

# The Montreal Philatelist,

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## Newfoundland Provisionals.

Last month we promised our readers full details about the Newfoundland Counterfeit surcharges. We had sent a copy of two types in black and one in red to the Postmaster at St. Johns, and following is his reply:—

*Postal Department, Newfoundland,  
St. Johns, 1st April, 1898.*

*Rudolph C. Bach, Esq.,  
451 Sanguinet St., Montreal.*

*Dear Sir,*

*Replying to your letter of the 20th March, I have no doubt that the three surcharged 1c. stamps you enclosed, two in black and one in red, are forgeries. Thirty only of the red were struck off, purely to test colour, not one of which was disposed of, a limited number were surcharged in black to keep us going until new 1c. stamps ordered were received, but these were not sold to dealers, being kept solely for mail purposes. I have no doubt dealers acquired some early by purchasing small lots: The red enclosed represents neither the lines nor the colour of the 30 originals; the blacks are conspicuously defective. Arrests were made in St. Johns for forgeries. It is most desirable the forgers should be hunted up everywhere.*

*I am,*

*Yours very truly,*

*J. O. FRASER, P.M.*

From above it will be seen that in nine cases out of ten, the stamps of those dealers who have large stocks, or have them in sheets, as some Boston dealers claim to have, are forgeries. Collectors should be very careful about purchasing these stamps, and buy them only from reliable dealers, or

dealers who will refund amounts paid for them if they are proven to be forgeries. We are sorry that we cannot give an illustration, but it is impossible, as the Postal Laws are very strict in Canada. Mr. R. C. Bach secured 16 of these stamps, and was selling them on his sheets, when his attention to their suspicious character was first called by Mr. Franklin Stearns, Jr., of Richmond, Va. Mr. Bach at once wrote the P. M. in St. Johns, whose reply is published above, and also offered to refund amounts paid on every stamp sold, and there is no person but who can say that Mr. Bach acted perfectly fair and square in this matter.

We have since received another letter from Mr. Fraser and we give it in part. "New 3c. and 5c. may shortly be expected." "I am most anxious to receive all possible information re surcharged stamps, feeling assured that counterfeiting must be largely resorted to."

At R. C. Bach's First Auction Sale, closed March 30th, the following were some of the prices realized: U.S. 7c. Treasury mint state, \$1.25; Argentine, 1864, 5, 10, 15c., perf., used, \$2.00; Prince Edward Island, 1c. orange, used, \$1.90, Netherlands, 1867, 50c. gold, and 1872, 20-50c., used, 40c.; Stockholm, brown and black, used, 75c.; Canada, new issue, 25, 5 and 8c., assorted, 40c.; 2000 Canada, old issue, 1-2-3, \$2.00; 1 set Canada Jubilee, used, complete, \$15.00. The total amount realized on the 35 lots in the sale was \$90.94, a very satisfactory result. This sale was advertised only in the *Virginia Phil* and the result speaks well for its powers as an advertising medium.