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FOOLED THEM NICELY.

Shark's Attempt to Corner Jubilee Stamps Frustrated.

Ottawa—There is considerable dissatisfaction in many quarters throughout the Dominion with the Post Office Department in regard to the issue of Jubilee stamps, and the public are entitled to know just how the matter stands. It was at once apparent when the Postmaster-General made his announcement in parliament of the number to be issued that there would be a run on the half-cent and six-cent stamps, only seventy-five thousand of the latter and a hundred and fifty thousand of the former being authorized, as against twenty million threes and eight million ones. For a fortnight before June 19, the date set for the placing on sale of the Jubilee stamps, attempts were made in all parts of the Dominion to corner the halves and sixes, because if certain parties could buy up these they would very soon have the control of the market. Postmasters in small places were used by speculators to send requests to Ottawa for several hundred half-cent stamps, and on June 19 telegraphic orders of this sort were received from the postmasters of various small hamlets in remote districts, showing that a

regular plan had been adopted and that some person, with others acting as agents in these various places, was manœuvring to corner the half-cent stamps. As the postmasters, who innocently enough, no doubt, acted for these speculators never handled a half-cent stamp in the course of a year their requisitions were not complied with here, so that little game did not work as its promoters anticipated. In the larger towns and cities there was an enormous demand for the Jubilee stamps during the first hour they were on sale and many postmasters gave four half-cent stamps with one complete set which they afterwards reduced to two, and finally, on noticing the urgency of the purchaser for that particular denomination, reduced to one. This will partly explain the disappearance of a large number of these half-cent stamps. Finally the Postmaster-General decided that the tendency to exhaust the halves and sixes had increased to such a degree that it became necessary to restrict their sale to the purchasers of full sets, and consequently there cannot now be obtained any of the halves or sixes except with the full sets, which cost \$16.21½ each. The run on the sixes, although it did not