

# NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL STATIONERY AND OTHER STAMPED PAPER

by Robert H. Pratt, OTB

## Part Ia - The Newfoundland Postcards

(Installment 1 of a Series)

### INTRODUCTION

Post cards; stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers (post bands); dead letter office stamps; revenue stamps; customs duty stamps — this material, often relegated to the 'back of the book', all comes within the purview of matters postal. Much that will be stated here is new information, previously undisclosed. In some cases the data will revise listed 'dates of issue'; and in other cases the data will reveal, for the first time, quantities of material ordered and delivered.

This narrative about Newfoundland stamped paper will continue to the end of factual in-

formation found in official records which still exist. This information fade out occurs, for stationery, soon after the post card issue of 1915 came into being, although that style of cards were in use until 1930. In Part II, where revenue stamps are under review, that data continues until 1938, which was the demise of the 1910 issue of stamps. During this period the first issue of customs duty stamps was prepared by the same printer. The termination of the issues of cards and revenue stamps was also the conclusion of a period of purchase from one company. Contractor Whitehead Morris and printer De La Rue now combined their capabilities and the British American Bank Note Company concluded their con-



#1 - 1873 - 1d Post Card

Contractor - American Bank Note Company

Number of Printings - Probably three

Quantity - Probably 100,000

Stamp - As 1d American Bank Note Stamp of 1871

Color - Green on yellowish card (first printing)

- Green on white card (later printing)

Size - 114 x 72 mm.

Die Proofs - Green on India (separated from card backing)

Plate or Color Trial Proofs - Brown, Orange, Tan, Green

tracts with the Newfoundland Government for post cards and revenue stamps. The sub groups for this series will be:

- Part I — a) The Newfoundland Post Cards  
b) The Newfoundland Stamped Envelopes  
c) The Newfoundland Newspaper Wrappers  
d) The Newfoundland Officially Sealed Stamp  
e) The Newfoundland Postmaster General's Post Cards and Other Post Office Documents
- Part II — a) The Early Newfoundland Revenue Stamps  
b) The Initial Newfoundland Customs Duty Stamps

### THE 1d POST CARD OF 1873

Postmaster General Delaney began pressing for post cards in his report for 1871, dated 26 February 1872. He stated: "I have had it in contemplation for some time to bring under the no-

tice of the government a new system of correspondence lately introduced into the post office departments of the United States, Dominion of Canada and Great Britain, styled 'Post Cards', a specimen of which is sent herewith;..." The plea was successful and authorization was obtained to procure a supply of the new communication forms for Newfoundland. This species of open correspondence was established to provide a cheap and quick method of sending information between two local points.

The report for 1872, dated 1 March 1873, contained the information that the new post cards had been forwarded to the Island on 24 January 1873 and were received shortly after 1 March. The report for 1873, prepared in 1874, shows that \$400.00 worth of post cards must have been received. The 11 March 1873 Royal Gazette carried the following announcement: "We have been favored by John Delaney, Postmaster General, with specimens of the new postal cards about to be put into service in Newfoundland. The cards are printed in green, are beautifully executed, and bear the impress of the New-



#2 — 1879 — 2d Post Card

Contractor — American Bank Note Company  
Number of Printings — Probably one  
Quantity — Unknown, probably 30,000 or less  
Stamp — Similar to 3d & 6d value of 1870, but value 2d

Color — Vermillion on white card  
Size — 129 x 80 mm.  
Die Proofs — Vermillion on India on cardboard  
Subgroup — Re-entry in 'Company' bottom imprint

foundland one-cent stamp. The introduction of the postal cards into this colony will, no doubt, as elsewhere, be found of great public convenience, and in our postal system, reflects much credit upon the Postmaster General." The new cards must have been put into circulation between the seventh and fifteenth of March 1873 as Delaney had said that they would be placed in use immediately after receipt.

The Postal Convention with the United States came into being on 1 December 1872. A notice placed in the 23 September 1873 Royal Gazette announced that Newfoundland Post Cards could be sent to the United States after 1 October 1873, if prepaid at a rate of 2¢ each. The placing of a 1¢ stamp on the card in addition to the printed stamp was specified. A reciprocal 2¢ rate was also placed into effect from the United States to Newfoundland. During 1876, according to the Postmaster General's report, a further supply of post cards was obtained from the American Bank Note Company. This shipment consisted of 30,000 cards, or \$300.00 worth. Probably one more shipment of 30,000 cards was received prior to the shift of the print-

ing contract to the British American Bank Note Company in 1880. This is somewhat verified by the report of George LeMessurier, acting Postmaster General in 1883, who stated: "The number of postal cards circulating is trifling; although ten years in use, the sales have not reached 100,000 for the whole time". The third printing was probably made in 1879 coincident with the production of the 2¢ card for U.P.U. use. The 1¢ cards are still known used in 1880.

### THE 2¢ UPU CARD OF 1879

Newfoundland was finally admitted into the Universal Postal Union on 1 January 1879, the political objections of France having been at long last overcome. The standard post card rate between U.P.U. countries was 2¢, and Newfoundland did not possess such a card. While no record can be found to substantiate the date, it is fairly certain that a new 2¢ card was issued in early 1879 to allow post cards to be mailed to foreign countries. A UPU card in the Campbell collection, sent to Liverpool, England, is dated 7 August 1879; a similar card in the Pratt collection is



#3 - 1882 - 2¢ Post Card

Contractor - British American Bank Note Company, Montreal

Number of Printings - unknown

Quantity - unknown

Stamp - Portrait of Queen Victoria in Widows Weeds, similar to Canadian bill stamps

and 20¢ Canada stamp of 1893

Color - Orange vermillion on white card

- Orange vermillion on light buff card

Size - 125 x 83 mm.

Plate or Color Trial Proofs - Green, Orange vermillion

dated 27 June 1879.

### THE 2¢ POST CARD OF 1882

In 1880 the stamp contract was transferred from the American Bank Note Company in New York to the British American Bank Note Company of Ottawa and Montreal. It is known that some postage stamps were prepared and sent to Newfoundland in 1880; it is suspected that others were not made until 1882.

In addition to the postage stamps, post cards were printed by the new company. The first use

of the new cards seems to be the 2¢ value, which are known through the mails in November 1882. Unfortunately factual records of the span of manufacture by the new Canadian company are not available; therefore the number of times postcards were made, the quantities and dates when they were sent to the colony are for the most part unknown. Die proofs exist in the files of the British American Bank Note Company. They are numbered 122 for the 2¢ value and 123 for the 1¢, probably indicating the order of engraving and printing.

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