

CANADIAN OMISSIONS

BY THE EDITOR.

IF all subjects which especially interest me is the study of the postage and revenue stamps of Canada and the Provinces. For the past few years I have made these stamps a special study, and the longer I study and the farther I progress, the more evident it becomes to me that my subject is by no means a small one, and that as collectors become more observant, the farther its limits are extended.

At the time my work on the "Stamps of British North America" was issued, in which some seven hundred varieties were dealt with, I was under the impression that the catalogue was fairly complete, but no sooner had it been issued than one, after another, I had varieties brought under my notice which I had omitted to list. As this list has for some time been accumulating, I take advantage of this opportunity of placing them in a useful shape. As I write, I have before me piles of letters, memoranda, data, and stamps in a very mixed condition, and I shall not attempt to arrange in their chronicle order, but deal with them as they come under my notice. Not only shall I describe the omissions, but shall attempt to discuss matters of interest in regard to the stamps of Canada. So much for a tiresome preface.

The first slip and stamp which comes under my notice was written but a few days since. The current issue of Canada one cent *lemon*, now appears in a deep orange. As is already well known, this stamp was first issued in an orange color in 1883. It was shortly after changed to *lemon*, which color it has been up to the present. The shade of orange now in use is not as dark as was used in 1883. An error in the "Stamps of British North America" recently shown me: The color on No 97 should be *lemon* instead of orange. The orange was not in use at that date (1889.)

A stamp which has been attracting considerable attention during the past few months is the 5 cent beaver of the 1859 issue. Every British North American specialist is familiar with the common variety. With a specimen of this it will be easy to distinguish the two newly discovered varieties. The first of these is somewhat common, and is due to the worn condition of the plates. In the common variety, examination will show that the shading is darker around the numerals in the corners than in any other portion of the stamp. In the variety this portion of the stamp is white or nearly so. This variety is by no means scarce, and on comparison a great difference is perceptible. The third variety of this stamp is of greater interest and distinction than the preceding. This variety is due to a mistake in the preparation of the plate. All the lines at the left hand side of the stamp appear in double. The common theory as to the source of this variety is that the die slipped while the plate was being electroplated. Again, some are of the opinion that this variety is the result of a double impression, but this argument is laid aside for the reason that had it been the result of a double impression every line in the stamp would have appeared in double, while as it is, the double lines are noticable principally at one side.

"Mr. F. De Coppet, of New York, has a 15 cent violet issue of 1868, on thin paper horizontally laid." So says the October American Journal of Philately. It is not improbable that other varieties of this set may also be found on laid paper.

A recent issue of the *Dominion Philatelist* says that the publishers are in possession of a current 5 cent green register on paper water-marked with makers' name. I am inclined to doubt the existence of this stamp, though it may exist. Is it a genuine variety? Some one may have imposed on the editor of the *Dominion Philatelist*. I have examined thousands of sheets, and never yet saw the slightest appearance of a water-mark.

While speaking of the 5 cent green register, I might mention a little incident regarding the unperforated 5 cent. Many doubt the existence of this stamp in unperforated condition. Mr. J. S. Robertson, the well known B. N. A. specialist, recently had occasion to purchase some 5 cent registers, when the stamp clerk complained to him that some few days before she came across a sheet that was unperforated, and had actually to stop and cut them apart. It is needless to say had Mr. Robertson saw the sheet he would have saved the poor stamp clerk the trouble of cutting them apart.

A well known variety of Prince Edward Island was omitted from "The Stamps of British North America" through an oversight. I refer to the error three cent rose, with period after *Prince*. This variety is very scarce.

In another portion of this issue will be found a letter from Mr. R. F. Maddigan, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., in reference to the Bill stamps of Nova Scotia. Mr. Maddigan possesses specimens exactly the reverse of any that have been previously catalogue. He possesses two specimens of the \$2, surcharged at the top. From this we may be led to believe that the whole set is found surcharged at the top. The *low values* were always supposed to have been surcharged only at the top. As will be seen in his letter, he has some of the lower values with surcharge at the bottom. Now, from this information it would seem that two sets were in existence. Now, are the above varieties genuine? If so, have any of our readers any other varieties besides those mentioned. Not having as yet seen the specimens I am unable to say anything in reference to their being genuine.

(To be continued.)

\$50 FOR A POSTAL CARD.

IT HAD BEEN ROUND THE WORLD AND HAD 72 POSTMARKS.

The exhibition of postage stamps at the Palais de l'Industrie, in Paris, has given a notable boom to the trade in used stamps. The Stamp Exchange in the Champs Elysees fell for some time into a state of languor, but it is now brisker than ever.

One sees there every morning between 300 and 400 philatelists or speculators. They meet in the open air near the Marigny end of the gardens, and make a great hubbub as if they were at the Bourse. Quotations of the price are telegraphed all over France and abroad.

The other day a postal card was sold for \$50, because it had gone all round the world after the person to whom it was addressed, and bore 72 postmarks.

It was evident that means had been taken before and to cause it to be sent on through 72 post-offices. The original address and the supplemental ones were written in very small characters, and most of them in red ink, as if on purpose, so as not to take from the distinctness of the postmarks.