

## Canadian Envelopes

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 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, when the first issue appeared. In this year two envelopes of different values were issued, the values being five and ten cent. The stamps were somewhat smaller than those of the present issue, but nevertheless quite similar in design. Both stamps were of the same size and design, differing in value and color.

The 5-cent had the Queen's head facing to the left in oval, with "Canada Postage" above, and "Five cents" below, these words being enclosed in another oval on the outside. Color, vermilion.

The 10-cent stamp was the same as the 5-cent in design. Color, brown.

These stamps are catalogued on both "yellowish white laid" and "bluish white laid" paper.

The above two stamps continued in use until 1877, when a reduction in postage rates took place, and were followed by a one and

three-cent envelope which were placed on sale. In design these stamps were similar to the previous issue, but slightly larger. They were printed on white laid paper, though an occasional specimen is found on wove paper, which variety is exceedingly rare. It is quite likely these stamps will continue in use until the Queen ceases to reign.

Strange to say, the one-cent variety is catalogued at a higher price in used condition, while in an unused state it is vice versa, as would naturally be expected.

Within the past year a new variety in the form of a two-cent envelope has appeared. It has the head of the Queen facing to the left enclosed in an oval. Inside of another oval is "Canada postage" above, and below is the word "cents" on each side of a large "2," while maple leaves adorn the sides of the stamp. On the very top of it is a beaver, which taken together makes a very pretty stamp. It is printed on a white laid envelope. Color, green.

The above is on sale only in the large cities where the mail is delivered by carriers, where the drop letters are two cents. In all probability this stamp will be soon withdrawn from sale, as the demand for it is very light, which occurrence would most likely make it one of Canada's rarest stamps.

Envelopes as a rule are very seldom used, the majority judging it easier to use the adhesives on their own envelopes.

It would no doubt be a profitable investment for anyone to buy a large quantity of the two cent envelopes and hold them till they become obsolete (provided they do), and even if they do not there would be nothing lost, as they could be used for postage at any time.

PHILLIMUS.