

STAMPS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

THE first stamps were issued in August, 1851, and consisted of three varieties, printed in colors upon blue tinted paper, as follows. Three pence red, 6 pence yellow and 1 shilling violet, and were diamond-shaped with the design placed diagonally across it.

The stamps of this issue contain the British Crown in the centre, with roses above and below, shamrock at the left, thistle at the right numerals in each corner and "New Brunswick" above the value and "Postage" below and unperforated. A marked similarity between these stamps and the Nova Scotia first issue will be noticed, and it is said that both issues were produced by the same engraver. The stamps were manufactured in London, England, and the colors present a very interesting study, there being some twelve or fifteen different shades and remain current until May 24, 1861, with no change except in cases where they were cut into two and each half used as a stamp of half the value of the stamp entire commonly known as splits."

Nine years later the decimal system of currency was introduced, necessitating a new issue; which appeared in May, 1860, consisting of six values, the values in cents and the stamps printed in colors on white wove paper and perforated. The new values were as follows: 1, 5, 10, 12½ and 17 cents. The 1-cent contained a picture of a locomotive in oval surrounded by "New Brunswick-Postage-One-Cent," numerals in the corners, and were printed in brown and violet.

The 5 and 10-cent stamps consisted of a portrait of Queen Victoria in oval, surrounded by "New Brunswick" and values in words. Numerals in corners of the 5-cent, "X" in the upper and "10" in the lower; also "X" above the "10." Colors green and vermilion respectively.

The 12½ cent dark blue consists of a steamboat in oval, on which "New Brunswick Postage" and the value in letters ap-

pear, small figures in the upper corners, large ones in the lower corners and at the bottom the word "cents" in an engraved label. Of the series this one will undoubtedly prove scarce.

The 17-cent consisted of a portrait of Prince Albert in a dress of a Highlander in an oval surrounded by "New Brunswick Postage," the value in figures in the corners, the word "cents" below oval, printed in black.

In this year the rarest of all North American stamps was issued, and a brief history is not out of place.

It appears that the supply of 5-cent stamps running short, it was necessary to send to the mother country to obtain a grant for the printing of a new supply. During the delay which followed, Mr. Connell, the then Postmaster, conceived the idea of having his own portrait placed on the new 5-cent, and authorized the American Bank Note Company to run off an edition of 5000, copies, the design being nearly the same as the regular 5-cent, with the single exception that the figure "5" is repeated twice in the lower corner.

The fact of Mr. Connell's portrait being upon this stamp, attracted the attention of the Government, which politely requested Mr. Connell not to issue them. Mr. Connell replied that it was his intention to issue them, and that if the command was enforced he would resign his position. It was and he did. The "Connells," upon their arrival, were cancelled by the Post-office authorities and never passed the Post-office.

Genuine perforated copies are extremely rare, but proofs on fine proof-paper in brown are sold at \$5, while a perforated copy brought \$100.00 at auction recently.

Immediately upon the rejection of the "Connell" a 5-cent green and also a 2-cent brown made their appearance, similar in design to the 5-cent, but with ornamental work around oval to complete the rectangle with a numeral "2" in circle in each corner.

This stamp was issued for country postage