

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



CARL A. ANDERSON (BNAPS 361), Saskatoon, Sask., writes in to tell us about an interesting cover that he has. It is a cover from the General Post Office "On Postal Service", registered and addressed to Brantford. It is franked with a copy of Scott No. 67 and cancelled with a circular grid. The interesting thing about the cover is the St. John's cancel in the lower left corner. It is an example of the St. John's forerunner to the squared circle described by Dr. Whitehead in the May 1951 TOPICS. The cancel is dated July 30, 1897. The interesting thing about it all is that the St. John's forerunner is on the face of the cover and not on the reverse where these are usually found, when they are found. This is only the third or fourth instance that we recall of the strike on the face.

N. W. Scales (BNAPS 1058), Evansville, Ind., has sent along a new perfin that has not been previously recorded from Newfoundland. This is the fourth that has been recorded and takes its place along with the previously listed G.K., AND and AYRE. The new perfin is C.H. and the letters are 17½ mm. high and 7 mm. wide. It is believed that these perfins are put out by the firm of Charles Hutton & Sons of St. John's and we anxiously await their discovery on a cover so that we can confirm their origin. Mr. Scales also sends along some other interesting perfins: the AND is found on the 8c Caribou (Scott 121), and on a pair of the 10c Caribou (Scott 122). The very scarce G.K. is seen on the 3c (Scott 83) and the 3c Caribou (Scott 117). It should be noted that the copy of Scott 83 is the one that was re-issued in 1918 and not the original printing of 1898. The AYRE perfin is on the 8c (Scott 151), and we see that we neglected to advise that the new C.H. perfin is on the 5c (Scott 191). In addition he has sent along a very interesting cover franked with three copies of the 2c (Scott 82). However these stamps have been very badly perforated and the bottom 5 mm. of the stamp appears on top. We've always had a used pair in our collection but have never seen them on cover before. It is a registered cover cancelled by the C.B. Railway T.P.O. strike on June 26, 1902. The last item that he submits is a gem of a cover from St. John's to Dartmouth, N.S., and it is franked with the 10c (Scott 27). The cover was posted at St. John's in April 1872 and backstamped at Halifax and Dartmouth on Apr. 29, 1872. In addition the cover bears a black handstamped MORE TO PAY and a black handstamped '3'. The rate from St. John's to Halifax only was 10 cents, but to anywhere else in Nova Scotia it was 13 cents. Since Dartmouth is so close to Halifax the sender assumed that the 10 cent rate would apply but such was not the case and it was taxed the extra three cents to complete the 13 cent rate. Certainly an interesting cover, and thanks for letting us have a look-see.

On September 30 the New York firm of Harmer, Rooke & Co. sold gummed perforated trial color proofs from the sample sheet of the 2c in black and the 13c in green for \$13 and \$17 respectively. The same sale had a block of four of the 1c (Scott 32) in dusky green on India that changed hands at \$16, and a block of four of the 1c (Scott 32a) in purple on India, was knocked down at the same price. Plate proof blocks on India of the 3c (Scott 33) in slate black and deep orange red brought \$18 and \$20 each, and a set of the 1911 Royal Family issue in pairs and in black with some on thick glazed paper and the rest on card, as this set always comes, went rather reasonably at \$67.50. Among the regular issues a mint set of the Cabot issue (Scott 61-74) only brought \$12, while the complete Guy re-engraved issue (Scott 98-103) realized \$25. Three sets of the Caribou issue (Scott 115-126) sold for \$11, \$10 and \$10.75 respectively. ★