

"Halifax, April 21st, 1851.

"Sir,

"As the period is fast drawing near when the reduced rate of postage is to take effect in Nova Scotia, and as I perceive by the Provincial Act that Provincial stamps are to be provided for the convenience of the public, and not being aware that any steps have been taken by the government to obtain them, I request to be informed whether His Excellency would authorize me to make application for a supply from the authorities of the general post office.

I would beg to suggest that a requisition for 5,000 sheets or more be made, each sheet containing 240 heads, which, at 3d., would be equal to £15,000, or £3 for each sheet.

Also £5,000 of 6d. stamps for double letters, or letters exceeding the half ounce; and also 60 'defacing stamps' for the use of the several postmasters throughout the province.

I would further suggest that the head be something similar to that represented in the margin; the field to be blue instead of red, or any other color His Excellency would prefer.

This supply would, I imagine, be sufficient for the first introduction of this reduced rate, when, should His Excellency think proper, other arrangements could be made for keeping up the supply.

Should the Lieutenant-Governor approve of this proposition, I will apply to the post office in London by the next packet.

I have, etc.

(Signed) A. WOODGATE.

The Hon'ble

JOSEPH HOWE."

A copy of the design mentioned in this letter is on the margin of the letter book. It is a large rectangular shape, in center the head of the queen, of a type somewhat like the early Mauritius, excepting that there is not any crown or wreath on head. This is drawn on a square of red—at top, "POSTAGE," bottom, "Three Pence," in small script writing; left side, "NOVA," reading up, and at right side, "SCOTIA," reading down; in each corner a small square with figure "3" in it. The whole look of the design is much like the early Mauritius.

The "defacing" or cancelling stamp's design was very much like the one adopted, being the same oval shape, but the lines on face were perpendicular

instead of horizontal, and the space for inserting the office a diamond instead of circular shape.

This design for stamps did not likely go further than the office of the Provincial Secretary, to whom it was written, as it appears that stamps must have been ordered before this, as there does not appear to be time enough between this date and that when stamps were issued (Sept. 1st, 1851), to have designs approved of and plates prepared. It is more than probable that the Hon. Joseph Howe, the Provincial Secretary, who I am informed was in London the winter previous, had designs then submitted to him and approved of, and ordered the necessary stamps without the knowledge of the Postmaster-General. At the same time he apparently had the power to decide on the design of the New Brunswick stamps, as may be inferred from the following memorandum, or perhaps the stamps of both colonies were bought together for the sake of economy. The memorandum is dated the 8th July 1851, and is copied from the same letter book.

MEMO.

"When Mr. Howe made the application for stamps, it was proposed that after the first supply had arrived the plates could have been sent out, and impressions taken off by engravers in Halifax. As Mr. Saunders, however, seems to report against the proposition, I would beg to suggest for the consideration of the government that £10,000 worth of stamps for Nova Scotia, and a similar amount for New Brunswick, viz.:-

3d. ....	£5,000
6d. ....	2,500
1s . . . . .	2,500

be furnished for immediate use, or should this amount be considered too small, to double the above numbers.

I would also recommend that 200 half-pound canisters of obliterating ink be also provided—100 for the use of this province, and 100 for New Brunswick, and directions for its use.

(Signed) A.W.

W. H. KEATING, Esq.

July 8th, 1851.

What amount of stamps were ordered could not be found out, nor can any trace of further orders be found until 1857, when an application letter was sent to the Provincial Secretary, and which will be copied later on.—*To be Concluded.*

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