



MAPLE LEAVES

JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GT. BRITAIN

Vol. 2, No. 6

JANUARY, 1949

Whole No. 10

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MAPLE LEAVES

JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Edited by A. BRUCE AUCKLAND, M.A.

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Notes and Comments

1949

The office-bearers of the Society send to all Members their Best Wishes for the year 1949. They can't foretell the future, but in the affairs of the Society they hope that everything will go according to plan—particularly the great event of the C.P.S. year, the Convention in Edinburgh. All those attending should have, if anything, even a better time than in 1948. As for Canadian stamps, one of the events, it is hoped, will be the issue by the Canadian P.O. of a commemorative stamp or stamps in honour of the great historical event of the year—the addition of the tenth Province.

The Convention

More invitation displays have been promised. We hoped to see Dr William Shaw's "Newfoundland," member Younie Mann's "New Brunswick," and a display by member Cheavin of his X-ray photography. Members coming to Edinburgh are sure of a treat. Hotel bookings for Easter week are becoming more difficult. Booking early is advised to avoid disappointment. Notes about the Convention are distributed with this number.

The Groups

We are very pleased to be able to record the formation of a group in **Edinburgh**, where, under the leadership of Major G. B. Harper, an interesting programme of monthly meetings has been arranged. At the inaugural meeting in November member A. A. Dawson brought his air mails to start the discussion, and to the December meeting President Stephenson brought his varieties of the 1912 issue and some of his postmarks.

Member Searles reports that the **Derby and Notts** group invited to their December meeting the members of the **Leicester** group, and among members welcomed were R. A. Knight, H. T. Wiggins, and L. Barish. A number of members produced "large cents," the subject for discussion, and among those shown, seven copies of the clear deep violet of the 15c. value were identified.

The **London** group had its A.G.M. in November, when the group council members were re-elected with the exception of member Kirby, who has moved to Manchester, where he will find another field for his activities. Our enthusiastic member Clougher reports that attendances at the meetings are getting bigger, and members are showing great keenness. At the last meeting the question for discussion was "What is a pictorial stamp?"

At **Aberdeen** in November members Anderson, Fraser, and Bruce brought their "small and large cents," and the discussion that followed their display was a very interesting one. At the same meeting a successful auction was held on behalf of the Convention Fund. Other groups please copy!

The small cents again were discussed at the November **Glasgow** meeting. Member Roberts, who showed them, produced a three cent dated July, 1870, but the question of its shade was undecided.

Member George Spence produced the "small and large cents"—how popular they are!—and kept the company entertained at **Dundee** in November.

Kent and Sussex have elected member A. MacDonald as their new contact member. (Is there a Scots Fifth Column at work in the South?) Member Cartwright is now relieved of his duties as contact member and can now devote all his energies to his duties as Vice-President and Convener of the Convention Fund. By the way, J. C., how's the Fund going?

Membership

Our membership keeps growing, but we still want more. From our experience in Edinburgh it seems that the formation of a Group is of the greatest value in recruiting—so, if there is no group in your district, what about it? Will **you** take the initiative?

Support Our Advertisers!

That is the usual slogan, but evidently our members do not need to be encouraged by slogans. One of our advertisers reports that 104 orders followed publication of his advert. in the October issue of *Maple Leaves*.

B.N.A.P.S.

We have not mentioned recently our worthy contemporary, B.N.A. TOPICS, the monthly journal of the British North American Philatelic Society. It is always full of interesting articles on B.N.A. Philately, and to B.N.A. enthusiasts is well worth the subscription to the Society. The current number, among other interesting items, contains some additional notes on the Edwardian issues 1903-1912.

Iness of Member

We are sorry to learn that our first lady member, Miss B. Lyndhurst Ogden, is seriously ill. Our members, we are sure, will join with us in wishing her a speedy recovery. We who met her in Edinburgh last April hope to see her again in April, 1949, completely restored to health.

The Circulating Packets

As the membership grows still more sheets are required for these packets. They cater for all tastes. The comment of one member about a packet was that the contents were fit for salvage only! A member who saw the same packet later added his comments. He had picked four blocks, all with fine imprints, and "would the Exchange Secretary please send more of this 'salvage'!"

