

2. Were said postage stamps sold to a syndicate or company?

3. Were well known philatelists communicated with in connection with the disposal of said stamps?

4. What was the total number of stamps sold, and the denomination of the various stamps?

5. Are there any remaining unsold?

Hon. Mr. Murray said that the sale of the stamps referred to was brought about as the result of correspondence with large dealers in London, New York and Nova Scotia. He was not in a position at this moment to say whether the stamps were sold to a syndicate or company, but while he no doubt that more than one individual was interested in the matter he thought that the sale was made to one person. He was not in a position to answer the question as to whether well known philatelists were communicated with in connection with the disposal of the stamps.

In reply to the question as to the total number of stamps sold, all he had to say was that he was not in a position to give the house any information on that point. He had in his possession a communication addressed to him by the retiring provincial secretary in which the circumstances attending the sale was brought to his notice, and it was said that it was distinctly understood between the government and purchaser that the exact quantity of stamps sold was not to be made known. This was considered an important condition of the sale, and he understood that it was a condition that would be insisted upon by any purchaser who entered into business negotiations of this character.

In reply to the question as to whether any stamps remained unsold,

he would say there was none so far as he knew. This was all the information in his possession in respect to the sale of the stamps.

Dr McKay said that the question asked was whether the province realized the amount of money from these stamps that should have been received.

Hon. Mr. Murray said it was considered a remarkably good sale had been made, and he might say to the hon. member that the very people who bought the stamps would be only too glad now to return them and get their money back, as down to the present time they had not realized more than than a quarter of the sum that they paid. Some vendors in New York and London who were told in confidence of the number of stamps for sale had offered very much less for them than the parties who finally bought them.

Dr McKay asked whether if the stamps had been placed upon the market in blocks they could not have been disposed of for a larger sum.

Hon. Mr. Murray said that he no doubt that a larger amount might have been realized for the stamps if they had been put on the market one by one, but he did not think that would have been good policy, and it was a policy he would not like to see the government pursue.

Many of our subscribers and applicants for sample copies, have asked for our price list of stamps, quotations on certain stamps, etc., and we take this opportunity of informing all whom it may concern that we are not in the stamp business, and have nothing to sell, except subscriptions to this paper, advertising space therein. We would also ask our readers to apply to any of the dealers advertising with us, when in need of stamps.