

stamps, which are expected to arrive shortly."

Then taking the report for Jan. 5, 1852, I find among the accounts of the P. O. Dept. for the quarter ending the 5th Jan, 1852, the following issues;

"By amount of postage stamps on hand	£100
By amount due Rec. Genl for postage stamps	100
consisting of 3 penny to value of	52
" 6 " "	24
" 1 shilling "	24

Also in same report accounts for quarter ending 5th Oct., 1851.

By amount of postage stamps....	£100
" cash paid to Hon. Jos. Howe, being amount remitted by him to Treylayney Saunders, Esq., for postage stamps for Nova Scotia.....	£221 14s. 8d.

These extracts from Post Master General's reports and from Post Office Dept. accounts will positively decide the question as to date of issue.

The three penny, six penny, and one shilling were I should think issued to the public in the second quarter of 1851, and the one penny were probably put out about the last part of 1853.

In the same reports I also found the following:

"To remedy to some extent the serious inconvenience said to be experienced by merchants and others in consequence of there being no seven and one-half penny currency postage stamp, by which, parties who feel desirous could thus prepay their letters to England, and not wishing to put the province to any further expense in having another "die" prepared, I considered it expedient to allow half stamps to be used with those now in use, to obviate the want of accommo-

dation complained of, and a circular was accordingly forwarded to my deputies, and a notice issued to the public to the effect that letters could be prepaid to England by stamps, by parties using a six pence or two three penny stamps together with *half a three penny stamp*. The three penny stamp to be cut *diagonally*, and the half to be equivalent to 1½d. The three penny stamp alone to be used for that purpose."

The three penny stamp I have never seen cut and used in that manner. This order was issued after the reduction of the packet postage to England, from 1 shilling to 7½ pence.

Major Evans, in his catalogue, mentions the three penny surcharged "Paid 5 cents" and also overprinted 5 cents. This I think can be easily explained as will be seen by the following. About 1854 (I think but am not sure) an agreement was entered into between the Post Masters General of Nova Scotia and the United States for the exchange of correspondence between their respective countries. It was agreed upon that the postage should be 5 cents, the Nova Scotian three penny stamp to be equal to that value.

All letters going to the United States from Nova Scotia, west, to be stamped on the face whether they were paid or not, by the office which despatched the mail to the United States. The stamp which was used for that purpose corresponds in all particulars with the supposed surcharges. This stamping I have no doubt has occasionally been done on the postage stamps, and thus those so called surcharges have become known.

All the efforts that I made to find out who first proposed the introduction of