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The Envelopes of Canada.

Postage stamps were first used in Canada in 1851, and at this time money was counted in a somewhat similar system as in the mother country, there being but a slight difference in value. For instance, 1s. 2d. in English money was equal to 1s. 4d. in Canadian currency. This state of affairs continued in force until 1859, when the decimal system was introduced, and in consequence a new "cent issue" of postage stamps appeared.

During this period of some eight years Canada had been without a stamped envelope, nor did she have any until a year later, viz., 1860. In this year the first issue appeared, the denominations being five and ten cents. In design the stamps were similar to the present issue but somewhat smaller.

The five cent had the Queen's head facing to the left in an oval, the words "Canada Postage" above, and "Five Cents" below, these words being enclosed in another oval on the outside of the stamp. Color, vermilion.

The ten cent was the same as the five cent in design, the color being brown. This stamp was also printed in vermilion and is listed as an error.

These envelopes are found on both "yellowish white laid" and "bluish white laid" paper.

This issue continued in use until 1877 when a reduction in postage rates took place, and the one and three cent envelopes appeared which have been continually in use up to the present time. They were printed on white laid paper though an occasional copy is found on wove, which variety is exceedingly rare.

In the year 1895 another envelope of the two cent denomination was added to the present set, the color being blue green. In design it is altogether different from the previous issues. It has the head of the Queen facing to the left enclosed in a circle. Above this is the words "Canada Postage," and below the word "Cents" appears on both sides of a large figure "2" which is also enclosed in a circle. Maple leaves adorn the sides and on the top is a beaver, which taken together make a very pretty stamp. It is printed on white laid paper.

This envelope is on sale only in the larger cities where mail is delivered by carriers where drop letters are two cents.

It is expected that a new issue will shortly appear to match the