

LETTERS

NEWFOUNDLAND - STAMPS PER PULL

In response to the letter by Derek Paul, in the January-February issue of *TOPICS*, and that of John M. Walsh in September-October of 1989, regarding the number of stamps per pull (or printed, not post office, sheet) of certain Newfoundland issues, perhaps I can suggest a possible avenue of investigation, at least with regard to the the 10c of the small pictorial issue of 1923.

So far I have acquired four corner blocks of this value, and enclose a xerox of these - arranged in what I theorise is the correct format. If correct, the indications are that this value, at least, was printed in a sheet of 200 stamps arranged in two panes, with gutter between. These particular specimens are from comb-perforated sheets. As will be noted in the perforation of the selvedge varies from blank on bottom with perforated sides, to perforated all round, with the perforated side-selvedge occurring on either side. If my idea is correct then one can expect eventually to find bottom blocks

with unperforated selvedge at bottom and either of the two possible sides, plus top blocks with perforated top selvedge, and unperforated side selvedge. If top blocks are found with unperforated selvedge, then we may conclude that the stamp was printed in sheets of 400 (4 panes), but that is purely speculation.

The important point here is that only comb perforation gives the clue - line perforation would be useless as all margins would be perforated. In comb perforating three sides of a sheet would have selvedge unperforated, and perhaps the fourth, depending on the type of perforating head used. Often, when the sheet contained two (or more) panes, the gutter between would be perforated across, as indicated by my illustration.

Does anyone out there have any missing blocks?

Andrew P. Nimmo

BNA MEMBERSHIP

As a new member of BNAPS, I must respond to Harry Dingenthal's March-April letter

