

# Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



**D**R. ALLAN A. WILKINSON (BNAPS 395) of Old Perlican, Newfoundland, has submitted a very nice pre-stamp item for our examination. It is a letter sheet dated Oct. 23, 1830, that was carried across Conception Bay by one of the packets in operation at that time. The interesting thing about this letter sheet that sets it apart from most others is the fact that it has a manuscript rate marking. Since the rate at that time was 1/-, the marking reads "Postage 1/-". Other than a letter sheet in our own collection dated Feb. 6, 1830, this is the only other rated letter sheet we have seen prior to 1848. The one in our collection bears the manuscript marking "Postage 2/-". The reason for the difference in rates is that our letter sheet was transported across Conception Bay by small boat or by carrier around the Bay due to the ice conditions that kept the larger packets in port.

**Marshall Kay** (BNAPS 760) of Leonia, N.J., is in with a note concerning a bit we had in the January 1955 issue of TOPICS wherein we discussed the scarcity of various postal stationery items, amongst them the 1 cent 1880 card overprinted TWO CENTS (Bond No. NCE1). Marshall's card is posted in St. John's on Mar. 2, 1896, addressed to Germany, and bears the statement "Only 700 of these cards were issued". The card is signed by G. A. Payne, Stamp Clerk. I guess that makes it quite definite as to the number issued. Thanks for the information.

**Herman Herst** (BNAPS 165) of Shrub Oak, N.Y., a dealer, has submitted an item for our examination which may well be unique. It is in the revenue classification and might more properly be the concern of the Revenue Group. However, since it is Newfoundland, we will take a hand in describing it. There are 23 revenue stamps on this piece, but what stamps—the total face value

being \$1,283.10! They are on piece and there is no indication as to the purpose they served. There are 12 single copies of the \$100 King Edward VII (Sissons No. N15); one copy of the \$50 (Sissons No. N14); one copy of the 10c King George V (Sissons No. N17); four copies of the 25c (Sissons No. N18); two copies of the \$1, with imprint (Sissons No. N20); two copies of the \$5 (Sissons No. N21), and one copy of the \$20 (Sissons No. N22). As any reader can see, with this piece in his possession, he would certainly be in a fair way to speedily complete his collection of Edward VII and George V revenues. Thanks very much, Herman, for having sent this piece down—it certainly is an eye-opener.

**Mr. Cecil Fletcher**, of Oregon, was referred to me by Nelson Bond (BNAPS L84), of Roanoke, Va., and the author of that outstanding book on the Postal Stationery of Canada and Newfoundland. Mr. Fletcher sent along two items that have not as yet been recorded. In fact, we are not even sure as to what they are, but we believe that we can make a pretty good guess. The items are two cards on what seems to be regular post-card stock, 140mm. x 93mm. The subject on the two cards is exactly the same as the 1880 2c Queen Victoria (Bond No. NCC1) only one is in green and the second seems to be a badly oxidized vermilion. It is our considered opinion that these two cards are color trial proofs of the issued card and that the vermilion color was chosen instead of the green to avoid conflict with the 1c card issued six months later in green. Another possibility is the fact that the U.P.U. regulations may have dictated the use of the vermilion color as Newfoundland entered the Union in 1879. In any event they are certainly novel and interesting and lend a spice to postal stationery collecting.

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# Bringing News About People and Stamps

By REV. JOHN S. BAIN (BNAPS 19)

THE issuance of the new 5 cent hockey commemorative stamp should remind collectors that not all suggestions to the post office are turned down. After very ardent support by the late Lionel Conacher, M.P., himself one of the great hockey immortals, the stamp seemed to have been set aside. Many believed that it would never be issued. At the time I believe that thinking was correct. However, with changing policy in the post office the suggestion that had already been imprinted by many requests, found ready acceptance and is now a reality. The old staid and rigid policies are giving way to the new, and the 5 cent hockey stamp will be one that will add much to the lustre of Canadian philately.

BNAPS

Now for a philatelic prognostication! I believe that in the future we can expect a new stamp honoring the late Jack Miner and his world famous bird sanctuary. This was a man who did much to preserve Canadian wild life. His banding the geese with Scripture verses is a story that has gone around the world. "Uncle" Jack, as he was affectionately known in the community, was always ready to receive guests as they journeyed to near Kingsville, Ontario, to see this almost legendary figure and the work he was doing. It has been my privilege on different occasions to stand with him (I was a pastor in a neighboring town) in the blind and watch the thousands of Canadian "honkers" feeding on their journey of migration. This is truly a Canadian subject worthy of philatelic recognition.

BNAPS

While looking through an auction catalogue recently, I noted the offering of the Canada 1897 Jubilees on cover. This included all values with the exception of one of the lower denominations. This brought back memories of a philatelic chase back in good old Toronto some 14 years ago, when covers (I believe three or four) were offered with the 1897 Jubilees cancelled on the first day! I have often wondered what became of them, and who owns them today—perhaps some BNAPSer reading this column!

BNAPS

Keep your eyes open for copies of early Canada Official Postal Guides. Many num-

bers are scarce. Quarterly copies of 1875 are especially good. A check of the Canada Post Office revealed that they did not possess a complete set. While chances are remote of finding this material, a knowledge of material and a keen eye can prevent destruction when it shows up.

BNAPS

Many thanks again for all the nice cards at Christmas. The outstanding philatelic card I received in 1955 was that of the Stanley Stamp Co. Ltd., Vancouver. This card, printed in red and green, had attached to the front with the greeting an actual copy of a plate proof of New Zealand type A1, and read, "Here is the proof we wish you a Merry Christmas, etc." What those fellows up at 'old 'ornby Street cannot think up!

BNAPS

Do not forget FIPEX and BNAPEX in 1956. ★

## High Prices

• British North America attracted keen competition in a recent sale by H. R. Harmer Inc., New York. A Canada 1864 2c rose imperf. un gummed pair (cat. \$120) brought \$82.50; a Jubilee \$4 o.g. (\$60), \$52, used (\$40), \$30. The 1908 Quebec Tercentenary issue in imperf. un gummed pairs (Holmes \$200) sold for \$140. Later imperf. o.g. pairs sold around 50 to 70 per cent of Holmes' catalogue prices. A specialized plate block collection from 1935-55 brought 75 per cent of Scott at \$350. ★

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Back in February and March of 1947 we ran articles on the Travelling Post Offices of Newfoundland, illustrating the various cancels and giving earliest and latest dates of use. The article was supplemented with additional bits in August 1947, June 1948 and March 1955. Now Dr. Allan Wilkinson (BNAPS 935) of Old Perlican, Newfoundland, is in with an earlier date of use of the TREPASSEL T.P.O. marking, our No. 111. The new date of use is now February 28, 1928. ★