

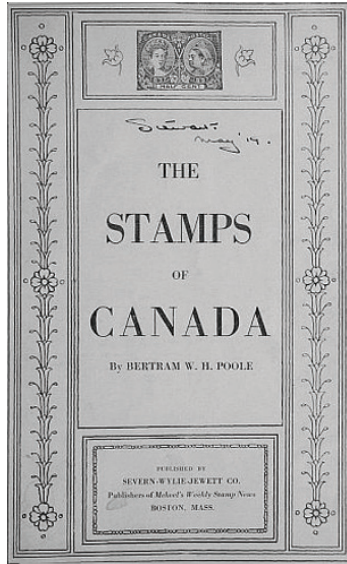
The Stamps of Canada

With this issue we begin a new series, and expand our coverage of Canada to include the older issues as well as the new issues (see facing page).

In this case, “new” also is old, as one aspect will be a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole—the cover of which is reproduced here.

If you collect Canada, or you are interested in exploring the philately of Canada, we also have on StampNewsNow.com, under US & Worldwide Postal Services, articles on all of Canada's 2013 new issues. Also of interest to Canada collectors, advertisers who have a significant Canada stock include Eastern Auctions (see their ad this page) and Mark-Lane Stamps (see facing page).

And with that, we will begin our presentation of *The Stamps of Canada*.



like indentations. Off the coast are many islands, some of them of considerable magnitude.—Prince Edward Is., Cape Breton Is., and Anticosti being the most considerable on the Atlantic side, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Is. on the Pacific; and in the extreme north is the immense Arctic archipelago, bound in perpetual ice.

The surface of the country east of the great lakes is diversified, but characterised by no outstanding features....The St. Lawrence and its tributaries form the dominating physical feature in this section, the other rivers being the St. John, the Miramichi, and the Restigouche in New Brunswick. Eastern Canada is practically the Canadian part of the St. Lawrence valley, (330,000 square miles), and the great physical feature is the system of lakes with an area of 90,000 square miles. In addition to the tributaries of the St. Lawrence already mentioned, the Dominion boasts the Fraser, the Thompson, and the greater part of the Columbia River in British Columbia; the Athabasca and Peace Rivers, which flow into Lake Athabasca, and out of it as the Slave River, which issues from the Great Slave Lake and flows into the Arctic Ocean as the Mackenzie River (total length 2,800 miles); the Albany and the Churchill, flowing into Hudson Bay, and the Nelson, which discharges from Lake Winnipeg into Hudson Bay the united waters of the Assiniboine, the Saskatchewan, the Red River and the Winnipeg.

West of the Great Lakes...From the lakes to the Rockies stretches a vast level plain of a prairie character, slowly rising from 800 feet at the east end to 3,000 feet at the foothills of the Rockies.

The Stamps of Canada, Part 2

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

The eastern and western portions of the Dominion are heavily wooded, and comparatively little inroad has been made on the forest wealth of the country. It is estimated that there are 1,200,000 square miles of woodland and forest, chiefly spruce and pine, including about a hundred varieties; consequently the industries connected with the forest are of great importance, especially since the development of the pulp industry. The central prairie plain is almost devoid of forest. Agriculture is the dominant industry in Canada, not only in the great fertile plains of the centre, but also on the lands which have been cleared of forest and settled in other parts of the Dominion.

The Canadian climate is cold in winter and warm in summer, but healthy all the year round. With all its extremes of cold it permits of the cultivation in the open air of grapes, peaches, tobacco, tomatoes, and corn. The snow is an essential condition of the prosperity of the timber industry, the means of transport in winter, the protector of the soil from frost, and the source of endless enjoyment in outdoor sports.

The French Canadians are almost exclusively the descendants of the French in Canada in 1763, there being practically no immigration from France. The French language is by statute, not by treaty, an official language in the Dominion Parliament and in Quebec, but not now in any other province, though documents, etc., may for convenience be published in it. English is understood almost everywhere except in the rural parts of Quebec, where the habitants speak a patois which has preserved many of the characteristics of 17th century French.

