

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



JIM SISSONS held a very interesting sale on Feb. 4, in that it contained most of the 1937 Coronations in imperforate condition. These stamps are not too common and having most of them in one sale gives us an idea as to their value. An imperf. pair of the 1c, Scott No. 233, realized \$65, as did imperf. pairs of the 3c in both dies. In fact, all of the lots sold at \$65 each, and they also included imperf. pairs of the 10c, 20c, 24c and the 48c, the last "no gum." While talking about the imperforates, it is interesting to report that a vertical pair of the 10c Postage Due, imperforate between, sold for \$60.

There were quite a few BNAPSers in New York on March 11, and they were all there for one reason—the sale of British North America Pence issues held by Robert A. Siegal. Most of the outstanding pieces in the sale, both Newfoundland and Canada, were from the "Pack" collection which was auctioned off about 15 years ago. The lots were readily recognizable as they were outstanding B.N.A. gems and among the Newfoundland items that we wish to report on are the following: A magnificent appearing copy of the 2d scarlet, Scott No. 2, with a faint crease that was not apparent to the eye, realized \$600. Then an unused copy of the 4d scarlet, Scott No. 4, sold for \$975, while a superb used copy that had changed hands for \$400 in the "Pack" sale, now brought better than twice as much when it was finally knocked down for \$825 against a catalogue valuation of \$350. A very fine block of six of the 5d brown violet, Scott No. 5, sold for \$170, and an 8d scarlet bisect on a "Tucker" cover realized \$330. Then the gem of the Newfoundland items, a magnificent full-margin copy of the 1 shilling scarlet with o.g. that sold for \$2,000 in the "Pack" sale, never stopped until it reached \$3,800 against a catalogue valuation of \$1,200. Among the oranges, the outstanding piece was a superb used copy of the 6d scarlet, Scott No. 13, that

went very reasonably at \$140, only about one-and-a-half times catalogue. The outstanding item in the 1862-1863 issue was an absolutely superb block of six of the 2d, Scott No. 17, from the lower left corner of the sheet. Evidently its scarcity was appreciated, as it never stopped until it reached \$425. A very nice sale!

Imagine our surprise! In the March issue of TOPICS we asked if anyone had ever seen a Newfoundland "Territorial" as we had seen a copy of a cancellation in the proof book that is in the possession of the Philatelic Foundation that read BLANC SABLON/NEWF'D Ty. Incidentally, our column in the March issue is in error as the last letter is a "Y" and not an "R" as it appears in TOPICS. Well, anyway, the other evening we had a visit from an old friend of ours who is married to a Newfoundland girl, and his one consuming interest is the island of Newfoundland with the stamps just an incidental interest. As we idly leafed through the album we came to an assortment of used blocks and there, sure enough, struck in the centre of a block of four of the 2c vermilion, Scott No. 82, was this self-same strike in question, dated May 5, 1898. What a beautiful cover it would have been if it had not been soaked off. Has anyone found it on cover yet?

Here we go again on the now famous Newfoundland "235" cancellation. We still do not know what it is and at the present time we are more interested in how early it was used because just the other day we bought a magnificent "235" strike on the 1 shilling rose, Scott No. 23, to add to our copies of the 4d and the 6d rose, Scott Nos. 18 and 20, struck with the same cancellation. The earliest record that we have on cover is 1873 and what we want to know now is whether or not this cancellation was in use prior to 1865, as its presence on the three pence issues means nothing as these stamps were never demonetized and may

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