

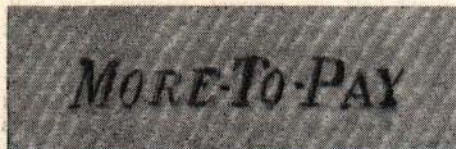
# Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)

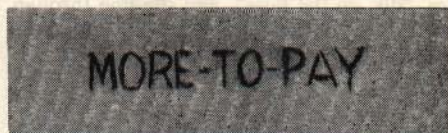


**S**TAMP COLLECTING for May 27th lists some of the items that will be shown at the Centenary Exhibition that Thomas De La Rue & Co. staged at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society during the middle two weeks of June. One of the items to be shown appertains to Newfoundland and is described as follows: "Newfoundland, King Edward VIII—the original essay for a 4 cents value for Newfoundland which was subsequently adopted for the ¼d. of Grenada with the head of King George VI and 'one farthing' in place of 'postage' in 1937, together with photographs of adaptations of it for Aden, Hong Kong, and alternative designs for Southern Rhodesia."

**Not too long ago** we were successful in getting John Siverts (BNAPS 59), of Wilmington, Del., to bring his very fine Newfoundland collection with him on the occasion of his visit to our home for the weekend. Needless to say, we had a wonderful time replete with "oohs" and "ahs" as we slowly turned the pages. One item that we noted in particular was a cover franked with the 1c, Scott No. 45, and the 2c, Scott No. 47. The cover was posted at St. John's on Apr. 15, 1896, and received at Harbor Grace the same day. Evidently it was an overweight letter as across the face there was a black handstamped "MORE TO PAY" with a black handstamped "6". Somehow this handstamp looked different than those we wrote about in TOPICS for April 1954. We decided to make tracings of the three types thus far recorded, with earliest and latest dates of use. Type 1 has only been seen on stampless covers used between Nov.

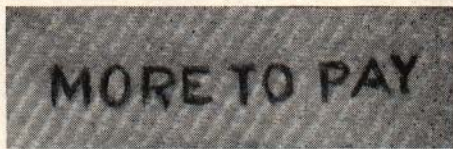


TYPE 1



TYPE 2

11, 1847, and July 3, 1850. In every instance they are on covers posted at St. John's, addressed to Quebec, sent via Halifax with the postage paid between St. John's and Halifax and the rest sent collect. There is some question as to whether this type is actually a Newfoundland marking, as the handstamp may conceivably have been applied at Halifax or Quebec as well as at St. John's. Type 2 is definitely of Newfound-



TYPE 3

land origin as it has been found on purely local covers between the dates Mar. 9, 1869, and Dec. 19, 1887. Type 3, the one discovered in John Siverts' collection and also definitely a Newfoundland marking, is only recorded on Apr. 15, 1896. We would appreciate any further notes that our readers might have.

**Back in March 1953** I wrote an article for TOPICS concerning the Plate Varieties of Scott A12, Nos. 28, 28a and 29. At that time we discussed three varieties and advised that we didn't know whether or not they existed on the original plate or whether they were re-entries in the true sense. Recently, in looking through some lots on sale at H. R. Harmer, we noticed a copy of the

• Continued on next page

proof of Scott A12 in yellow. That in itself was not strange as it is a fairly common proof on India. This one proof, however, was a little different as it was the variety that has the thin line from the "W" of NEWFOUNDLAND extending diagonally to the right and upward until it reached the point of the chin. It was the variety listed as Fig. 3 in the article and it proved that the hairline is a plate variety and not a true re-entry. We are still on the lookout to see if we can learn whether the other two varieties, "dot on the nose", and the line through the "U" of NEWFOUNDLAND are plate varieties or re-entries.

N. W. Scales (BNAPS 1058), Evansville,

Ind., has come up with a scarce piece of postal stationery. It is a copy of the 1889 provisional post card which was surcharged "2 CENTS", in used condition. The card in question bears copies of No. 30, two copies of No. 48 and a pair of No. 57. The presence of the pair of No. 57 detracts somewhat from the card as it shows that the card was not used at the time that it was current, namely 1889, as No. 57 was not issued until 1896. ★

### 'Officials' at African Show

• In the **TEPPEX** exhibition to be held in October, in Pretoria, South Africa, Canada "Officials" will be among the main entries. ★

FRANK W. CAMPBELL (No. 143)

## *The Two Cent First Class Rate*

**O**F LATE YEARS I have heard of a first class rate of two cents from one post office to another, before the 1898 universal two cent postage era. Several covers have been heard of in various parts of the country, but I think these instances were where the letter passed through the mail by mistake. Some writer has said that in New Brunswick before Confederation a two cent rate within the county existed, but no documentation of such has been seen.

Research in old postal records finds the "Canadian Almanac" of 1890 noting that the first class rate is three cents universally, except letters for delivery in the same post office, called "drop letters", are one cent if no free house-to-house delivery exists and two cents if a house-to-house delivery is in operation—meaning in the larger cities.

This would place the starting date of the two cent rate in 1889; and in the 1890 Postmaster-General's Report, on page vii, it states: "The Post Office Act of last session increased the rate of a single-rate letter from a half ounce to an ounce. The rate on drop letters at the same time was fixed at two cents per ounce. The charge for registration was fixed on all matter at five cents per unit." Apparently some confusion existed between the two cent and five cent registration fee.

While the above quotation does not differentiate the one cent and two cent drop

letter rate according to whether or not the town had a local free delivery service, the "Canadian Almanac" in 1890 and for years thereafter did differentiate the rates.

Further evidence that the two cent rate really operated is a note on page x of the above-mentioned report, that "A considerable reduction has taken place in the weekly average of letters delivered by letter carriers owing to the increase in postage on 'drop' or 'city' letters." Also it was mentioned that considerable illegal delivery by private parties was encountered when the rates increased.

Another note in the 1890 report was that extra stamps were ordered printed because it was prudent to have on hand a sufficient supply during the removal of the printing office of the British American Bank Note Company from Montreal to Ottawa.

In October of 1889, under the new drop letter rate, accurate count was taken of the number delivered by carriers. In Toronto, 74 carriers delivered 94,770 city letters (presumably the two cent rate), 6,346 registered letters, 162,464 other letters. Montreal had about half this amount. Victoria had 639, 28, 2,832, respectively. This new two cent rate accounts for the large number of 2c green Small Queen stamps with city postmarks of the larger cities so commonly seen in mixtures of the 2c green. Dated copies before 1889 always have been comparatively rare. ★