The Indian people, numbering a little over 108,000 in 1902, are scattered throughout the Dominion. They are usually located on reserves, where efforts, not very successful, are made to interest them in agriculture and industry. Many of them still follow their ancestral occupations of hunting and fishing, and they are much sought after as guides in the sporting centres. The Dominion government exercises a good deal of



Canada 272: Forestry



Canada 271: Agriculture



Canada 644-647, Winter Activities: Curling, Snowshoeing, Skiing, Skating



Canada 2290: 2008 Francophone Summit, Quebec

parental care over them and for them; but the race is stationary, if not declining.

The constitution of Canada is of a

federal character, midway between the British and United States constitutions. The federated provinces retain their local legislatures. The Federal Parliament closely follows the British model, and the cabinet is responsible to the House of Commons....The governor-general (appointed by the King, though paid by Canada) has a right to disallow or reserve bills for imperial consent; but the veto is seldom exercised, though the imperial authorities practically disallowed temporarily the preferential clauses of 1897. The Constitution of Canada can be altered only by Imperial Parliament, but for all practical purposes Canada has complete self-government.



Canada 208: Cartier's arrival in Quebec

Samuel de Champlain, who had visited the country in 1603 and 1604, founded the city of Quebec. Meantime French settlements were made in what is now the maritime provinces, but known to the French as Acadia. France claimed, as a result of this settlement, exclusive control of the whole immense region from Acadia west to Lake Superior, and down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. But the control of this region was not uncontested. England claimed it by right of prior discovery, based mainly on the discovery of Newfoundland in 1497 by John Cabot.

In the north the charter granted in 1670 by Charles II to Prince Rupert to found the Hudson's Bay Company, with exclusive rights of trading in the Hudson Bay basin, was maintained till 1869, when, on a payment of \$1,500,000, their territory was transferred to the newly



Canada 250-751: Caribou Hunter, Walrus Hunt



Canada 159: Parliament

In 1534, Jacques Cartier landed on the Gaspé coast of Quebec, of which he took possession in the name of Francis I, King of France. But nothing was done towards permanent occupation and settlement until 1608, when



Canada 2156a: Champlain exploration



Canada 2044: Pierre Dugua de Mons, leader of French settlement in Acadia

created Dominion of Canada. A long struggle was carried on between England and France for the dominion of the North American continent, which ended in the cession of Acadia by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, and the cession of Canada by the treaty of Paris in 1763. Of all its Canadian dependency France retained only the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the coast of Newfoundland, and the vexatious French-shore rights.



*St. Pierre & Miquelon C27:
French arrival*

During the war of American Independence Canada was invaded by the Americans, and the end of the war saw a great influx of loyalists from the United States, and the formation of two new colonies—New Brunswick and Upper Canada (now Ontario).

The treaty of peace in 1783 took away from Canada territory now included within Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. In 1791, owing to differences of race, Upper Canada was separated from Lower Canada; but discontent resulted in rebellion in 1837-8 which occasioned Lord Durham's mission and report. The results of that were the granting of responsible government to the colonists, and in 1840 the reunion of the two provinces. But the different elements, British and French Canadians, worked no better together than they had done while separated; and in 1867, as an escape from the deadlocks which occurred, confederation was consummated.

After the War of Independence the history of Canada is chiefly concerned with the gradual removal of the commercial preferences she had enjoyed in the English market, and the gradual concession of complete powers of self-government.

The [Metis, of mixed First Nation and European extraction] of the north-west broke out in rebellion in 1869-70, but it collapsed as soon as the forces led by Colonel Wolseley reached Fort Garry on Winnipeg. Riel, the leader, escaped, to return later and foment another outbreak in 1885. This proved more dangerous but was eventually suppressed and Riel executed. The chief events since have been the Halifax award (1888), which justified the Canadian contention against the United States interference with fisheries. The Behring Sea award (1897) settled the sealing difficulty; and a joint commission met at Quebec in 1898 to determine all outstanding questions between Canada and the United States. In 1903 these reached a final solution in the Alaskan Boundary Commission's settlement of the frontier line between British Columbia and Alaska.

The Stamps of Canada, Part 3

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole. Although this installment is headed Chapter I in the booklet, it was preceded by an Introduction that we presented in our Parts 1 and 2.

Chapter I.—Its Postal History.

