

Notes on Canadian stamps

BY W. STERLING PURVIS,

As our long-lived 1869 issue became obsolete about the same time as the Jubilee issue, the stamps of the old set received very little attention from speculators. Of course the 3 cent red 1869 is our commonest stamp used, but how many are there unused? Very few, I should say, except those included in complete sets. So don't reject them unused, as they are bound to rise.

Quite recently, I obtained all the stamps from one of the most extensive general mercantile businesses in Nova Scotia. The stamps were all received during the last few months, and will give a very fair idea of the proportion in which the several issues of 2 cent stamps have been used. For each maple leaf there was one lavender Imperial, one light green Imperial, two dark green Imperials and forty seven numerals.

The above will show how few (if any—Ed.) were reprinted and used. This lot actually contained seven varieties of the Imperial stamps.

Since the first of the year most papers have had something to say against the split provisionals that were used by some postmasters when the 2 cent letter-rate came into force. They all tell us that the government disclaims any authority for their use. Show that their use was not absolutely necessary, before they are termed "fakes" and the result of collectors' genius.

On January 3rd, an envelope came into my possession prepaid with one half a 3 cent stamp and one half a 1 cent stamp and mailed at a town not far from my own

place of residence, so I decided to have an interview with the post master. This is his story. "I received a telegram saying that the 2 cent letter rate would go into force at 12 p. m. December 31, 1898. I had over 1000 three cent, about 200 one cent and only 50 two cent stamps. I at once wrote for 2 cent stamps, but long before they came my supply was exhausted and I knew if I used the 1 cent they would soon follow suit, so the only thing I could do was to split the 3 and 1 cent. Before doing this I communicated with all the neighboring offices but was informed that they had barely enough 2 cent stamps to last until their supply came, or they would have to split three's and one's like myself."

Philatelic Notes.

BY JOHN PELZ.

Although the Spanish War stamps are no longer listed and priced by Scott, I think that the majority of collectors would like to see them reinstated shortly in the Standard Catalogue, as there are many philatelists who still collect them.

I recently discovered two very distinct type varieties of the 1853-60 twenty cent blue on bluish, of France. The chief differences are these: Type I.—The curled ribbon at sides inside the frame are formed of one line. The letter "T" in Postes is of uniform size as the other letters in this word, the circles around the head in frame do not touch the outer circle in white. Type II.—The curled ribbons are formed of two lines. The "T" in Postes is larger than the other letters. The circles around the head touch the outer circle in white.