Perf. O.H.M.S.

We find that a number of inaccuracies crept into the listing of the stamps perf. O.H.M.S. given in the article on these varieties in the April number—not due to mistakes on the part of the author. The normal listing in the States and Canada shows our types F. and G. reversed. As these stamps are very popular, we have decided to publish a revised listing—probably in the next issue.

Reminiscences of Edinburgh 1948 Convention

By R. W. T. LEES-JONES

It was the writer's pleasure to meet many B.N.A. students and enthusiasts, but for the purpose of this note or record—two people in particular. One was Mr Gerald Wellburn, the other Mr Fred Aitchison—both strangers to me except for articles which each had written, and up to the Convention it had not been my privilege to contact either personally. Of late Mr Gerald Wellburn had written these articles in the Canadian journal, "Popular Stamps," the outcome of his studies in respect of the paper used for the printing of the 6c. value of Canada. He had viewed hundreds of copies, and recorded copies for sale by auction, both in his part of the world and also in ours. One salient point he mentioned, namely, that he had seen or recorded covers whereon were 6c. stamps, printed in a shade of Greenish Black, upon Wove paper, all dated and counter-dated to establish the fact that they were used prior to the second printing of this value. In short, for the 6c. value Laid paper and Wove paper were used for the first printing: mainly, we admit, Laid paper was the general type used. Now—in 1911—I was given a copy of the April number of the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain—the organ of the House of Pemberton. I was starting then to try my hand at "Canada," and therein found an article by Fred Aitchison, to me, for years, my guide, philosopher, and friend. Upon my return home after the Convention—having had the joy of meeting "Fred Aitchison," the writer of my original text-book—I looked it up to refresh my memory to see what it read like after the lapse of so many years, and see what kind of an article it appeared in these enlightened days. Judge for yourself. The first paragraph was as follows:—

"Mr Clifton A. Howes . . . shows that the first consignment of 6c. and 12c. contained Wove as well as Laid paper, and further confirmation regarding the 4c. on Wove paper, delivered in 1851, is given by Messrs P. L. Pemberton and Co., who recently advertised that value on Wove paper, on entire, dated 3rd and 5th November, 1851; this was nearly five years before the second consignment was made by the printer to the Canadian Government. Hitherto the issue of the 6c. on Wove paper had been generally accepted as coming later, and is catalogued 1852-57."

The answer is this. I have Wellburn's recorded cover dated with the block of 12 + 1 single, and had not realised its true significance: that this cover was a first printing of the 6c. upon Wove paper, in shade of Greenish Black, and was more than a nice block, used—it was one of a very few giving chapter and verse of a rare stamp.

Mr Aitchison was a student of Canadian stamps, and his writings have been forgotten in the mist of 37 years. Mr Wellburn has unearthed by himself the "fact" again. Howes knew something about the subject, too, as one can find by reading his "Canada." We are grateful to the writer of the 1911 era, and have to thank Mr Wellburn for resuscitating the study and finding more proof, and such decisive proof. There is the possibility and probability in the case of many of us that in regard to a collection which we may have had in our possession for many years, that the old proverb still holds good, "Familiarity breeds contempt." We all owe these various writers a great debt, each having ploughed his own furrow but found the same answer: an answer we had forgotten—if we ever realised the significance of their research.

An Introduction to the Large Cents Issue

By G. B. HARPER

The union of Upper and Lower Canada into the Province of Canada in 1840 proved a success, but it was not until 1864 that a meeting was held in Charlottetown P.E.I. to discuss further union. (Fathers of the Confederation.) This and a later conference in Quebec produced a draft of the proposed Constitution for uniting the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. An Act called the B.N.A. Act received the Royal Assent on March 29th, 1867, and came into effect on July 1st, 1867. Ottawa was selected as the Capital.

One of the results of the Confederation was the reduction of postal rates. This necessitated the issue of a new series of postal stamps. The consequent issue, commonly known as the "Large Cents Issue," made its appearance less than a year after the passing of the Act.