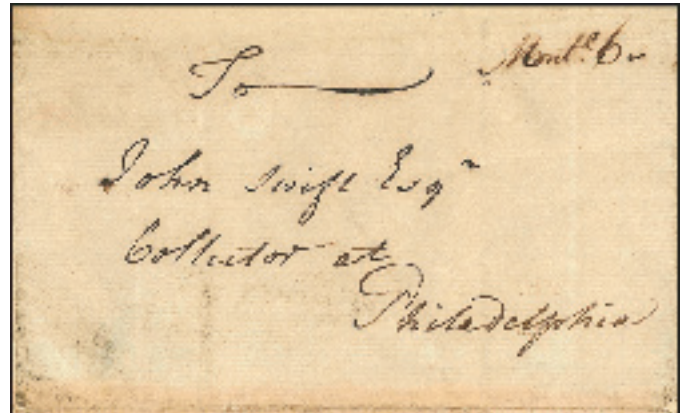
The *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for August, 1868, contained an interesting article on the history of the Canadian Post-office, largely compiled from information given in the "Canadian Postal Guide," which we cannot do better than quote in full.

* * * * *

The earliest records of the administration of the post-office in Canada, are dated 1750, at which period the celebrated Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster-General of North America. At the time of his appointment, the revenue of the department was insufficient to defray his salary of \$1,500 per annum, but under his judicious management, not only was the postal accommodation in the provinces considerably extended, but the revenue so greatly increased, that ere long the profit for one year, which he remitted to the British Treasury, amounted to \$15,000.

In the evidence given by Franklin before the House of Commons in the year 1766, in regard to the extent of the post-office accommodation in North America, he made the following statement:—

"The posts generally travel along the sea coasts, and only in a few cases do they go back into the country. Between Quebec and Montreal there is only one post per month. The inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country, that the posts cannot be supported amongst them. The English colonies, too, along the frontier, are very thinly settled."



A 1768 folded letter with "Montl. 6-" manuscript postmark and "6" (deadweight) rate addressed "To John Swift Esqr., Collector at Philadelphia", sent by John Campbell, one of Great Britain's colonial governors in North America.



Top, a Benjamin Franklin "Free B. Franklin" free frank (lower left) as Deputy Postmaster General for the Colonies in America on a November 25, 1762 folded cover to Rhode Island, some expert restoration; bottom a circa 1772 Benjamin Franklin free frank, now as "B. Free Franklin", lower left, sent to his wife while he was in England. While he was still a representative of the Crown, still as Deputy Postmaster for the Colonies, this frank also demonstrates his evolving revolutionary spirit.



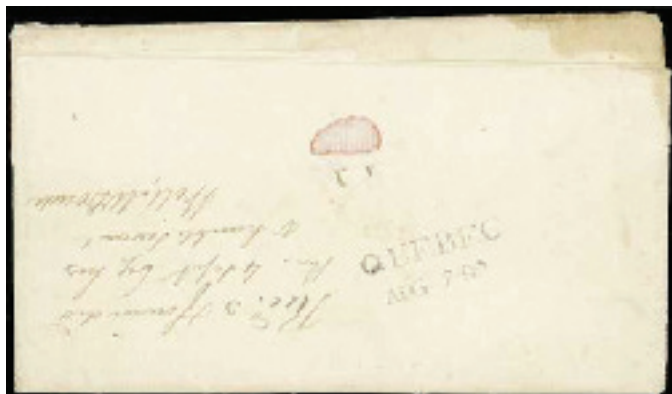
A March 18, 1795 folded letter from Detroit, then part of British North America, to Hants, England, with a "HALIFAX / SHIP LRE / JUN 18 / 95" four-line handstamp and manuscript "1/1". This letter traveled by Indian courier to Fort Niagara, then by ship up the St. Lawrence River to Halifax. From Halifax it went by packet to England. Attesting to the sketchy delivery pattern, the letter, from an army officer, notes "Our Winter Express also brought me a letter from Mr. Finnell dated 31st. Octr...the Communication is not yet open, which prevents my writing to Mr. White the Attorney General of the Upper Province who resides at Niagara...This takes it conveyance with...an Indian who is going across the Country...as he bears a tolerable good character, think it has a chance of reaching you."

In 1774, Franklin was recalled, and the following year the War of Independence broke out, and the office was filled by Mr. Hugh Finlay, who had, under his predecessor, been postmaster at Quebec.

Canada is divided into Upper and Lower. From a Quebec almanack

of 1796, we glean that there were seven offices in the former and five in the latter. Mr. Finlay is designated as "Deputy Postmaster-General of His Majesty's Province of Canada."

