

## COUNTERFEITS OF BRITISH COLUMBIAN STAMPS.

BY WILLIAM B. HALB.

**I**N this I will treat of the differences between the original and counterfeit stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, most of which are quite rare.

As in many other counterfeits these are printed on thick, smooth paper, which does not admit of good perforation, and by the use of too much ink they appear somewhat blurred.

With the aid of a magnifying glass many differences can be detected in the individual stamp. In the 2½d. 1861 a gouge is noted just below the hair, the eye is imperfect, the eyelid solid, the background is uneven and there is no separation between the upper line of hair and the background. In the word "British" the letter "t" is lower than "Bri" and "ish." The perforation on the sides comes nearer to the impression than it does on the top and bottom.

In the issue of 1865 the lips, eye and crown of the Queens head are imperfect and there are blotches at the bottom of oval and extreme right. In the word "Vancouver" "o" is contracted and "n" expanded, and in the word "Island" the letters "an" are expanded and "d" resembles an "o." In the word "five" the spaces between the letters are of unequal length.

The 1868-9 issue consists of different values surcharged on the three-pence type of 1864 which was printed in various colors. In the counterfeits the block is heavily worked and the design faint. The ornamental work in the corners is defective, the letters are imperfect and in the crown there are four jewels on the right and six on the left. In the surcharge the spacing in the word "cents" is unequal.

Cancellations, not postmarks, are always found on these counterfeits. The 1861 issue is generally heavily obliterated by the cancellation to conceal the defects.

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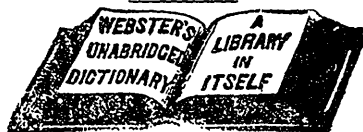
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