The size and design of this new series was very different from those of previous issues. All values of the issue bore in the central vignette a profile portrait of Her Majesty Queen Victoria looking to the right, taken from a contemporary coin and engraved by Charles Henry Jeens. The frame of each value was of a different design incorporating the value expressed in words and figures.

Previous issues (i.e., 1859) were the product of the American Bank Note Company, but following the Confederation a new company opened in Canada first in Montreal and later in Ottawa, under the name of the British American Bank Note Company, and this was the firm responsible for this, the first Dominion issue.

The stamps were line engraved on steel plates, Recess printed in sheets of 100 each arranged in unbroken blocks of 10 x 10. In the margins surrounding the printers' imprint "British American Bank Note Company, Montreal and Ottawa" appears on all four sides in colourless capitals on a coloured ground strip. It occurs opposite the two centre stamps in each position—i.e., above stamps 5 and 6, below stamps 95 and 96, to the left reading upwards of stamps 41 and 51, and to the right reading downwards of stamps 50 and 60. The $\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp has an additional imprint over the second and third stamp of the top row consisting of the words $\frac{1}{2}$ c. in Shaded Roman capitals. The 3c. and 5c. also had a similar imprint except that in the case of the latter the capitals were not shaded.

Initial values issued were $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1c., 3c., 6c., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., and 15c., an additional value 5c. being issued in 1875 to meet a new rate of 5c. for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. between Canada and Newfoundland and Canada and U.K. fixed at this time.

The first notable feature about the stamps of this series is their size, namely 20 x 24 mm. in all cases except $\frac{1}{2}$ c., which was rightly smaller at 17 x 21 mm. Here is seen U.S.A. influence. All previous Canadian issues had been patterned in size after the standard set by the British Postal Department. U.S.A. stamps from the first were larger in size, and it is interesting to note that at this very time the U.S. postal administration were experimenting with a square stamp, resulting in their first pictorial issue of 1869. This experiment in size lasted only three years, and all following issues up to 1890 were of the larger size.

The reception of the Large Cents on this side of the Atlantic was not cordial. "The Philatelist," issue of June 1st, 1868, ran an article dealing with the issue, and the following extract appears:—"Unlike the pleasing variations hitherto so conspicuous in the stamps of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, the newly issued set for the joint use of the three colonies consists of seven individuals identical as far as the head represented and varying in colour, monetary denomination, and minor detail only. The British American Bank Note Company have gone on a diametrically opposite tack with regard to this emission and that of Newfoundland. It is possible that the new Dominion may have wished to testify peculiar loyalty to their Queen and gave injunctions to the designer to produce nothing but her semblance, yet the changes might have been rung on full face, three-quarter profiles left and right, crown, diadem, and widow's cap."

After detailing the individual points and making special note of the fact that the Queen's head faces right instead of left, the article concludes with: "In fact, ingenuity seems to have been exhausted in the production of distinction without much difference."

U.S. criticism, on the other hand, was more favourable. The American Journal of Philately in their issue of May 1st, 1868, state: "The long-expected stamps of the new Dominion have at length made their appearance. They are printed on white unwatermarked paper and perforated. Contrary to general expectation, they are manufactured by the British American Bank Note Company of Ottawa, and it must be acknowledged they do them great credit." After praise of the production of certain of the values and the quality of the engraving, they go on to state—"referring to the 5c. value—it was decidedly the finest specimen of engraving they had ever seen, and they concluded by stating that the American Bank Note Company must look to their laurels.

One point that deserves comment is the fact that, although the Confederation was established on July 1st, 1867, the stamps did not appear until the following March. It is possible that the adverse criticism was based on the first printings produced at Montreal, which were generally inferior to the Ottawa printings specifically referred to in the U.S. comments.

Although this issue had, in general, the short life of approximately two years, a surprising number of separate printings were made, and there are therefore many shades and paper varieties to be found. This is possibly explained by the fact that the postal administration of the newly-formed constitution during this transition period was undergoing considerable changes, and no statistics were available to guide them in the matter of the quantities that would be required for each value. Limited data based on old postal rates were available for each separate Province, but initial difficulties in the consideration of the whole would be very great. Thus it was apparently the policy of the departments concerned to order rather too small a supply than too great, especially as at the time there was some doubt as to the number of Provinces that would form the Confederation. But all except Newfoundland joined, and the result was that the quantities ordered proved far too small and several subsequent orders had to be placed in order to meet the demand.

