

1875	\$1 lilac.....	3 00
	\$2 " .....	5 00
	\$3 " .....	6 50
	\$4 " .....	9 00
	\$5 " .....	15 00

or small, constituted a letter.

FRANK H. BEST.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The series of stamps issued by the Nova Scotia government contemporary with the change of currency in 1860-62 have always been exceedingly interesting to collectors generally, on account of their beautiful designs and exquisite coloring. Interest in this series have received a new impetus recently owing to the discovery and placing upon the market of the remainders of five values.

These stamps were engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Co., and were not only finished in the highest style of the engraver's art at that period, but quite equal to any and far superior in delicacy of design and clearly defined colors and printing to much that this well known company has since produced.

The 12½ cent value was known among old time collectors as the queen of stamps and is indeed a beautiful engraving. It has always been a moderately difficult stamp to obtain, especially on original cover, having been used formerly to England and foreign countries.

One of the finest counterfeits ever produced of this stamp, was made many years ago, but what its history was and by whom made, I have never been able to ascertain beyond the fact that I found and purchased three specimens in Montreal some three years ago. The engraving is almost equal to the splendid workmanship evinced in the original, and the artist who produced the forgery exhibited ability worthy of a better cause. It may have been figured at that time that this stamp would become very rare like its distinguished predecessor, so much like it in general appearance, the famous 12 pence of Canada.

Just why these forgeries were never more widely circulated I am also unable to imagine, as they would readily deceive even fairly well informed collectors, but

LOWER CANADA REGISTRATION.

1836	5c red .....	25
	15c red .....	35
	30c red .....	65
	5c vermilion.....	25
	15c " .....	35
	30c " .....	65

QUEBEC REGISTRATION.

1871	5c green .....	10
	15c " .....	22
	30c " .....	35

AN OLD TIMER.

When in 1800 the purchasing power of one dollar was worth many times that of the present time, the cost of sending mail matter was extremely high. To send a letter from New York to Boston, or vice-versa, would require the payment of 18 cents; or from New York to Washington would cost 23 cents. The length of time taken between Boston and Washington, via New York, would be from 15 to 20 days, according to the season of the year.

Business in those days was done in what would seem to us to-day to be very primitive, for there were no postage stamps, no envelopes, no type-writer, in fact nothing of even the commonest office furnishings were used. Each merchant kept his own books and solely attended to his correspondence. In writing he used a quill, and when through writing, let the ink dry or sprinkled it with sand, no blotting paper existing.

The letter written, on one sheet as a rule, the paper was then neatly folded and sealed with wax, addressed, and then carried to the post office, as there were no letter boxes then, and postage prepaid. A single sheet of paper, large