

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



ALEC MacMASTER, from Vancouver, B.C., weighs in with a bit of information concerning a subject that hasn't been discussed in this column since 1951. The topic under discussion concerns the so-called "Essays" of 1900. The quotes are Boggs', as he uses them in discussing these on page 176 of his book. It has long been felt that these were not government issue and that feeling is now partly borne out by what Alec has to say. He has just procured a pair of the 3c value and the 5c value joined. The stamps are perforated all around and are in brown. Alec then goes on to say, "The 5c value has a very tiny imprint at the bottom which seems to read 'A. Jacoby Co. 58 Sycabrau R. F. Paris.'" Can anyone shed any light on Mr. Jacoby?

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This seems to be Vancouver month as our second item is submitted by Pieter D. van Oudenol, also of Vancouver. Pieter is vice-chairman of the Perfin Study Group, and he writes to say that all three of the Newfoundland perfins have been positively identified by means of covers. The first and most common is the AYRE, which is self explanatory; the second perfin to be positively identified was the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., and the third and last, the G · K perfin has now been positively identified as being used by the firm of George Knowling of St. John's. We are slowly compiling a list of the varieties that do exist and in the not too distant future we will see that they appear in TOPICS. We, therefore, urge all members to let us know which varieties they have in their collections.

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That was a nice item that Dr. Allan Wilkinson (No. 935) of Old Perlican, Newfoundland, sent down for our inspection. It was a superb copy of the 5c brown Seal, Scott No. 25, cancelled with a red "5". Numerals cancelled on Newfoundland stamps are not comon. We have seen a

black "2" on the 3c Scott No. 39, and a black "10" on the 2c Scott No. 24. Can any member report additional varieties?

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We have a further note concerning the G · K perforation mentioned earlier in this month's column. It is from C. Arthur Ayre (No. 712), Petrolia, Ont. He has the 2c Scott No. 105 with the G · K perforation used on cover from George Knowling of St. John's. The cover is dated May 7, 1915. Mr. Ayre also has an AYRE perfin on cover dated Oct. 25, 1927. The initialed stamps on the cover are the 2c Scott No. 132.

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Thus far in our endeavors to compile a list of Newfoundland perfins, we have had lists from Pieter D. van Oudenol, Charles A. Ayre and R. J. Wooley. The composite list, including the few in our own collection, now comprises 25 varieties of the A.N.D., 19 of the AYRE, and only four of the G · K. The surprise thus far is that the A.N.D. varieties outnumber the AYRE varieties, the type that was supposed to be most common. The rarest still is the G · K variety. Let's have more lists and perhaps we can publish our compilation in the September or October issue of TOPICS. ★ ★

THEY LIKE IT!

- Congratulations on the new set-up of TOPICS! I personally think it is a vast improvement. I am exceptionally glad to note that you are not interspersing the advertising with the regular reading material.—C.P.deV.
- Congratulaions!!! on the new TOPICS—it is great!—A.H.K.
- We have gone from nothing to "Marilyn Monroe" with TOPICS!—J.L.
- Copy of BNA TOPICS for May to hand and let me congratulate you on the big improvement. I was delighted with it. The only thing it lacks now is more pages!—R.J.D.