The initial issue, produced at Montreal, as already stated, was inferior to the later printings produced at Ottawa. Gibbons describes the general differences as a less clearly defined background and generally blurred impression in the Montreal printing, probably due to the rougher paper surface on which the printing was made. The date of release was March, 1868, and the paper used was thin, crisp, semi-transparent wove.

Later in the same year the first Ottawa printings made their appearance, the paper for this release being Medium to Stout Wove. The first printing in Montreal included a supply of all denominations except the 5c., as did the Ottawa printings. Additional printings were made of each value as required. The subsequent printings gave rise to further paper differences, values being found on soft very white wove paper, coarse yellowish wove paper, and thinner poor quality paper (often tinged grey or yellow). The 1c., 2c., and 3c. values make rare appearances on Laid paper. All values exist on the watermarked papers, described at length in an article by Mr A. E. Stephenson published in "Maple Leaves" No. 5, entitled "Chasing the Large Head Phantom.."

Varieties of shade are found in all values, and, in general, it would seem that the deep and darker shades are of the earlier printings. This theory was put forward by Jarrett, and is to some extent supported by Gibbons' listings. In a number of cases what are apparently deep and dark shades may really be due to heavier inking during the printing process. Definite changes of shade, however, are evident, and by careful analysis of the primary colours the different batches can be distinguished. The 15c. value supplies an extreme range of colour shades varying from Reddish Purple to Slaty Blue, with shades even of Green. This greater range is due partly, no doubt, to the longer life of this value, which was used concurrently with the later "small cents" issue up to 1895. A change of colour from Reddish Brown to Orange Yellow in the 1c. value took place in January, 1869, this change being no doubt decided on because of the close similarity in colour of the 1c. and 3c. values.

All values, apart from the 5c., were perforated 12 on single-line machines. The 5c. value issued in 1875 was perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ x 12, and copies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 15c. printed about the same period can be found with this gauging. Further minor varieties are listed by Holmes, but the 12 gauge may be taken as the general one for this issue.

Further study is provided by the wealth of varieties of cancellations to be found on this issue. Their large size provided a greater surface upon which to register the many official and locally made dies in use during this period — though exasperation is often occasioned by the latter when we find that the term "killer" has a very literal meaning.

It is interesting to consider the present-day sequel to the events noted in the first paragraph. The signing of the agreement on 11th December, 1948, making Newfoundland (subject to certain provisions) the 10th Province of Canada brings to reality the vision seen by those meeting at Charlottetown P.E.I. in 1864. The very inkwell used on this occasion was the self-same one that was used in 1864.

Convention of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

to be held on 20th to 23rd April, 1949, at the North British Hotel,
Edinburgh

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

- Convener—A. E. Stephenson, "Ellislea," Kinross.
- Convener of Section A Exhibition—Major G. B. Harper (for Edinburgh Group), c/o Cole, 41 Scotland Street, Edinburgh, 3.
- Convener of Section B : Research and Study—R. W. T. Lees-Jones, "Merridale," Hale, Cheshire.
- Convener of Section C : Social Activities—A. Gabbitas, 56 Blair Athol Road, Sheffield, 11.
- Edinburgh Liaison and Hotel Bookings—A. B. Auckland, 42 Brighion Place, Portobello, Midlothian.
- Society Secretary and Information—A. Smith, 111 Grampian Road, Aberdeen.
- Convention Finance—J. C. Cartwright, 53 Madeira Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- Society Finance—H. B. Davie. Insurance—F. H. Fairweather.
- Publicity—O. A. Fraser, David Gardner, N. M. Clougher.
- Convener of Stewards—Major G. Harper.

Ellislea, Kinross.

To all Members,

At last year's General Committee Meeting the English members carried a motion that the Convention should again be held in Edinburgh. The Scots felt that this was the best testimonial to the success of the 1948 gathering.

