

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



KENNETH D. HART, BNAPS 770, Dumont, N.J., has just asked us a question about postal stationery that we covered back in March 1948 in TOPICS. While idly leafing through that issue of TOPICS we noticed that we only had less than 500 members at that time so Ken Hart and hundreds of new members would not know what had been printed previously in their magazine. We have always replied to the individual in question, but from now on any query that has not been answered within the past three years will also be answered in this column. Mr. Hart wanted to know if there was any way of differentiating between the 1 cent card of 1915 and the emission of 1930. Well, there certainly is, and it has nothing to do with the color of the card. The 1930 card is either a new die or a reworked die. In the 1915 card all of the lines on the forehead, ear and neck are complete, while they are broken on the 1930 card. In addition the words "ONE CENT" in the value tablet of the first card are much thinner than those of the second card. For the records the 1915 card is Bond No. NCM1 and the 1930 card is Bond No. NCN1.

Alec MacMaster, BNAPS 484, Vancouver, B.C., made an almost immediate reply to our request for information in the November issue of TRAIL. In fact, he went a step further and submitted a presentation sheet for the Guy Issue for our examination. As in the case of the previous one described in November, this one too is more of a presentation card than a presentation sheet. The entire issue, Scott Nos. 87-97 with the 6c value with 'Z' normal and not reversed. The 1c, 2c and 5c values are all in the perf. 12. The size of the cards is 11 3/4 by 9 11/16 inches. The top of the card is inscribed "NEWFOUNDLAND" and the second line has the dates "1610" and "1910" separated by a crown. The stamps are shown in four rows with the 1c and 2c values on the first row, the 4c, 5c, 15c, 8c and 9c values on

the second row, the 3c, 10c and 6c values on the third row, and the 12c value occupying all of the fourth and last row. Beneath the stamps are the two following lines: "Issue of Newfoundland Stamps to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the earliest / settlement of the British Empire made in Conception Bay Newfoundland in June 1610." Directly beneath these two lines is the line "With the Compliments of the Government of Newfoundland." This is followed by the signature of the Colonial Secretary. Finally in the lower left corner is the line "Whitehead Morris & Co. Ld. London E.C." The two cards are almost identical in appearance and only differ ever so slightly in the margins around the card. Thanks, Alec, for answering our appeal for help.

We've just had the privilege of examining an outstanding Newfoundland cover that was sent to us by Bill Lea, BNAPS 687, of London, England. It is a cover from St. John's to Australia (which certainly would make it scarce enough); it was posted at St. John's on Mar. 9, 1860, received in London on Mar. 29, 1860, and finally postmarked at Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 15, 1860. The letter is franked with a very nice copy of the 1/- scarlet, Scott No. 9. Shillings scarlet are scarce enough—on cover they are even scarcer—but on cover to Australia may possibly make it unique. The cover is certainly genuine as it has just been given a certificate by the Philatelic Foundation. Thanks for letting us see this showpiece of Newfoundland philately.

W. E. Fyndem, in his excellent column in the November 29 issue of 'Stamp Collecting' gives his opinion that the 48c stamp, Scott No. 266, is steadily rising in value. He cites its increase in price in the new Commonwealth catalogue. His closing statement is: "A good stamp at best—mint or used. It has a long way to go yet." ★