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WHY SOME STAMPS WERE ISSUED.

BY F. H. BEST.

Most stamp collectors seem to have no knowledge of the reason for certain stamps having been issued, which should be one of the special studies of collecting. Of course every stamp was issued for a purpose, but some varieties may call for special mention. Canada has produced several oddities of this kind, notable among which are the 2 cents, issued in 1863, also the same denomination of New Brunswick, 1863, and Nova Scotia, 1863; all of which were struck off to pre-pay soldiers' letters to Great Britain (who had been sent to Canada in 1862 on the occasion of the Slidell-Mason affair). Another Canadian stamp was the twelve pence, black, which, as most collectors know in almost unique in rarity, was struck off to do duty for postage to India, is said by some officials in government circles to have been issued in error, as the postage at that time was only ten pence.

The seventeen-cent Canadian, 1860, was struck off for postage to India also. The 12½-cent of the same year was issued expressly for letters to Great Britain. The stamps of Prince Edward Island, for their odd denominations, might cause collectors to imagine that they were issued for some special service, but we have never heard of such.

The 8½-cent Nova Scotia was issued for letters to Newfoundland.

The 18-cent Newfoundland was issued for letters to Great Britain. These are the principal varieties issued in Canada for postage out of the usual run.

The United States have issued a few denominations for special service; the

24 and 90 cent of various issues are an odd figure; the 7 cent of 1872 was a value placed on postage to Germany for letters. The official stamps were issued for the use of the various departments they represented, and could not be used by any outside parties, which is the cause of the great rarity of some of the department denominations, such as Executive and high values of State, they being very seldom found in an obliterated condition, unless so marked by swindling dealers.

The Executive stamps were used solely by the President and Vice-President of the United States; therefore, philatelists having used specimens have not only a philatelic treasure, but have also a historical relic.

The Australian Colonies have issued very few stamps for any special duty, and with the exception of a very few European, very few exist outside of America.

In fact economical postage for specified countries seems to be peculiar to America as regards odd values. Most of these stamps are noticeably scarce, and should be made as great a study of as any other.

NUMISMATIC DEPARTMENT.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Continued.

BY J. HOOPER.

18. Obverse, around circle, payable at W. L. White's Halifax House, Halifax; inside circle in two straight lines, "one farthing." Reverse, around circle, W. L. White's Halifax House, Halifax; in 3 broken lines, "cheap dry goods store;" brass, size 14, plain edge, rare.

19. Obv. military bust to left, around circle, "Broke, Halifax, Nova Scotia." Rev. Britannia seated distance to left,

two ships, around circle, Britannia, 1814; copper, size 16, milled edge, 8 varieties.

20. Obv. Indian with bow and arrow, dog by his side; around circle, Starr & Shannon, Halifax, 1815. Rev. ship under sail to right; around circle, half-penny token, Nova Scotia; copper, size 17, plain edge, 4 different varieties.

21. Obv. same as 20; around circle, "commercial change." Rev. same as 20, copper, size 17, plain edge.

22. Obv. cask marked "nails and spikes," between a scythe-blade and sickle; above, two spades crossed; around circle, "payable at W. A. & S. Black's, Halifax, N. S." Rev. front of house, around circle "wholesale and retail hardware store, 1816;" copper, size 16, plain edge.

23. Obv. same as 22, around circle "Halifax, Nova Scotia." Rev. same as 22, copper, size 16, plain edge.

24. Obv. four leaved thistle, around circle "Nemo me Impuno Lacessit." Rev. ship, around circle "payable at the store of J. Brown;" copper, no date, size 16, plain edge.

25. Obv. ship, full sail to right; around circle "Nova Scotia and New Brunswick success." Rev. female seated on bale of goods, in her right hand a pair of scales; in her left, a Cornucopia vessel in distance; around circle "Half-ponny token;" bronze, size 16, milled edge, rare.

26. Obv. around circle "Robert Purves Wallace;" in centre, three straight lines, "cheap family store." Rev. in three straight lines, "encourage country importers;" copper, no date, size 16, plain edge.

Obv. in two elliptic lines, "Ferry token." Rev. steamship, around circle "Halifax Steamboat Company;" eight leaved patra at bottom; brass, no date, size 12, rare.

(To be continued.)