

Of these 1, 2, AM, PM, may be regarded as normal in their respective periods (see later). 'I' and 'AM' are rather uncommon and should always be acquired by those collectors interested in forming matched groups for the same date. The others — blank, 3, 5, 5 inverted, all scarce or rare — must be considered as abnormal.

Several kinds of matched groups are possible. I know of the following: 1, 2; AM, PM (these two sorts are not really hard, but nonetheless desirable); 1, Blank; Blank, PM; AM, 2; AM, 3. I have heard of 2, 3, for sameday, but shall wait until I see it before being convinced! I have found one c.d.s., blank above, and PM, both My 1, 97. (This is the only Charlottetown c.d.s. of the squared circle period known to me). No matched groups including 5 or 5 inverted have been reported.

CHRONOLOGY

(I am considerably indebted to Mrs. Kirk for this)

GALLEY 4 — BNAPS

- 1893 Sp 8—Sp 11: blank above
Sp 12—De 31: 1, 2
- 1894 1, 2, throughout, with PM occasionally in Ap., My. and Dec.
- 1895 1, 2, predominating until Sp 18, but PM occasionally. AM not reported
By Sp 30, AM, PM, took over. '3' above known.
- 1896 AM, PM, throughout. No exceptions reported.
- 1897 This is by far the most tangled year. AM, PM, from Jan. to May, and occasionally later.
On June 1st, 1, 2, took over and were normally used. But 3, 5 and inverted 5 make rare appearances. Blank above also known.
- 1898 1, 2, seem to be normal, but AM is known for Fe 26 (in Mrs. Kirk's collection) and PM is known for Ap 5, 13, 27. Four copies with '3' and one for '5' also known.

The following dates are known for abnormalities.

Blank above: Sp 11, 93; and in 1897: Au 9, 13, 14; Sp 29; Oc 16, De 8.

'3' above: 1895: Fe 22, Ap 25, 26, 29, My 17, Ju 4; Jy 2, 1896: Ja 4; 1897 Ju 12, 21, 22; Jy 4, 21, 22, 24, 25; Au 5, 6, 7, 10; Sp 1, 3, 7, 22, 24, 30; Oc 28; No 2, 22; 1895: Fe 22, Mr 22, Au 2.

'5' above: Au 2, 97; Au 17, 98

'5' inverted: Au 11, 97; No 6, 97

It would help greatly if other collectors would report their Charlottetown indicia to Mrs. Kirk or to me. Please!

Interest in the actual hammers used for Squared Circle strikes is still keen. Here is a portion of a letter received lately from Gerald Carr of Detroit Mich.

Just back from a visit in and around Belleville. The old building is already in operation. Wonder if they found the old hammers when they moved. From the information in "Topics", I stopped in Grafton both coming and going and was able to look at the old Hammer. It sure was not at all like I thought it would be. The Post Master was most co-operative and let me take it outside, for better lighting and I took several pictures of it, with the wife's co-operation. He let me have a couple of examples of it on a blank pieces of paper. I figured a picture of a SC hammer would be excellent for a write up on them. The counter in the PO did not work out to well as you can see, no cushion, so a real good impression was not possible. I think the date is Jan. 1902. I asked about the type and box, but they are long gone and he had never seen them. I asked how many offers he had to sell it and he said plenty, with a chap from Nova Scotia being most insistent that he be allowed to buy it. With that I did not make an offer. After seeing a hammer I can see that in order to remove the bars, the broken circle, would require a careful grinding operation, so as not to damage the lettering of the town and Province.

(Continued from page 8)

her father in Vancouver. It is postmarked "Dawson Y.T. Nov. 16, 1927". On the front it has a Yukon Airways and Exploration Co. Ltd. stamp and a 2c regular Canadian postage stamp, both tied in with the Dawson cancellation. It is stated underneath the photograph that the cover was donated to the Hudsons Bay Company Historical Col-

lection by Mrs. Cruickshank.

(Continued from page 9)

at the ASDA Show in New York in Nov. '49 and reported in the Jan. '50 issue of TOPICS. This block is now in an English collection and the one I purchased, at a very handsome figure too is only the second recorded. Anyone know of any others?