on water-marked paper listed. It is probable that the Newfoundland section was complete before this discovery came to light.