

The Pence Issues of Canada.

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Much has been written in regard to the pence issues of Canada that my remarks are of little use, but, as there has been no reliable records of just how many of these stamps were received and given out to postmasters, I will enlighten them on the subject.

On May 21st 1849, a notice is mentioned in the Legislative Assembly of Canada, referring to the establishment of a general Post Office. On the following day a resolution was brought that postage stamps be engraved and put into use. This passed the Assembly on May 25th, and received the assent of the Legislative Council on the 26th.

The Canadian Post Office was transferred to the Provincial Government by the Imperial Authorities on April 6th 1851, and stamps of the values of 8 pence, 6 pence and 1 shilling having in the meantime been distributed to postmasters.

The rates for letter postage was 8d for letters not exceeding half ounce in weight, more than half ounce but not over one ounce 6d, one and one-half ounce 9d, and two ounces one shilling. The rates to U. S. was 6d, or 9d if to California or Oregon.

The first lot of stamps were pro-

cured from Rawden, Wright, Hatch & Co. of New York, and consisted of:

250 000 8d stamps

100 400 6d stamps

51 000 12d stamps

In 1854 the Postmaster-General recommended the issuing of the 7½d and 10d in order to correspond with the changes in the packet letter charges.

The 10d was issued first, then the 1½d and 7½d, the 12d having been withdrawn.

Many think that the twelve pence was especially intended for letters to the United Kingdom is not possible, as the rate to those countries was 1/2 sterling, or equal to 1/4 in Canadian currency, and that rate could not have been made up by this stamp. It was intended for heavy Provincial and United States letters. The writer himself has often come across letters sent in Canada before stamps came into use where they were marked "Paid 12d", so it was more intended for home than abroad.

The following pence stamps were issued:—

VALUE	NO. PTD:	NO. ISSUED FOR USE
1-2 d	3 450 620	3 389 960
3d	3 550 400	3 528 700
6d	420 478	402 900
7½ d	100 080	82 410
10d	178 200	141 000
12d	51 000	1510
Tot.	7 750 778	7 564 480