At that time mails were dispatched monthly to England, and semi-weekly between Quebec and Montreal, or Halifax. At Baie des Chaleurs the visits of the postman must, we conclude, have been few and far between, as they were only favored with a mail "as occasion offered".



August 7, 1799 folded letter addressed to John Peters, Kingston, U.C., with a two line "QUEBEC / AUG 7 99" datestamp dispatch.

In 1800, Mr. George Heriot succeeded Mr. Finlay. At this time Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, were all under the authority of the Canadian administration.

The following is taken from the advertising column of the *Upper Quebec Gazette*, printed in 1807:—

The mail for Upper Canada will be dispatched from the post-office at Montreal, on the following days, to wit:

- Monday, 14th January.
- Monday, 12th February.
- Monday, 12th March.
- Monday, 7th April—the last trip.

A courier from Kingston may be looked for here in 14 or 15 days from the above periods, where he will remain 2 or 3 days, and then return to Kingston.

Another courier will proceed from this with the Niagara mail, via Messrs. Hatts', where the Sandwich (co. Essex) letters will be left, both from Niagara and this 'till the courier comes from there to return with them.

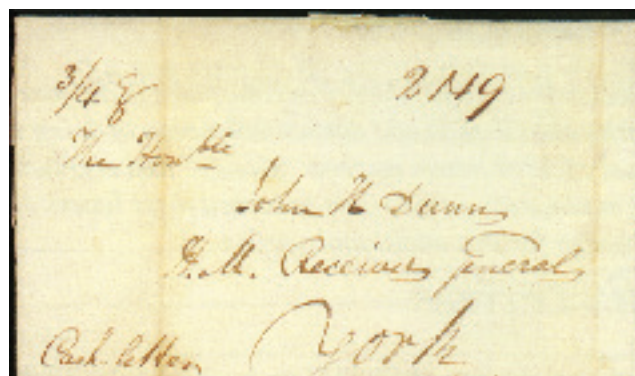
Letters put into the post-office will be forwarded any time by
W. Allan,
Acting Deputy Postmaster.

Mr. Heriot resigned in 1816, and was succeeded by Mr. D. Sutherland, who, on his accession to office, found Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island wholly withdrawn from the Canada charge. New Brunswick, however, continued to be included in it. This appears also to have been withdrawn in 1824, so that from that date until just lately, we have to do with Canada proper.

In 1827 there were 101 post-offices, and 2,368 miles of established post-route. The number of miles of mail-travel was 455,000. The letters that year were estimated at 340,000, and newspapers, 400,000. From the Canadian Postmaster-General's report for 1865, now lying before us, we find the number of letters had increased to 12,000,000; the miles of annual mail-travel was 6,350,000, the mails being carried regularly over 1,931 miles of railway route.

The following extract from the *Quebec Mercury*, published on July 18, 1829, conveys some idea of the postal communication with England at that period:

No later advices have been received from Europe since our last. Some further extracts from the London papers, to 31st May, inclusive, brought to New York by the *Corinthian*, will be found in another part of this number.



Top, the earliest recorded cash letter, dated October 21, 1823, with manuscript "3/4 oz" and "2N9" rate, sent from the postmaster and inspector of licenses at Perth to "H.M. Receiver General" at York, containing cash payment for tavern license fees.

Bottom, the earliest recorded Money Letter, with manuscript date "15 April" (1825) on reverse and manuscript "Money Letter and "1N10" rate, carrying a £4 duty paid by the office at Cornwall. Cash and Money letters were forerunners to Registered Mail.

In the *Montreal Courant*, dated September 2nd, 1829, was the following paragraph, showing the improvement which had been effected in the communication between Prescott and that city:—

Expeditious Travelling.—On Saturday last, the Upper Canada line of stages performed the journey from Prescott to this city in about 17 hours, leaving the former place at a little before 3 a.m., and arriving here a few minutes before 8 in the evening. Not many years ago this journey occupied two, and sometimes three days, but owing to the great improvements made by Mr. Dickinson, the enterprising proprietor, by putting steamboats on the lakes St. Francis and St. Louis, and keeping his horses in excellent condition, it is now performed in little more than one-third of the time.

Even so late as 1833, newspaper proprietors found it (particularly in the Upper Province) better to employ their own couriers. As a proof of this we transcribe from the *Queenston (Niagara) Colonial Advocate*, of that year the following advertisement:—

Post-rider Wanted Immediately.

