

Kingdom, bearing as it does, however, a perfect proportion to the interior postage, it seems much more reasonable to believe that it was issued as such, and if it were possible to get the views of the old Canadian post office officials, it would be found that it was issued for this purpose, and that English letters were prepaid in cash and stamped so with a hand stamp. It is only reasonable to believe that if this stamp represented the ocean rate to England, that it would be in more demand than it was, as the correspondence between the two countries was always very large.

The theory that the stamp was prepared in 1851, but that it was not issued to postmasters until 1854 is untenable, as see Postmaster General's report for year ending March 31, 1853: "Postage stamps for the prepayment of letters have been issued for sale to the amount shown by the following statement:"

	3d.	6d.	12d.	Total value
On hand April 5, '52.....	32,000	37,000	50,180	£3,845 5 0
Since received from Manfs...	250,000	3,125 0 0
Total.....	280,000	37,000	50,180	£6,970 5 0
Iss'd for sale during year.....	163,000	2,575	100	2,106 17 6
Bal. on hand Mar. 31, '53.....	119,000	34,425	50,080	£4,863 7 6

It will be seen by the above that 100 more 12 pence were issued, and that for the whole only 2,575 6-penny stamps, which shows that not a large number of double rate letters were prepaid by stamps in that year.

The small number of stamps used was due, no doubt, to their being new, and people not being used to them, and, as well as that, they could prepay in money, or have their letter forwarded unpaid.

That the use of stamps was on the increase will be seen by the Postmaster-General's report for the next year, that ending March 31st, 1854.

"The use of stamps in prepayment of postage has materially increased in the last year, and the issue has been as follows:"

	3d.	6d.	12d.	Total value
On hand March 31, '53.....	119,000	34,425	50,080	£4,863 7 0
Since received from Manfs.	250,000	3,125 0 0
Total.....	369,000	34,425	50,080	£7,988 7 0
Issued for sale during year	240,700	10,825	325	3,205 12 6
Bal. on hand, March 31 '53	129,000	23,600	49,755	£4,692 15 0

We thus see 325 more of the 12-penny stamps issued for sale, showing that there was some little demand for them, but, still, bearing to the quantity that would be required for English letters, as the year was especially noted for the quantity sent, and a reduction of postage was asked for on those grounds, and granted, as will be seen by these further extracts from same report.

"In March, 1854, the charge on packet letters between Canada and the United Kingdom and most foreign countries was reduced by the Imperial Government from 1s 2d sterling to 8d sterling per ½ ounce, when sent in the closed mails through the United States, and from 1s to 6d., when sent direct from a provincial port—Quebec and Halifax."

"Should no change be likely soon to take place in the charges on the correspondence with England, it would promote the public convenience to procure postage stamps of the