

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



IN THE AUGUST 29, 1958 issue of Stamp Collecting, the London firm of Bridger & Kay Ltd. advertise most of the values of the Newfoundland Long Coronation set in the comb perforate condition. They will sell all of the values with the exception of the 7 cent and 14 cent at £7, and individually they will sell the 1 cent at \$9.80, the 3 cent in the Die I at 35 cents, in the Die II at 14 cents, the 8 cent at 42 cents, the 10 cents, 56 cents, the 15 cents, 38 cents; the 20 cents at 49 cents, the 24 cents at 70 cents, the 25 cents at \$5.25, and the 48 cent at \$3.15. All of the above are in mint condition; they offer only one value in used condition—that is the 1 cent at \$12.60. I am certainly glad to see that they have ignored Gibbons' high valuation on the 10 cent value and priced it rather realistically closer to its true worth.

While rewriting our collection of pre-adhesives in preparation for BNAPEX-58, we came across a condition that struck us as odd while working on the St. John's to Quebec covers of the 1847-1850 period. There seemed to be a variation of $\frac{1}{2}$ d in the rate depending on whether the cover was sent collect or partly prepaid. Cover No. 1 was posted at St. John's on July 3, 1850 and the 4d rate was prepaid to Halifax. From there the cover went collect and it bears on the face a MORE-TO-PAY strike and a manuscript rate marking of $\frac{1}{8}$ in black to show that it was collect. Cover No. 2 was also a single rate cover from St. John's to Quebec that went collect all the way. It was posted at St. John's on June 6, 1850 and bears on the face a black manuscript "4" that has been obliterated, and then a black manuscript "2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the complete rate to Quebec—a halfpenny more than the part-prepaid rate. The same condition is found on the double rate letters. Cover No. 3 posted at St. John's on November 11, 1847 bears on the face a "Crown Circle" with a manuscript red "8"

to prepay the rate to Halifax. It also bears the black handstruck MORE-TO-PAY and a black manuscript "3/4" marking to complete the 4/. rate. Cover No. 4 was posted at St. John's on February 10, 1848 and bears on the face a black collect manuscript "8" to show the rate to Halifax. This is then obliterated and the total rate of "4/1" then appears in manuscript in black and shows the complete collect double rate to Quebec via Halifax.

The answer was simple after we listened to an explanation of rates from Charles deVolpi (BNAPS 266) of Montreal, and in our opinion the outstanding rate man in the world on matters pertaining to B.N.A. It seems that Newfoundland operated under sterling and Nova Scotia and Canada operated under currency during the time in question. The part-prepaid covers were simple because the rate from St. John's to Halifax was 4d sterling per single letter, which was convertible into 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d currency. The total rate from St. John's to Quebec via Halifax was 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ currency, or 4d sterling to Halifax and 1/8 currency the rest of the way. The rate was fixed by the Act of July 1, 1844 and since Halifax was between 601 and 700 miles from Quebec the rate was 1/8 currency. Thanks, Mr. deVolpi, for supplying a simple answer for what started out as a serious problem.

While in Montreal on my way to the 1958 convention, I made the rounds of the dealers and came up with two interesting Newfoundland perfin. The first was a copy of the 15 cent Cabot (Scott No. 71) with the "A.N.D." perfin diagonally across the stamp, and the second was the 60 cent Cabot (Scott No. 74) with the "A.N.D." perfin in the regular position. I believe that the diagonal perfin is the first such variety recorded and I'm quite certain the 60 cent stamp is the highest value to be so

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