The proprietor of this newspaper wishes to contract with a steady man (who can find and uphold his own horse) to deliver it to the subscribers once a week during the winter, on the route between York and Niagara, via Ancaster.

The Stamps of Canada, Part 4

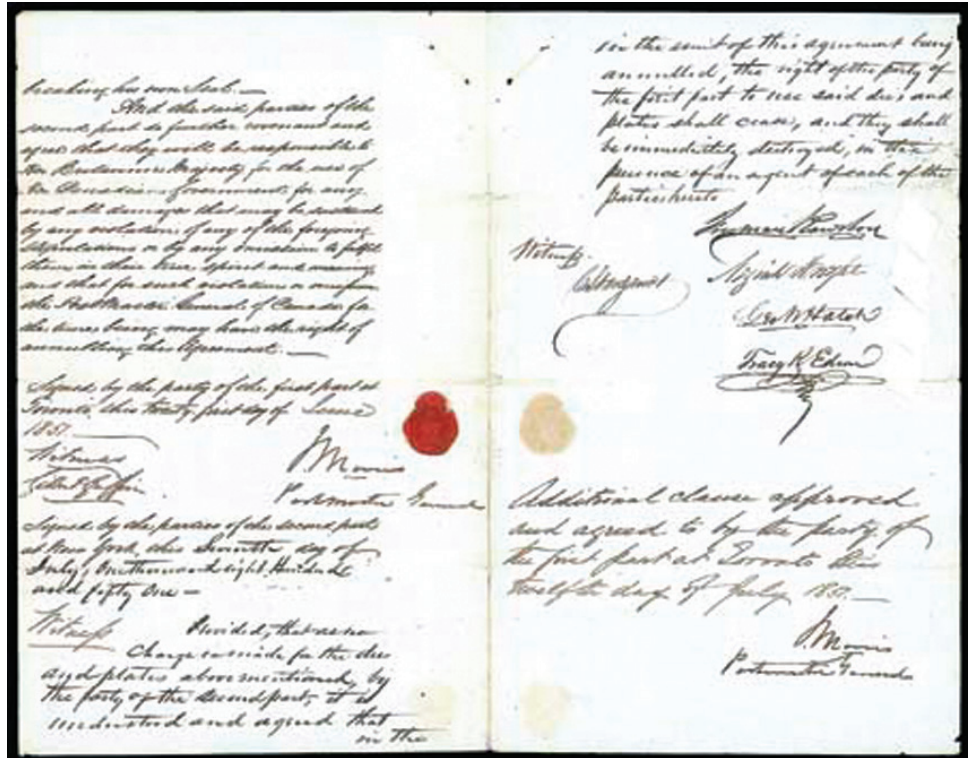
Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

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Chapter I.—Its Postal History (Cont.)

Mr. Thomas A. Stayner was postmaster in 1841, and through his recommendation a uniform rate of 1s 2d sterling, per half ounce, was adopted between any place in Canada and the mother country. About this time regular steam communication across the Atlantic was established.

The transfer of the Canadian post-office from the control of the imperial authorities to the Colonial government, was effected April 6th, 1851. Mr. Stayner then resigned, and the office was filled by the Hon. James Morris, who was the first Postmaster-General. This may be termed the red-letter year of the Canadian post-office. In the first place, the postage, which had hitherto been according to distance and had averaged 15 cents on each letter, was reduced to a uniform rate of 5 cents per half ounce. The newspaper charge was also considerably reduced. Within a year after, the number of letters transmitted through the post had increased 75 per cent. The operation of the department was greatly extended, and last, but most decidedly not least, was the introduction of postage stamps.



A portion of the seven-page handwritten contract to print Canada's first postage stamps, between the Province of Canada, represented by the Provincial Post Master General, James Morris, and the New York engraving firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson. The contract spells out which stamps are to be printed: "three (3d.) pence, six (6d.) pence and shilling (1/-)" and that the stamps should be "on suitable paper of the best quality, prepared for use with gum, at the rate of Twenty Cents per thousand stamps". The contract also stipulates that the dies and plates will remain "the exclusive property of Her Britannic Majesty for the use of Her Provincial Government of Canada" and details security arrangements for the dies and plates when not in use. Signed and sealed by Post Master General Morris on June 21, 1851; signed and sealed by Freeman Rawdon, Nezhiah Wright, George W. Hatch and Tracy R. Edson on July 7.



