

# The Montreal Philatelist.

*A Monthly Philatelic Magazine.*

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN PHILATELISTS and THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Subscription 25 cents a year to Canada and the United States, 50 cents to all other countries.

Entered at the Montreal Post Office as second class mail matter, April 23, 1898.

VOL. 2. No. 1 MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1899. Whole No. 13

Written especially for the Montreal Philatelist by our regular correspondent.

## PHILATELIC NOTES FROM NEW ZEALAND.

BY RALPH W. GOSSET.

Since last writing the Great Barrier Pigeon service stamp has changed colour and also design. The words "One Shilling" on either side of the stamp are in the new lot white letters on coloured ground, the previous ones being coloured letters on white ground. The new stamp contains a lot of scroll work and is printed on very light mauve coloured paper. The total number of this stamp printed is 2,000. There were 1,800 of the first lot issued, and when the new one came in vogue there remained 400, which amount were purchased by a well known English Philatelic firm at Ipswich and therefore there were only 1,400 of the Great Barrier Island stamp issued.

The new one is perforated 12½ and is the same in shape as the first one (oblong horizontal.)

The 1d Blue Cooks Islands with Queen Makea's head on was, (at the beginning of this month) surcharged ½d as under, in black.

ONE  
HALF  
PENNY

The surcharged is very indistinct and when on the letter with the post mark over it, it is barely noticed. All the 1d Blues there were in stock were surcharged and official value of ½d surcharged was 40.

Official advices from the same islands also state, that there is to be a new issue of ½d and 1d very shortly.

Philatelic news from these Islands take a long time to reach Auckland as there is only one mail a month.

The number of Post Offices open in New Zealand at the close of the year 1897 was 1,524; it may also be interesting to note that the last published international statistics placed New Zealand before all other countries in the world as regards the proportion of population to each post office, the figures being 1 post office for every 520 inhabitants; Canada being second with 1 to 538, New South Wales and Victoria third and fourth with 1 to 645, and 1 to 751, United States sixth with 1 to 884 and Great Britain fifteenth with 1 to 1,922.

The postal conference which met at Hobart on March 28, '97, passed the following resolution:—"That it would be inadvisable to make any further reduction of the oversea postage rate, until the way is clear for a reduction in the present large subsidies paid for the carriage of such mails, and the present inland and intercolonial rates."

"That the various agents general delegates to the postal conference in London be instructed to oppose the proposal to reduce the rate of postage to all parts of the British Empire from 2½d per ½ oz. to 2d, and also the Canadian proposal to reduce her out going rate from 5 cents per ½ oz. to 3 cents per ounce, for the following reasons:—

1. The present rate is not an unreasonably high one, having in view the large cost to the colonies involved in the maintenance of the present means of postal communication with the various portions of the Empire.