The Scottish Capital holds all that is required to give a Convention a proper setting. It holds unbounded interest and has countless beauty spots to entertain the sightseer. It has good hotels, shops and theatres, etc.

The Committee's problem was a difficult one in view of the very high standard of exhibits and study circles in 1948. They have not rested on their laurels, but set to work with a will, and think they have prepared a show better even than that of 1948.

The social side last April was undoubtedly a highlight of the Convention with its informal and friendly atmosphere. It is for that many of our friends admit they desire to be back again.

The Convention is the only opportunity for our members to meet together on common ground to discuss their common interests.

It rests with them to make the Convention a double success. Their first duty is to return their reservation forms as soon as possible indicating that they will be present.

I look forward to greeting old friends again and to meeting new ones in Edinburgh next April.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. STEPHENSON, President.

The programme is in three sections, each under the direction of a Convener.

SECTION A.

EXHIBITION.

ROOM D.

Entries are invited for this section under the following classes :—

- (a) **GROUP DISPLAYS** (Competitive).—Each Local Study Group is invited to send a Display of 4 or 8 sheets. Any subject may be selected by the Group contributing.

This display can be either a Composite Display by any number of members in the group or one given by one or two specified members of group. Displays must show names of members contributing. (B.N.A. only).

- (b) **CONTRIBUTED CLASS** (Competitive).—This class is open to all members to contribute displays of 4, 8, 12, or 20 sheets of any interesting subjects of B.N.A.

- (c) **RESEARCH AND STUDY CLASS** (Competitive).—This is a new class, but it is felt that it will forward one of the chief aims of the Society. Entrants may contribute 4, 8, 12, or 20 sheets of any subject of their own study or research in B.N.A. Philately.

The greatest care is taken of all exhibits sent in until they are returned to their owners. The Exhibition accommodation is under the constant care of stewards, and those who wish may have the use of the hotel strongroom for their sheets. We would, however, remind members that their insurance cover should be in order.

All members contributing should see that their exhibits are sent off to be in the hands of the Convener of Exhibits at the latest by April 16th, or to him care of the Manager, the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, for delivery to him by 19th April. All sheets sent by post must be registered.

SECTION B. RESEARCH AND STUDY. ROOM A.

- (a) **INVITATION DISPLAYS**.—As in the past, the Committee have considered certain well-known collections and have extended invitations to five well-known Philatelists to give talks and displays.

- (b) **STUDY CIRCLES**.—The Study Circles proved such a great attraction that it is intended to run a number of these again. Each circle will be under the leadership of a member who knows his subject. Only in some of these circles will there be formal displays given in the Time Table. All circles will be run informally throughout the period of the Convention.

A few of the Circles and their Leaders are listed below :—

Air Mails—Francis Field.

Ship Letters—Major Adrian E. Hopkins, M.C., R.D.P.

Postal History—Frank W. Staff.

Canada : Victorian—R. W. T. Lees-Jones, F.R.P.S., F.C.P.S.

 1897-1912—A. E. Stephenson, F.C.P.S.

 1912 onwards—J. C. Cartwright.

 Maritime Provinces—N. M. Clougher.

Other Circles will be nominated later.

SECTION C. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

- (a) **A MOTOR COACH TOUR** has been arranged for the afternoon of Thursday, 21st April. The tour will be to the Borders, visiting famous beauty spots.
- (b) On the Thursday evening a **THEATRE PARTY** has been arranged for the ladies and non-collecting friends while members "flirt with Lady Philatelia." The party will be conveyed to and from the Theatre by motor coach.

- (c) The SOCIETY RECEPTION AND DINNER, which has always proved to be one of the highlights of previous Conventions, will be held on the Friday evening.
- (d) Members and friends wishing to see the sights of the Scottish Capital in their own time will be given every assistance by the Section Convener and Members of Committee

A separate reservation form will be sent to all members requiring it. Will members wishing to attend any of the Social Activities please return this form to the

Social Activities Convener,

Mr A. GABBITAS, 56 Blair Athol Road, Sheffield, 11.

A hotel reservation form is included also for members requiring hotel accommodation, to be filled in and sent EARLY to

Mr A. B. AUCKLAND, 42 Brighton Place, Portobello, Midlothian.

