

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



WE SHOULD have known that from the inexhaustible supply of covers that he has up at Old Perlican, Dr. Wilkinson (BNAPS 935) would come up with the BLANC SABLON/NEWF'D Ty strike on full cover. We were rather surprised to see that the letter was posted on May 24, 1921, and the strike seems to be exactly the same as the one first put out in 1889. Dr. Wilkinson's cover is addressed to Toronto and it is franked with the 3c Caribou Scott No. 117. Are there any other reports on this extremely rare strike?

The completion of the Newfoundland 20th century die proofs is almost consummated with the addition of the two new ones that we purchased recently. The first is a gummed die proof of the 4c Princess Elizabeth in issued color on watermarked stamp paper. While it is exceedingly strange to see a die proof on gummed paper there is no question about this one as the margins around the stamp average 8 mms., thus definitely precluding the possibility that it may be a plate proof. I see that we neglected to mention that this is Scott No. 269. The second is a die proof of the 5c Cabot, Scott No. 270, in black on unwatermarked stamp paper with margins all around averaging 25 mm. Strangely enough, each one of these die proofs has a small hole about 2 mm. in diameter in the upper right margin right next to the stamp and we have no explanation for same, but have been assured that they were supplied in that manner to the official sources. This now completes the list of 20th century die proofs with the exception of the 1939 Royal Visit, Scott No. 249. Has anyone seen the die proof of this issue?

Attention all revenue and plate block collectors! What we have to say now may be "old hat" to you, but it was certainly brand new to us. We recently purchased a rather large lot of the Caribou Inland Revenue stamps of Newfoundland. These were the ones perfed. 11.9x11.9 line and are the latest of the three perfs., as previous

printings are line perf. 14.1x14.1 and 13.7x13.7. They are all printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., and the 11.9 are supposed to be from new plates. The first printings reputedly were in sheets of 50 (10x5) and we do not know if there were any marginal inscriptions. This last printing which E. H. Hiscock (BNAPS 234), St. John's, Nfld., writing in the November 1945 issue of Popular Stamps, said was issued in 1944, is again printed in sheets of 50, but this time they are made up of two panes (5x5) and there is a gutter between the panes and the panes can be purchased unsevered. In addition, directly beneath stamps No. 22, 23 and 24 of each pane, is the inscription BRADBURY WILKINSON & CO., Ltd., NEW MALDEN, SURREY, ENGLAND. In addition, under stamp No. 24 of the left pane is the numeral "2" and under stamp No. 24 of the right pane is the numeral "2a". Now we don't know for positive if this is true of all values, but we do have both plate blocks of six of the 5c, 10c, 25c and 50c. In the \$1 value we just have plate "2a" and in the \$2.50 stamp we just have plate "2". In the \$5 value we go back to plate "2a" while in the \$20 we have a plate single with the "2". We would like any further information on these stamps and the plate numbers that may exist on this issue.

The March 20 sale held by Harmer, Rooke & Co., in New York, had a very interesting Newfoundland provisional. It was a cover posted on Nov. 2, 1897 and franked with the 1c on 3c Provisional with the double surcharge, one red and one black. These stamps are rare enough in mint condition but much scarcer on cover, and particularly so when used during the period of the emergency. This was an example of the commonest variety but at that only 40 copies are reputed to exist in either mint or used condition. The stamp itself was considerably off-centre and the cover had a slight defect at top and the flap was missing and it was soiled, but it still realized the respectable figure of \$205. ★