

# THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

INFORMATION FROM THE STAMP WORLD.

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## Canada's New Issues.

It is reported on good authority that Canada will have an entirely new issue of stamps from ½c up to 50c—the same values as those now in use—and also including \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5 values, which have never, heretofore, been used in Canada. The design will be similar to that on the third issue Bill stamps, namely, Queen Victoria, her head surmounted by a widow's cap.

This issue will not conflict with the special 8c commemorative Jubilee issue which, it is said, will be the same size as the United States Columbian issue, and have portrayed thereon the landing of Cabot at Newfoundland.

On July 1st the American contractors will take possession and begin their contract made with the present government. We may look for secret marks, changes in colors, etc. We believe all this will tend to make the issues of Canada more popular than ever before.

## Neglected Canadian Revenues.

How many collectors of the revenue stamps of Canada collect them in all their various branches?

The majority are satisfied with acquiring merely the stamps that bear the names Law, Bill Weight and Measures, etc. Some few, go to the full extent of the list of revenues as far as it goes, and collect not only the Bill stamps of the Province of Ontario (1864-67), but also the same (1870), as surcharged for use in the Province of Nova Scotia (overprinted N.S. on the third issue of the Bill stamps of the Dominion of Canada). These collect Law stamps of all the different surcharges, of which you are all aware there are a large number of varieties. These will also take in all the stamps used for the Law of the latter issues of the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, etc., and also the varied and numerous surcharges as used on the same to denote the different courts using them, such as C.F. (consolidated fund), F.F. (fee fund), L.S. (law society), and so forth.

Of the Weight and Measure series, there are not many varieties of paper, only two, thin and thick wove, and no surcharges, unless the control number, which is stamped on the centre of the stamp, would be called a surcharge; thus it can easily be understood that in looking over a pretty well advanced collection of the fiscals of our own country, that we so often see complete sets of this interesting branch.

The Gas stamps are only a small series in number, and of no variety as to paper, shades, etc.

The beautiful large set of the Supreme Court is also lacking in variety, except the slight change in the color of ink used in stamping the control numbers; in fact too much variety in this fine series of stamps would spoil its appearance in an album.

The Assurance stamps of Quebec are an interesting emission.

The aforementioned stamps are generally wanted by the true collector, as also a new series—the Electric Light—which has, I think, hardly yet been placed on the philatelic market.

I have it from very good authority that it is likely a new kind of stamp for street railways is to be struck off by the Quebec government. I fail to see why these roads have heretofore escaped, since they pay, in most places, a large revenue.

All of these stamps are interesting in more ways than one. Not only are they works of art equal, if not superior, to any fiscal stamps ever brought into use, but they show us the financial needs of the country's treasury in many ways. But this is not enough to know of the nation's needs, and how they are supplied.

There was not, many years ago, many collectors who included another branch which told us more of our government's financial necessities than any of the other branches of Canadian revenues, and as a matter of intrinsic value, some of the issues would rank much higher than any of the postage varieties, not excepting the pence issues of Canada. The issues in question are the cigar and tobacco stamps of this country. They were never of handsome design in many cases, the best of them being merely an engine-

turned design as a back ground, with a scalloped or straight border. The shapes of the various issues differ a great deal, which makes a nice appearance mounted in an album made up for the purpose.

There is, by way of shapes, the first ever conceived in Canada, in 1864, which was only two in number and of a square shape. In 1868 came a large diamond set of six. In 1868 a new and smaller design was brought into use; it also was of a diamond shape. Again, a few months later, a series of long ribbon stamps were put into use, which continued in vogue for over ten years. Then there are the lozenge, the coupon, and many other varieties which I have not time now to name, but will do so in a future article as I think these stamps have been grossly neglected in the past. I do not know of a single collection in this Province, and very few in Canada, but there are quite a number in the United States.

FRANK H. BEST.

## New Issues.

**NICARAGA.** The Seebeck stamps for 1897 are the same designs as those of 1896, but the date is changed.

**BERMUDA.** It is reported that a new series will shortly appear.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.** These stamps, with new watermark, have been issued: 16c gray, 50c green, 2p dark green, 5p dark blue.

**BORNEO.** The London Philatelist says that the Governor of Sandakan advised the addition of Chinese and Malay characters to the inscriptions on the stamps. The designs have been re-drawn, and the new stamps will be to hand shortly.

**JAMAICA.** Following values now appear on watermark Crown and C A paper, and perf. 14: 1sh brown, 2sh claret, 5sh mauve.

**URUGUAY** Three of Suarez commemoration stamps have been surcharged "Provisorio 1897." the two lower values in a horseshoe, and the higher value with date below the base of the monument. 1c carmine, violet and black, 5c carmine, blue and black, 10c carmine, carmine and black.