CONVENTION PROGRAMME AND TIME-TABLE

WEDNESDAY, April 20th.

12.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.—Registration of members attending.

Meet old friends and make new.

Room A

5.0 p.m.—Opening of Convention and Welcome by the President.

Room A

7.30 p.m.—Invitation Display, "Canada 1859," by R.W.T. Lees-Jones, F.R.P.S. (L.), F.C.P.S. (G.B.), Hale, Cheshire.

Room A

THURSDAY, April 21st.

10.0 a.m.—OPENING OF EXHIBITION.

Room D

The Exhibition will be open throughout the whole period of the Convention except during the hours of the Invitation Displays.

11.0 a.m.—Study Circles. Informal.

Room A

During the Informal Study Circles any member interested in any subject should contact the Leader of the Circle.

2.30 p.m.—Study Circles. Informal.

Room A

3.30 p.m.—Study Circles.

Room A

7.30 p.m.—Invitation Display, "Newfoundland," by Dr R. Willan, Shaw, Lancs.

Room A

FRIDAY, April 22nd.

10.30 a.m.—Study Circles. Informal.

Room A

11.30 a.m.—Study Circles. Informal.

Room A

2.15 p.m.—Study Circle. Postal History. Leader—F. W. Staff, Dorset.

4.15 p.m.—Study Circle. Ship and Packet-Boat Letters. Leader—Major Adrian E. Hopkins, M.C., R.D.P. Bath.

7.0 p.m. (prompt).—Society Reception and Dinner and Presentation of Awards.

Rooms A and B

SATURDAY, April 23rd.

10.0 a.m.—Annual General Meeting of Society.

Room A

11.30 a.m.—Invitation Lecture, "X-Ray in B.N.A. Philately," with lantern illustrations, by W. H. Cheavin, F.R.M.S., F.R.E.S., F.R.P.S. (L.), London.

3.0 p.m.—Invitation Display, "Canadian Classics from 1851 to 1897," by Brig. M. A. Studd, D.S.O. M.C., F.R.P.S. (L.), Sunninghall, Berks.

We extend a very hearty welcome to non-members to attend the Exhibition and any of the meetings, other than the A.G.M., during the course of the Convention.

Convention Fund Postal Auction

As an additional means of building up a Convention Fund to provide financial assistance for future Conventions, it is proposed to conduct a postal auction. Contributions of stamps and other philatelic material for this auction will be accepted under two categories, viz.:—

- (a) Outright donations, from which the total proceeds will go to the Fund, and
- (b) Material from the sale of which the owner will receive 75 per cent. of the proceeds and the Fund will receive the remaining 25 per cent.

All philatelic material connected with the B.N.A. Group will be accepted—i.e., stamps, covers, postal stationery, proofs, photographs and illustrations, books, etc., but in addition it is proposed to accept stamps and covers of all countries within the British Empire and of the U.S.A.

Contributors are asked to send with their lots detailed descriptions of them to assist the auctioneer in his classification.

Contributions must be received by the 13th February so as to enable a list of the material, classified under suitable lots, to be posted to all contributors by the end of February.

Members interested in specific lots will be able to view such lots by application to their Contact Member or direct to the auctioneer and by paying postage both ways.

The closing date of the auction will be the 20th March, so that a list of prices realised may be published with the April issue of *Maple Leaves*. This will enable unsuccessful bidders to find out by what margin they have lost their favourite lot.

All the bids will be finally checked by a committee presided over by Mr J. C. Cartwright.

The auctioneer responsible for receiving and classifying the material, and for all work connected with the auction will be :

Mr L. BARESH, 82 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey,

to whom all contributions, enquiries, etc., should be sent. Cheques and Money Orders, etc., however, should be made out in the name of Mr J. C. Cartwright.

Whilst those responsible for dealing with material sent undertake to exercise due care, they cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage due to causes other than negligence or carelessness.

We trust that all members without exception will make the auctioneer's life during the next three months an extremely busy one by sending in some material, and thus help to put the Convention Fund on a healthy basis and avoid the necessity for a further appeal in the coming year.

