

CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY

1 Cent per Copy IN THE INTERESTS OF STAMP COLLECTORS. 25 Cents per Year

VOL. I. TORONTO, CANADA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1898. No. 3

The Postage Stamps of Canada.

(Continued from last week)

At this time the post offices of the British North American colonies were under the control of the Postmaster-General of Great Britain, and neither the boon of cheap postage nor the use of postage stamps was granted to these colonies for some years, although asked for. The initiative appears to have been taken by Nova Scotia. The post office commissioners of that colony, in 1844, recommended the use of postage stamps in the colony, and petitioned the Postmaster-General of Great Britain to issue them. This petition was unheeded, but when notice was again called to it, the Government of the United Kingdom refused to grant the request, giving as an excuse that the stamps might be forged, the forgers would probably escape and a loss would be incurred. It took more than a polite refusal to repress the public men of those days in their agitations for reforms, particularly when reform appeared so necessary, and the reason for granting it so trivial. A few years later all the British North American colonies joined in a demand for colonial management of the post office, and offered to account to the Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom for all letters going to or by way of the United Kingdom. The combined requisition stirred the Imperial Government to action. The time was opportune. A new colonial policy was to be given a trial. The leading men in the Imperial Parliament were beginning to recognize the fact that to retain the affections of the colonies a greater measure of self-government would have to be granted them. Consequently when petitioned on post office affairs, an Act was passed by the Imperial parliament in the twelfth and thirteenth years of the reign of

Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled "An Act for enabling Colonial Legislatures to establish Inland Posts"

After a great deal of correspondence between the various colonial Governments, an agreement regarding post office management was arrived at, and an Act was passed by the Legislature of each of the colonies of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on the lines of the agreement. The respective Acts were approved by the Imperial Government, and became law in each colony in 1850 or in 1851.

The main provisions of the Post Office Acts of each colony as to rates and stamps were as follows: The rate of postage on all letters from one place to another within the four colonies to be 3d. currency for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or under, and for a letter over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not over 1 oz. 6d. and so on at the same rate; letters posted in the colonies addressed to the United States, except to California and Oregon to be rated at 6d. currency, or 10c. per half oz.; to California or Oregon, 9d., or 15c. per half oz.; the rate to Newfoundland, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d. inland and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. packet per half oz. from Nova Scotia the packet rate to be 4d.; the rate to the United Kingdom via United States by weekly closed mails, 1s. 2d. sterling, and via Halifax, semi-monthly, 1s. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The equivalent currency rate was different for each colony. In all the above cases prepayment was optional.

The Acts of all the colonies except Prince Edward Island, provided for the issue of postage stamps as an evidence of prepayment.

Sir Edmund Head, Governor of New Brunswick, suggested that the stamps of each colony should be of similar design. This suggestion was not followed by Canada, but it is a probable explanation of the likeness existing between the first issue of the stamps of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

(to be continued)