

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)

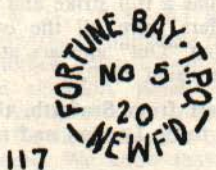


WE ARE everlastingly grateful to Dr. Allan Wilkinson (BNAPS 935) of Old Perlican, Newfoundland, for a letter we received from him the other day. It was so full of odds and ends that it took us quite some time to organize and put in order so that we knew what to check first. We started shortly after breakfast and it was close to dinner by the time we were through rummaging in our back numbers of TOPICS for information and referring to our collection for other bits of information.

Among the things that Allan sent along was an envelope with the old FOGO PAID strike in black in the upper right hand corner. It was on a cover postmarked at Fogo on Apr. 28, 1920, and addressed to Toronto, Canada. There was no stamp on the cover but close examination revealed that a stamp had been pasted on top of the FOGO PAID and cancelled. By the time the cover came into the hands of Dr. Wilkinson the stamp had been removed. The last time that we saw the Fogo strike was on a stampless cover dated Feb. 9, 1870 and it was struck in red, as it should be. Our only possible guess is that the hand-stamp was still at the post office in 1920 and may have been used to make up prepaid envelopes. It may conceivably be left from the latter part of 1918, when there was a shortage of low value stamps and money was accepted at the post office. Possibly if one wanted to buy an envelope and a stamp at the window they received an envelope similar to the one in question. After the emergency was over the envelopes may have been put back in stock and eventually passed out the window as regular envelopes. We don't know—we are just guessing. Can anyone help?

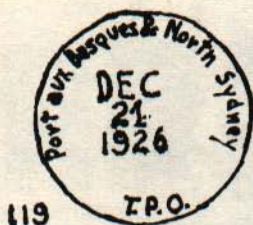
In addition there was a new marking that we have never seen on a cover addressed to North Sydney, N.S., and cancelled by a St. John's and Port aux Basques R.P.O. strike. The marking in question is the words LATE LETTER struck in violet in single line 37 mm. by 3.5 mm. Since this marking may possibly have been put on at North Sydney, we refrain from listing it as a Newfoundland marking but rather mention it because of its oddity. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who may have a similar strike on cover that can possibly be identified as being of Newfoundland origin.

Back in the June 1956 issue of TOPICS, Dr. Wilkinson prodded us into doing some more work on the TPO's that we had listed in February, March and August of 1947 and June 1948 as well as June 1956. Now he has sent us four new strikes which we are illustrating and giving the next consecutive number. I can remember how thrilled we were to get 50 varieties and how surprised we are now to realize that we are up to No. 120. Remember these are all pre-confederation strikes; we will leave the contemporary ones for some of our Canadian friends.



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	Early Date	Late Date
No. 117 FORTUNE BAY T.P.O.—NEWF'D.....	Apr. 25, 1920	Nov. 5, 1920
No. 118 POST OFFICE, NFLD.-N.D.BAY,NORTH.....	Only recorded: Oct. 17, 1929	
No. 119 Port aux Basques & North Sydney-T.P.O.....	Only recorded: Dec. 21, 1926	
No. 120 PORT AUX BASQUES & NORTH SYDNEY-T.P.O.....	Apr. 15, 1927	Jul. 27, 1929

In addition there is a portion of a FERRYLAND T.P.O. strike in a 20 mm. open circle that is not clear enough for us to copy. This is the second time this has happened to us. We know it was used between Nov. 28, 1917 and sometime in 1920. We would certainly appreciate a look at a clear strike. We still aren't through with the TPO's because Dr. Wilkinson also sent along earlier records of use on strike No. 71, illustrated in August 1947, and on strike No. 116, illustrated in June 1956. The new early dates are June 21, 1920 and Nov. 27, 1920, respectively. ★

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF

Canadian Prime Ministers

AS SHOWN ON CANADIAN STAMPS

By T. C. BERKELEY (BNAPS 767)

No. 4: Sir John S. Thompson

BORN at Halifax, N.S., John S. Thompson was educated at Halifax University as a lawyer, being called to the bar in 1865. A very able man, he was elected to the Federal House in 1877 as a Conservative, and was appointed Minister of Justice under MacDonald in 1885. He was greatly admired by MacDonald for the manner in which he handled the debate on the execution of



Louis Riel, an affair which threatened to divide the country on religious grounds.

Thompson succeeded John Abbott as prime minister in 1892, but died in 1894 at the early age of 50. A very able man, his death was a serious loss to Canada in its formative years. ★

• The April issue of BNA TOPICS will feature special Newfoundland material in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the issuing of the first stamp by this new Canadian province. •