The Canada—British West Indies Sea Routes

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAM SHIP COMPANY'S ROUTES

By A. E. STEPHENSON

Much has been written about Canadian-U.K. Atlantic Mail routes and Arctic Mails, but there is a field of collecting nearer "home" awaiting the Ship Letter and Paquebot Specialist in the Canada-West Indies shipping runs.

For years a chaotic state existed among the shipping companies, where British West Indian Colonies', British, Canadian, American, Dutch, and French shipping companies were all plying amongst the islands with literally hundreds of ships, yet no reliable and regular service to and from the main islands existed and certain islands were completely neglected by the bigger ships.

Some very well-known names appeared among the companies sailing on the West Indian and Caribbean trade routes. Among these appear the R.M.S.P. Company, Furness Withy, Harrison Line, Ocean Dominion, American Caribbean, C.G.T. (French), Royal Netherlands, and the Quebec S.S. Company.

In 1925, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, having absorbed the Quebec S.S. Company, brought a new name to the shipping group, and at this time the Canada-West Indian Trade Agreement was made.

The West Indian Government agreed to subsidise ships of the C.G.M.M., to be known from then on as the Canadian National Steam Ship Company. This mail subsidy granted to the company was the only one of its kind given—all other companies whose ships picked up mail being paid only for what they carried.

The C.N.S.S. Company fulfilled their side of the bargain by commencing a building programme for a fleet of boats—the famous "Lady Boats"—which gave a fast, regular, fortnightly mail service between Canada, the States, B.W.I., and the South American mainland.

Ships such as the Canadian Skirmisher were replaced by the new steamer "Lady Nelson," which entered the service in 1928, and by the "Lady Somers" and "Lady Drake" in 1929. Other ships added later to the fleet were the "Lady Rodney" and "Lady Hawkins."

With the outbreak of World War No. 2 the entire fleet went into active service, as did all other ships of the Empire Merchant Navy.

The "Lady Nelson" and "Lady Rodney" did wonderful service on being commissioned as hospital ships. They both survived the war and went back after refitting to their old peace-time runs. Unfortunately, there was another side to the picture. The three remaining "Ladies" were casualties to U-boats and fire. These gallant ships will live again, the C.N.S.S. Company having already embarked upon building a new fleet of "Ladies."

The service is being maintained by such ships as the steamships Lorne Park, Cartier, Canadian Observer, Canadian Leader, Canadian Conqueror, and Canadian Cruiser.

There were two main routes covered by these steamers, both passing via Bermuda.

One route, starting at Montreal and proceeding direct to Bermuda, is open only during the summer season. The other, the mail route, proceeds from Halifax, N.S., to St John, N.S., thence to Boston, Mass., and to Bermuda.

From Bermuda one route carries on to the Bahamas and to Jamaica and British Honduras. The other route from Bermuda goes to Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, and British Guiana.

Mails for the U.K. are dropped off at the various points suitable for the link-up with the U.K. Mail steamers, such as Barbados and Bermuda. On the northward run the U.K. mails are passed from Boston to New York.

The Canadian mail is passed to St John, N.S., thence overland to the main cities.

Many interesting Paquebot covers are to be found among letters carried by these ships. Stamps of Canada, U.S.A., B.W.I., Colonies, Central and South American Republics may be found "killed" by the postmark of the G.P.O. at the first port of call. Other killers are the word "Paquebot" in one line (block letters) and a two-ring date type with "Paquebot" and the name of port of call. Occasionally the stamp is cancelled by a one-line "Mailed at Sea" mark.

In addition, the ship mark is struck. This usually takes the form of the name of the ship with the words "Posted on the High Seas," with either the words "Purser's Office" or "Canadian National Steamships." Ship marks of the following types may be found:—

LADY NELSON.

Type 1—Two-ring 35mm. circle.

"Lady Nelson Canadian National Steamships."

Type 2—One-ring 22mm. circle.

"R.M.S. Lady Nelson. Posted on High Seas."

LADY RODNEY.

Type 1—Single line "Lady Rodney Montreal."

LADY DRAKE.

Type 1—One-ring 33mm. circle.

