

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



N. W. SCALES (No. 1058) Evansville, Ind., is in with some new notes for the Newfoundland perfin collectors. As a starter, he has found the AYRE perfin on the 36c Caribou (Scott No. 126). This is the highest face value stamp yet reported with a perfin. Mr. Scales also reports what he thinks may be early and late dates of use on cover. We have done no previous work on this score, so it may be that we will be contradicted often. Send your earlier or later dates along and we will run them in TRAIL. The early date is a reversed "G.K." on Nos. 104 and 105, and it is used on Jun. 8, 1918. The later date is an AYRE perfin used on Apr. 29, 1935. Bring on the changes—we will list them.

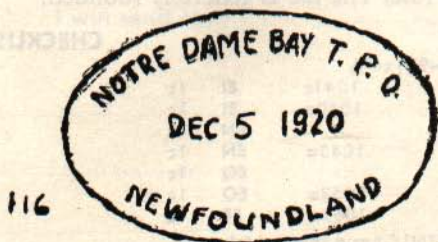
W. E. Lea (No. 687), Manchester, England, has just sent along a beautiful item for our inspection. We were doing some work on the 1932-36 issue (Scott Nos. 183-198) and we came upon a problem that stumped us. We were working on the imperforate and had No. 186, Die II, in our collection; we wanted to know from Bill if Die I existed in imperforate condition. Bill didn't even bother to answer—by return mail we had for our examination an imperforate block of four in the Die I. However, that wasn't all, because this same block was an upper left corner block and was marked with a reverse "2" for the plate number. We were pleased to record it as a new and possibly unique plate number. How do you tell the difference between

Die I and Die II?—just look for the little green dot in the "O" of TWO. It will be found about 1:30, as the marksmen say, or in the upper right corner to the layman.

Bill Lea also sent along some part perforate pairs of the Long Coronation set for the record. The first is a horizontal pair of the 3c, Scott No. 234, in the Die I, perf. 14.1, that is imperforate vertically; then there is a vertical pair of the same stamp in the Die II, perf. 13.7, that is imperforate between horizontally. The third pair is a vertical pair of the 20c, Scott No. 240, perf. 13.7, imperforate between horizontally. The last pair is also a vertical pair of the 48c, Scott No. 243, perf. 13.7 as well, and also imperforate between horizontally.

Allan Wilkinson, of Old Perlican, Newfoundland, who has been our most prolific contributor to date, is in with two very fine items. The first is a front (what a pity!) with Scott No. 49 cancelled by the "235" strike. While these strikes on cover are scarce, this one is the latest use so far recorded on cover. The front is postmarked at Twillingate on Jan. 19, 1887. This is more than six months later than the previous record holder, which was used on July 3, 1887. In addition, this front has the MORE-TO-PAY described as Fig. 2 in the September 1955 issue of BNA TOPICS. Truly an outstanding piece!

The second cover is an unrecorded TPO



strike. Way back in 1947 and 1948 we recorded 112 different TPO strikes in the February, March and August 1947 TOPICS plus the June 1948 TOPICS. Our last number was 114 but we had included two Railway Agents Date Stamps. It has been almost nine years since anyone presented a new strike and the one listed as No. 116 is the one sent down by Dr. Wilkinson. At the same time, while rummaging about in our

drawer, we found one other strike that had never been recorded. As we recall, Bill Russell, BNAPS 587, of Melrose, Mass., sent it to us some years ago and for some reason or other we never wrote it up. We have given this strike No. 115. It should be mentioned that all strikes previously recorded by us are pre-confederation strikes. We will leave the recording of the post-confederation TPO's to other hands. ★



PERFIN

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STUDY GROUP

SOME INSURANCE COMPANY COVERS

PERFINS on cover serve a very useful purpose in the study of this fascinating branch of Canadian philately. Not all of the users of perforating devices have the official sanction of the Post Office Department, so the companies' names do not appear on the list of 79 permit holders, nor have all the users purchased their perforators from the Cummins Company of Chicago, so on cover the company and its location is readily identified from the corner card.

Those companies with several machines located in branch offices generally have an additional hole added to the design by

The insurance companies, who have always been heavy users of postage stamps, were among those companies who used perforators extensively and have provided us with some interesting covers.

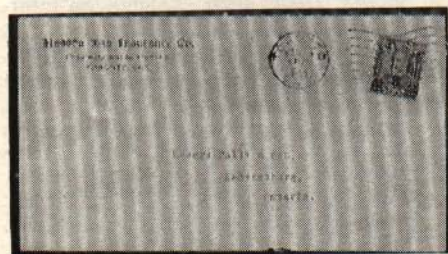
Hudson Bay Insurance Co.

A few months ago the writer was intrigued to find in a bundle of perfin covers, one bearing this company's corner card. The name of the company was new to us and in addition the cover seemed to be the answer to a problem. A fellow collector mentioned having seen a cover of the Hudson Bay Company (not the insurance company) with a perforated stamp and wondered if the study group had located a copy for our listing. We had not heard of it and of course had been watching for HBC to turn up somewhere. The cover seemed to be the answer.

The address on the corner card, 27-29 Wellington Street East, Toronto, is the address of the Toronto office of the Royal Insurance Company Ltd., and examination of the stamp disclosed that it had been punched RICO/Ltd. A disappointment so far as having found a new item for listing, but the satisfaction of having solved a problem.

North American Life

This cover is illustrated mainly because of its attractive design. Maps have a general interest, and the outline of the North American continent as used by this company on its stationery would make an attractive item



which the branch office using the particular code hole type can be identified.

Although commercially used covers with low value stamps from 1912 on may have little value and are often discarded, to the student of perfins they often provide the clue to the identity of a user or a branch office identification and are appreciated by perfin collectors for this purpose.