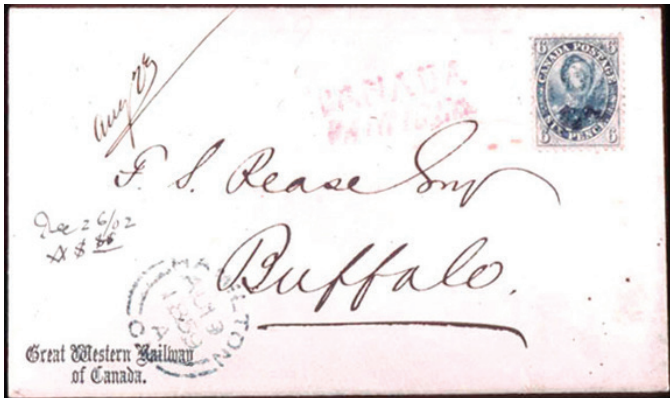
Folded letter to Montreal with "Bytown, U.C., Apr 6 1851" double-ring c.d.s. with manuscript "3" rating on—the first day of the new 3d domestic letter rate notwithstanding distance. The Canadian Government took over the responsibility for the Post Office from the British Government on April 6, 1851. The fact that April 6 in the year 1851 was a Sunday, helps to explain the rarity with only two known examples. (Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855 when the city was incorporated.)

In February, 1855, the money-order system was first begun, and has within the last few years been greatly extended. Letters seem to have been first registered in 1856. In October of that year the Grand Trunk Railway was completed as far as Toronto so that,



Top, 1857 3p red on ribbed paper (Sc. 4c) tied by target cancel on 1858 cover to St. Therese with matching "Mon. & Isld. P.J. Grand Trk. R. Way Oct. 18, 1858" c.d.s.

in connection with the Great Western, an unbroken line of postal communication was established between Quebec in the east and Windsor in the west.



1859 6p brown violet on wove, perf 11-3/4 (Sc. 13) tied by numeral cancel with "Hamilton C.W. Au19, 1859" c.d.s. on cover to Buffalo, corner card at lower left for the Great Western Railway of Canada, also with two-line "Canada Paid 10 Cts" handstamp in red.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced in 1859; this, of course, as is well known, necessitated a new issue of postal labels.

We now arrive at the issue of labels for the new Dominion. The post-office act was passed on the 21st of December, 1867, and came into operation the 1st of April last. The internal rate is reduced from 5 cents to 3 cents the half ounce; but the postage to this country remains unchanged.

The following is the order for the issue of the new labels:—

Postage Stamps.

To enable the public to prepay conveniently by postage stamp the foregoing rates, the following denominations of postage stamps for use throughout the Dominion, have been prepared, and will be supplied to postmasters for sale:—

Half-cent stamps, one-cent ditto, two-cent ditto, three-cent ditto, six-cent ditto, twelve-and-a-half-cent ditto, fifteen-cent ditto, all bearing as a device the effigy of Her Majesty.

The postage stamps now in use in the several provinces may be accepted, as at present, in prepayment of letters, etc., for a reasonable time after the 1st of April; but from and after that date all issues and sales to the public will be of the new denomination.



February 24, 1851 plate essay with notation that the stamp designer met with Postmaster General Morris "designing postage stamps for him"

The Stamps of Canada, Part 5

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole.

Chapter I.—Its Postal History (Cont.)

Continuing the postal history from where the article in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* concludes, we find that in 1869 the color of the 1¢ value was changed to yellow as it was found that the brown-red color was too easily confused with the red of the 3¢ [Scott lists this as orange yellow, Sc. 23, JFD.]. Early in the following year the



3¢ denomination appeared in a reduced size [Sc. 37] to be followed about April by the 1¢ and it was, naturally, presumed that the whole set would appear in this form. Two years elapsed, however, before further additions were made for it was not until 1872 that the 2¢ and 6¢ values appeared.



In 1874, an entirely new value—10 cents [Sc. 40]—was issued and in 1875 a 5¢ stamp [Sc. 26, numbered within the 1868-76 Large Queens] made its appearance in the large size of the 1868 series.