"R.M.S. Lady Drake. Canadian National Steamship Coy. Mailed on the High Seas."
Mailed on the High Seas."

Type 2—Two straight lines.

"Lady Drake," 25mm.
"Mailed at Sea," 50mm.

LADY SOMERS.

Type 1—Single line 35mm., "Lady Somers. Mailed at Sea."

LADY HAWKINS.

Type 1—Two-ring 30mm. circle.

"C.N.S. 'Lady Hawkins' Purser's Office.
Posted on the High Seas."

Type 2—As Type 1, but 27mm. circle with wavy outer ring.

ROUTES.

Direct Summer Route—
Montréal.

Main Mail Route—
Halifax, N.S.
St John, N.S.
Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

Hamilton, Bermuda.

Nassau, Bahamas.
Kingston, Jamaica.
Belize, British Honduras.

(Kingston to Belize is
served by Cutter).

St Kitts and Nevis.
Antigua.
Montserrat.
Dominica.
St. Lucia.
Barbados.
St. Vincent.
Grenada.
Trinidad—Tobago.
Demerara, British Guiana.

Postal Note Stamps

We are occasionally asked for what purpose the stamps marked "Postal Note" were used. The following extracts from an official booklet will perhaps be of interest, as it describes the purpose of these stamps, known as "Postal Note Scrip":—

The Postal Note System affords a cheap, convenient, and safe means of remitting small sums of money to places in Canada and Newfoundland. Postal Notes are sold and cashed at more than 11,000 Post Offices in Canada, and are available in the following denominations:—30c., 40c., 50c., 60c., 70c., 80c., 90c., \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00. Also \$10.00 Postal Notes at the smaller Post Offices at which Money Orders are not issued. The commission and Revenue tax are as follows:—2c. for 30c. and 40c. denominations; 3c. for 50c., 60c., 70c., 80c., and 90c.; 5c. for \$1.00, \$1.25, and \$1.50; 6c. for \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, and \$5.00, and 8c. for \$10.00.

Postal Note Scrip is provided in five denominations—1c., 2c., 5c., 10c., and 25c., and may be used for small remittances separate from Postal Notes, or if necessary affixed to Postal Notes to make up an odd amount to complete a remittance. Postage stamps are not permitted to be used for remittance purposes. On Postal Notes of \$1.00 and over Scrip not exceeding 9c. may be affixed. Scrip for an amount over 9c. may be affixed to Postal Notes under \$1.00 provided the combined value of the Note and Scrip does not exceed \$1.00. The purchaser of Postal Notes must fill in the name of the paying office, the payee and his own name in the spaces provided on the face of Postal Notes.

Varieties for the Finding

(23) **5 cent Blue, 1932**, shows a series of horizontal lines crossing the white in front of nose. A re-entry appears in the letters "ANA" of Canada.

(24) **1 cent Yellow, 1930**, shows a fine re-entry in the upper portion of the right numeral and top of word "cent." The same re-entry may be found in the 1 cent Green of the same issue.

Queries

Member L. G. Tomlinson, F.R.P.S. (L.), who is interested in the stamps and postal history of Prince Edward Island, sends the following queries :—

(1) "In the article on Transatlantic Mails in the July issue the writer quotes certain numeral obliterations as having been used by the Allan Line. Jarrett gives B.31 of the series as used for Prince Edward Island. I have never seen this, but when I was doing some research work recently at the G.P.O. I came across the exact cancellation in their records as that shown by Jarrett (No. 52), with a note that it had been issued to Sierra Leone in 1860. Can any explanation of this be given ?

(2) "Mr Stephenson in his Postmark article in the October number repeats Jarrett's reference to the 1880 roller cancellations for parcels. I have several of these roller cancels for Charlottetown, P.E.I., on the Island's cents issue. These stamps were withdrawn in 1873, but as they were not demonetised they could, of course, have been used for postage in 1880. However, the number of stamps so cancelled suggests that they were used before Confederation. Unfortunately, I have not seen the stamp cancelled in this manner on a dated piece, and, as they were used for parcels, it is unlikely that dated pieces are available. I should like to hear whether any member can throw any light on the problem."

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