

variety and is the only one I have ever seen cut in this manner. Three other varieties I have seen are not illustrated, they are the 10 cent cut diagonally and used as 5c., also cut perpendicularly and used for same, and the 5 cent cut diagonally and used for the county postage of two cents.

Number six of the plate is an oddity, it is a 6d. cut and used for what? under it is written in red pencil 5 cts. I have two almost the same, the other has, however, only the figure 5 in red under the half stamp. The stamps have undoubtedly prepaid the letter as the color in which the 5 cts. is written shews it, red being the paid color. They probably originated at some small post office, out of stamps and who marked them in red as paid letters and sent them and the money for stamps to the next post office, or they were given by some one on the road to a mail courier (as was the practice then, and now) with the money to prepay them, and he marked them in red as prepaid and had them stamped at the nearest post office.

All the split stamps of Nova Scotia are very rare and should be greatly valued by collectors. Off the original envelope, they are valueless, and I have been sorely disappointed more than once on receiving them in that condition. While in Nova Scotia we have not got those varieties of type-stamps which some other countries have, still, we can make up a number of interesting varieties which are unknown to most collectors and in nearly every case have never been mentioned in catalogues.

Some Canadian Postal History.

THE presentation on Saturday to Mr. W. H. Griffin, the late Deputy Postmaster General of Canada, was an occurrence of more than passing interest. Mr. Griffin is probably the oldest official the Dominion has. He entered the public service as long ago as 1831, and has occupied the position of Deputy Minister, or actual head of the postal department, since June 12, 1857—thirty-one years. It has fallen to the lot of few men to point to so long and to so honorable a record as that attaching to Mr. Griffin's name.

The changes Mr. Griffin has witnessed since 1831, when he began his official career, have been numerous and sweeping. In the year mentioned and for twenty years afterwards the people of Canada were not bothered with postal concerns. The Imperial Government managed the post-office and gave us all the facilities it deemed desirable or necessary for the exchange of communications. The first official to regulate the postal business in what is now Canada was no less important a person than Benjamin Franklin, whose jurisdiction as Deputy Postmaster-General extended from Pennsylvania northward. Franklyn had at Quebec a postmaster named Hugh Finlay. After the declaration of independence Mr. Finlay received the appointment of Deputy Postmaster-General for all Canada. He had in 1791 eleven post-offices under his management, one as far west as Mackinaw and one as far east as the Baie des Chaleurs. He gave a weekly mail between Quebec and Montreal, and a monthly mail for this Western country. In 1800 Mr. George Heriot succeeded to the post. He gave Canada twenty-