



REVENUE GROUP

News

EDITOR: E. A. RICHARDSON, 303 Pin Oak Drive, La Marque, Texas

Manitoba Laws. From Neil Utberg (BNAPS 1551) comes an example of Holmes' ML77 (the 25c 9-scallop variety rubber-stamped "JF" in red), with an interesting variety in the overprint. There is a distinct curved tail to the right end of the bottom bar of "F". Looks as if it could have been caused by damage to the rubber stamp. If it appears on one of the many "JF" varieties, it may appear on a great many others!

Manitoba Telephone Franks. Also from Utberg come examples of the 5c and 25c 1911 Telephone Franks in two varieties. The varieties occur in the "9" of 1911. He submits the normal examples where the "9" is the same size as the other numbers. In the other examples the "9" is larger.

Manitoba Unlisted IMPERF BETWEEN Variety. The well known dealer in foreign revenues, William Vitale, Alhambra, Calif., has made a recent valuable revenue 'find.' In a lot of revenues on part documents which he purchased recently, he noted a 10c dark green, Holmes No. ML96, which was perforated on three sides, and had been torn by hand on the third side.

In the same lot he later found another example, but the torn edge was on the opposite side. Removing them from the documents and placing them side by side,

the torn edges fit perfectly. This reconstructed pair, imperforate between, is illustrated herewith. At least four other pairs existed at one time—do any others exist today?

'Direction' of Handstamps on Manitoba Laws. Why do we make such fuss over the direction of these handstamped overprints? Some read UP, some DOWN. The direction has no philatelic meaning—they are not a separate issue. And how do you classify those which read 'across'—in the normal manner? They read neither UP nor DOWN. While examples are scarce, they do exist, and I have a few in my collection. All this was brought to mind with an example of ML56, again submitted by Utberg, with the "BF" reading straight across.

Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph Franks. Harold Walker (BNAPS 1380), a frequent contributor to this column, reports he has seen the 1909 frank in the unwatermarked variety. Both Holmes and Marks list this variety in the 1908, 1914 and 1915 issues, but neither list the 1909 variety.

Yours truly also wishes to add the watermarked variety to the 1907 issue. We are also willing to bet that if collectors will check their copies carefully, watermarked varieties of the 1910, 1911 and 1912 issues may turn up! This probably is not true of the 1913 issue as it was printed on distinctly different thin paper.



Series of 1897 1/8 lb. Tobacco with Double Perfs. Some time ago our dependable contributor, Charles Armstrong (BNAPS 120), submitted a block of four of the 1897 1/8 lb. small tobacco Tax Paid stamp with extra rows of perforations. In addition to the normal vertical and horizontal rows, extra rows run diagonally upward, left to right.

Cape Breton Island Law Library Issue. Back in the April issue of BNA

TOPICS, we reported that the new current issue first appeared in 1957. We find now that this is in error. According to W. S. Ingraham (BNAPS 1220), "They were ordered in July 1954 and I understand were used later that year." These were produced by the Royal Printing & Lithographing Co. They were printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) with straight edges on all margins.

Both the 25c and 50c were printed in pale shades. I now have, however, the DEEP shade of the 25c. Possibly a later printing?

Newfoundland Savings Stamps. Only two varieties of these are listed in the various revenue catalogues. The first is with the

Coat of Arms design, the 10c blue WAR SAVINGS STAMP. This is quite scarce.

The second issue is the Caribou design, 10c red NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMP. This, too, is quite scarce and much under-catalogued.

However, there is a THIRD ISSUE. In the same Caribou design as the second, but printed in blue. This also reads like the red stamp. This last was issued "about the time Newfoundland joined the Canadian Confederation." The exact date is not known by this writer. I suspect, however, that even this issue may turn out to be not too common. I have this in two very distinct shades—the one a dark, bright blue; the other a pale shade, more nearly an ultramarine. ★

THE Editor's MAILBAG

We regret that we have not been able to publish the following letter on the plate block question in an earlier issue, but there was not sufficient space available.—Ed.

We Asked For It!

The writer, and quite a few other Canadian plate block collectors have been following with interest the editorials and letters relative to plate blocks in our magazine. Frankly, we'll bet you a coca-cola your "Last Word from the Editor" in the June issue won't be quite the last word about Canadian plate blocks.

Relative to the Philatelic Agency, the only reason for its existence is to help stamp collectors. As each sheet or stamp is sold there, it is made to order in that it is hand-picked by skilled labor; in other words, all philatelic agencies in a sense are catering directly with special or made-to-order material for the stamp collector. The stamp collectors and most dealers want and appreciate the philatelic agencies.

Getting down to Canadian plate blocks, a great many more Canadian stamp collectors collect these plate blocks than collect stampless covers, squared circle postmarks, the classics, the Caribous, and the many other specialties—only the regular singles of Canada are more popular. There is another point, too, that seems to be missed so much by editors nowadays and that is that they are STAMPS. Most collectors are interested in stamps; they are also interested in history and photographs and writings and many other things, but for editorial content in a stamp magazine nothing can beat STAMPS. These things we know because we have received first-hand many thousands of letters from all over the world because of our collections, and these letters come from just the regular stamp collectors as well as the great experts and super-philatelists.

In the opinion of the writer, and a great many of our members, we think that our society should run a good article on plate blocks once in a while. As you know, Mr. McCready is sick, so except for Weekly Philatelic Gossip, things are sort of slowing up for our branch of the hobby. We are even bold enough to think that it would be a good idea to reactivate the Plate Block Study Group, although the original great group did finish the catalogue and did a wonderful job, and of course, might no longer be interested. There still might be laymen or new collectors, or even the six or seven who have the fantastic collections who would be interested.

After all, it was the British North America Philatelic Society who sponsored the Plate Block Study Group that made the catalogue and made this branch of the hobby. Relative to the furrere over the printing of the imprints, it seems too bad to many of us that when a former postal administration had stopped printing plate corner imprints completely—it seems too bad that when a new, aggressive Postmaster-General, Bill Hamilton, does the best he can to straighten this situation out for the stamp collector, to have the leading Canadian magazine criticizing because the selvedge on the sheet is narrower or wider. Certainly, a personal letter to the Postmaster-General would be just as helpful and that's the only reason I see for editorials—to help the hobby.

Seeks To Maintain High Standard

We know first-hand, and we have in his own handwriting the statement that Bill Hamilton highly values philately as a medium of international good will. His objective is to maintain the high standard of Canadian stamps and to make improvements where possible. He believes, as does the average collector, that Canada has laid a sound foundation for lasting value of collections of Canadian postage stamps.

Why should anybody become upset because a stamp he bought for his collection turned out to