Mr. C. A. Howes, in his admirable monograph on the stamps of Canada, explains the belated appearance of this label as follows:—"The die of this large 5 cent stamp had been engraved in 1867 with the other values of the first Dominion series, but as there were no rates requiring such a denomination in the set, it was not issued. When in 1875 the need for a 5 cent value arose, the unused die was employed to make a plate for temporary use, until a new die conforming in size and design with the small stamps could be prepared." This large 5 cent stamp had a short life of about four months when it was superseded by the 5¢ value in the same size as the other denominations of 1869-73.



In 1882, the 1/2¢ value [Sc. 34] was reduced in size so that this stamp, as in the case of its predecessor of 1868, was smaller than the other denominations. From that date until 1892 no further changes were made so far as new designs or values were concerned though some striking alterations in shade took place, notably in the case of the 6¢ and 10¢ values.



In 1892, 20¢ and 50¢ [Sc. 46, 47] stamps were issued for use on heavy packages. These not only differed in design from the other stamps of the series then



current but were also very much larger.



In 1893 an 8¢ stamp [Sc. 44] was issued which was used for prepayment of postage and the registration fee and upon its advent the special registration stamps ceased to be printed though existing stocks were, presumably, used up.

In 1897, the Diamond



Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated by the issue of a special series of stamps comprising no less than sixteen values ranging all the way from 1/2¢ to \$5 [shown, a proof of the \$5, Sc. 65P]. As to the utility, to say nothing of the necessity, of some of the higher denominations perhaps the less said the better for before and since Canada has managed to get along very well with a highest regular denomination of 50¢.

In the latter months of the same year, and early in 1898 a new set was issued in a uniform design showing the jubilee portrait of the Queen [shown, Sc. 73]. This is known as the maple leaf issue from the fact that the lower angles are ornamented with maple leaves and in contradistinction to a modified design which almost immediately replaced it which had numerals in the lower corners.



The Christmas of 1898 was marked by the issuance of the celebrated 2¢ map stamp with its proud motto "We hold a vaster Empire than has been".

This stamp [Sc. 85] was issued to mark the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage, and one consequence of the reduction in the postal rate was so to reduce the demand for the 3¢ value that in order to use up existing supplies more quickly they were overprinted "2 cents" [shown, Sc. 88].



In 1899, the color of the 2¢ stamp was changed from purple to carmine, thus conforming to Postal Union regulations. In December, 1900, a 20¢ stamp of the type of 1898 was issued on the final exhaustion of the stock of the 1893 type; and in 1902 a 7¢ value [Sc. 81] was issued in place of the 8¢ for combined use in payment of registration and postage.



In 1903, 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 7¢, and 10¢ values were issued bearing King Edward's portrait,



a year later the 20¢ value in the same type was placed on sale, and in 1908, the stock of the old 50¢ stamps of 1893 having at last been used up, a King Edward stamp of that value was issued 9p. 22, Sc. 95]. In the same year the three hundredth

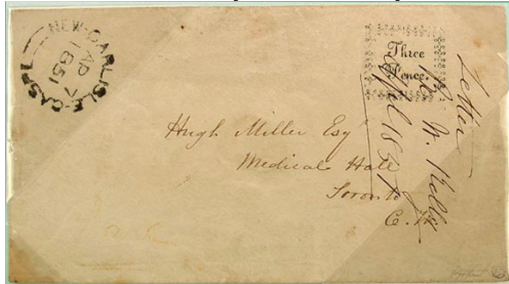
anniversary of the founding of Quebec by Champlain was celebrated by the issue of a special set of stamps these being of the same large size as the Jubilee series of 1897, but with a different design for each denomination [shown, Sc. 99, Champlain's home in Quebec], while in 1912 a new series bearing the portrait of King George V [shown, Sc. 122] —made its bow and this completes Canada's postal history to date.



Chapter II.—A Postmaster's Provisional.

Postage stamps were first placed on sale to the public in Canada on April 23rd, 1851, as we shall show later, but, according to an interesting article which appeared in the *London Philatelist* for June, 1904, it seems possible that at least one postmaster anticipated events slightly by issuing a stamped envelope of his own shortly before the regular governmental stamps were ready. It will perhaps simplify matters to reproduce the article in its original form, viz.:—

Canada: Hand-Stamped 3d Envelope of 1851.



