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Early Canada Pence Issues.

THE pence issues of Canada were manufactured by the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, of New York. They were engraved in taille douce, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 6d, 10d and 12d printed in sheets of 100 stamps, ten rows of ten, the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d in sheets of 120 stamps, ten rows of twelve. All the sheets had eight imprints on them, two at top and bottom, and two at each side.

The designs are too well-known to need description; the 12d alone deserves a word in explanation of the way in which the value was expressed. Undoubtedly, this was done intentionally, as though it was intended for a one shilling stamp, yet it could not be called that, as there were a number of shillings of different values in circulation in the colony. If the stamp had been lettered "one shilling" the post-office was liable to have tendered for it $6\frac{1}{2}$ d, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d, 10d or 12d, according to locality. To obviate this, the value was expressed as "twelve pence" leaving no room for error.

If the papers and shades of this series of stamps are thoroughly studied, there are more varieties than in all the other British North American Stamps put together.

Some of the variations are as follows: $\frac{1}{2}$ d— $\frac{1}{2}$ mm in length and the same in breadth; in the 3d— $\frac{1}{4}$ mm in length by $\frac{1}{2}$ mm in width; in the 6d— $\frac{1}{4}$ mm in length by $\frac{1}{4}$ mm in width; in the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d—

$\frac{1}{2}$ mm in length and the same in breadth; and in the 10d— $\frac{1}{4}$ mm in length by 1mm in breadth.

THE PERFORATED SERIES.

It is an open question whether these stamps were delivered to the Canadian P.O. Department in a perforated condition or not. The manufacturers are unable to throw any light on the subject; and while there is much to be said in favor of their having perforated the stamps, there are points against it almost as strong.

In favor of it there is the fact that, at the date these stamps were issued, it was probable that a firm like the manufacturers would have perforating machines. The normal gauge of the perforated set is 12, that being the only size of perforation ever used by the manufacturers, or their successors, the American Bank Note Co. indeed they call 12 their standard and only gauge.

On the other hand, we find there are perforated stamps of the first series issued viz., the 6d on laid paper; also that there exist two different varieties of perforation that were never used by the makers, viz., one gauging 14 and another 13.

It may be that the stamps were sent to Canada in an imperforate condition, and that the P.O. Department had them perforated, either buying a perforating machine, or entrusting them to some manufacturers of stationery. Perforations 13 and 14 may have been experimental, as they are rare. There always remains the