

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



Some rather rare blocks of the Newfoundland roulettes were offered for sale by the firm of Vahan Mozian late in May and the prices realized were as follows: The 1¢, Scott #37 realized \$41 against a catalog valuation of \$50, the 2¢, #38, brought \$26 against a listing of \$36 and the 5¢, #40, sold for \$31 slightly better than 60% of its catalog valuation of \$48. The prices realized bear out the comparative scarcity of these blocks of the roulettes. From our experience and observation we would say that by far the scarcest value is the 3¢ blue, #39, followed then by the 1¢ value with the 2¢ and 5¢ values bringing up the rear with about the same degree of scarcity. However any and all of them are good property.

Back in December of 1944 when the first "Pack" sale was held, we saw a cover offered for sale that puzzled us just a bit. The cover in question from Harbor Britain to the United States was franked with the lower horizontal half of the 8d. scarlet, and a copy of the 3d. triangle to make up a rate that seemed to be 7d. At the time this cover was mailed, Apr. 27, 1861, the rate to the United States was 6½d. and yet here was this cover with 7d. postage. Subsequently this same cover reappeared when Kelleher sold the "Brigham" collection in December of 1950 and again during June of 1953 when Kelleher sold the "Sweet" collection. The only difference is that we now think we know the answer to the rate. In glancing through Boggs' Newfoundland, by far the outstanding book on the subject, we discovered two tables on pages 33 and 34. These two tables listed the Stamp Account at the General Post Office in St. John's for 1857 and 1858, and in both these tables the 3d. is listed and taken into account at 2½d.

This then would give a rational explanation to the stamps franking the cover. Half of an 8d. would be 4d. and a demonetized 3d. would equal 2½d. for a total of 6½d. the correct rate. Once we knew the story we bid on the cover but we don't know whether we were successful or not as this column is being written before the sale is over.

Back in the March issue of TRAIL we started to do some work on Newfoundland Imprints and our start was sure inauspicious as we had to publish a correction in the April issue. Since then other matters have occupied this column but we can now proceed further. The 5¢ Seals, Scott Nos. 25 and 26 have the same format as the 2¢ Codfish discussed in the earlier column and therefore the imprints will be found in exactly the same position, namely, over and below the third and eighth vertical rows and because of the horizontal format of the stamp the imprint will be found along the third and eighth horizontal rows with a very small portion overlapping on the second and fourth horizontal row as well as the seventh and ninth. When discussing the 10¢ Prince Consort, Scott #27, we find that we are now dealing with a stamp that has a vertical format and the imprints will now be found in the following positions. Above and below the third and eighth vertical rows with a very small portion overlapping on the second and fourth vertical row as well as the seventh and ninth. It will also be found on either side of the third and eighth horizontal rows. The 12¢ Queen Victoria, Scott Nos. 28 and 29, is almost square so that now we find the imprint above and below the third and eighth vertical rows and on either side of the third and eighth horizontal row

with no overlapping whatsoever either vertically or horizontally. The 13¢ value, Scott #30 is of horizontal format similar to the 2¢ and 5¢ values and the imprints are found in exactly the same positions, namely above and below the third and the eighth vertical rows and on either side of the third and eighth horizontal rows with a slight overlapping on the second and fourth horizontal row as well as the seventh and ninth. The last stamp of this issue, the 24¢ Queen Victoria, Scott #31, is like that of the 12¢ value in that it is almost square and for that reason the imprints are the same as they are in the 12¢. Above and below the third and eighth vertical rows and on either side of the third and the eighth horizontal rows with no overlapping either vertically or horizontally.

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cancellation. It was found while going through a lot of several hundred Registration stamps, shortly after Mr. White told me of his own discovery.

This perforation variety on the 5¢ Registration is undoubtedly much scarcer than on the 2¢ stamp. If we take Jarrett's figures for the six years 1876 to 1881 inclusive (the years when small Queens were issued with the 11½x12 perforation) we find that roughly 7 times as many 2¢ Registration stamps were sold as compared with the 5¢ stamp. Assuming the percentage of sheets perforated 12x11½ to be the same for both values, it follows that the 5¢ perforation variety should be approximately 7 times as scarce. This assumption may or may not be true, in fact the stamp in question may perhaps be considerably scarcer than these figures would indicate, for in perforating the comparatively small number of sheets of the 5¢ Registration stamp it might not have been found necessary to bring into use the 11½ gauge perforating machine to the same extent as with the 2¢ stamp.

H. M. Dilworth (#692)

Canada Essays, Proofs Bring Top Prices

Two composite die essays of Canada, described as "probably unique," sold for \$700 when the British North America collection of Donald W. Partridge of Montreal was auctioned by Harmer, Rooke & Co., Inc., on April 15-16.

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A large die proof in red violet of the 12-pence Victoria and the 10-cents Albert sold for \$250.

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