The unique envelope, Sc. IX1, not valued by Scott

We are indebted to Mr. E. B. Greenshields, of Montreal, for the following very interesting information:—

The following facts may be of interest to collectors of the stamps of British North America. Some time ago a cover was offered to me, which seemed to me to be absolutely genuine, yet I had never, up to that time, heard of such envelopes being in existence. This letter was posted in New Carlisle, Gaspé, Lower Canada, on April 7th, 1851, and was stamped "Three Pence" in two lines, inside a square, with a black border of neat design around the sides. Across this was written, "Letter R. W. Kelly Apl. 1851". The letter was addressed to Toronto, C. W., and on the other side was stamped the date the letter was received, "Apl. 16 1851". I sent the envelope to Mr. Donald A. King, of Halifax, and received the following reply from him:—

Halifax, N. S., February 22nd, 1904.

"Dear Sir,—I have yours of 19th inst. with cover, and am much obliged for your kindness in permitting me to have a look at it. It is new to me. I have no doubt it is absolutely genuine, and probably was made by the Postmaster at New Carlisle to save trouble in stamping the letter '3d' as was then the custom. It is just possible that the writer (whose name appears to be endorsed on the envelope) was the Postmaster there. A reference to the Postmaster-General's report for that year would give his name. As far as my memory serves me, the Canadian stamps were not then in issue, though an advance circular may have been sent out. I

have shown the cover to a friend of mine who is an expert in typography, and he assures me that the printing is as old as dated, and that such type and border could not be procured now at any cost.... As to the value of your cover, it is impossible for me to say, but very considerable to any collector of British North America.

"Yours faithfully,
"Donald A. King."

Following up the clue given to me by Mr. King, I wrote to the Post Office Department at Ottawa, and received the following answer:—
Ottawa, 2nd March, 1904.

"Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your communication...and in reply am directed to inform you that R. W. Kelly...was Postmaster of New Carlisle in 1851....He appears to have been Postmaster from 1851 until his resignation on the 9th April, 1855.

"As regards your inquiry as to whether postage stamps were used on the 7th April, 1851, and your statement that you have an envelope sent on that date from New Carlisle to Toronto with 'Three Pence' printed on it, inside a fancy border, I have to say that postage stamps were issued to the public for the first time on the 23rd April, 1851, and that stamped envelopes were not issued until some years later. The stamped envelope to which you refer may have been an envelope so stamped on the prepayment in the New Carlisle Post Office, of three pence, the required charge for postage.

"William Smith, Secretary."

It will be noted from the conclusion of this letter that, according to the department at Ottawa, one might infer that the use of such a stamp would not be irregular. This is confirmed by the following extract from a reply to a letter a friend of mine wrote to Ottawa at my request:—

Ottawa, March 2nd, 1904.

"I took those questions of Mr. Greenshields over to Mr. — of the Post Office Department. He tells me that before the first issue of stamps, which took place on the 23rd of April, 1851, each Postmaster had a steel stamp which he used to mark the amount prepaid on the letter. These stamps were of different patterns, and it is probably the impression of one of them that appears on Mr. Greenshield's envelope. In some of the smaller post-offices they continued to use these stamps as late as 1875. It is rather a singular coincidence that if the inquiry had been, regarding the position of Postmaster, more than one day earlier, the Canadian records would not have shown whether the man named had held office or not, the reason being that it was on the 6th of April, 1851, that the Post Office Department was transferred from the Imperial Government, and all records prior to that date are in the possession of the Imperial authorities."

It seems strange that more of these covers have not been found. Such well-known authorities on the stamps of British North America as Mr. Lachlan Gibb and Mr. William Patterson, of Montreal, and Mr. Donald A. King, of Halifax, had not seen any until I consulted them about this one. I think it is very interesting to hear of a stamped envelope like this being used by the Post Office just before the issue of postage stamps.

So far as we have been able to find out the above constitutes all that has been published regarding this envelope. We can find no further mention of it in the columns of the *London Philatelist* or of any other journal published since 1904 nor does Mr. Howes so much as refers to it in his recently published monograph on Canada's postal issues. Yet, on the face of it, the matter seems one worthy of extended investigation by some Canada specialist or other. Its history is similar in many respects to the history of many of the much sought after Postmaster's provisional stamps of the United States and there is a possibility that this envelope may represent a legitimate postmaster's provisional.