

The Postage Stamps of P. E. Island, Canada.

Prince Edward Island is situated in the southern portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is separated from the Main Land by the Straits of Northumberland, lying between the parallels of 46° 47' North Latitude, and 62° and 64-30° West Longitude. Its nearest point to the main land is Cape Traverse, which is seven miles distant from Cape Tormentine, in the Province of New Brunswick. In the year 1663 Capt. Doublet, a French naval Officer, obtained a grant of the Island from the Company of New France, and held possession of the Island until the year 1700; but during this period nothing seems to have been done for establishing permanent settlements.

In 1713 it was definitely settled by the French, but seems to have prospered but slowly until 1763, when after a determined war of two years, it was formally ceded to the British Crown by the treaty of Fontainbleau, and has remained so until the present day.

The Island Post offices have issued thirteen denominations of stamps. This does not include the one-cent unperforated.

The first lot which was issued in 1860, consisted of the following five stamps: 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 9d.

The one-penny stamp is of a buff color, with the Queen's Head to the left, having an almost rectangular border, which contains the following inscription:—"Prince Edward Island Postage" along the sides and top, and "one penny" at the bottom.

The two-penny stamps as well as all the remaining issues of P. E. I., with one exception, exhibit the Queen's Head to the left. It is of a rose color, showing the Head in a circle with the same inscription as that found in the 1d stamp.

The three-penny stamp, with the exception of being blue, looks in all respects like its predecessor.

The six-penny stamp, which is of a green type, exhibits the Queen's head in a hexagon border.

The nine-penny lilac is the only specimen in which any perceptible difference is found, it having for its value the following—nine pence currency, equal to six-pence sterling.

In 1869 an addition was made by issuing the four-penny black. It has a fancy border; the words "Prince Edward Island Postage" being on the top, and "four-pence" on the bottom.

The 4½d., brown, which was issued in the year 1870, is the only stamp which does not represent a side view of the Queen's head; instead of this we have a full view of the Queen's head, etc. The head is partly surrounded by an oval border, and the words Prince Edward Island Postage in bold heavy type. In the lower left hand corner we find the following inscription, i.e., 3d stg., opposite it in the right hand corner is found cy. 4½d.

In 1872 the currency of the United States was adopted, and this of course brought about a change in the Postage Stamps. One unperforated and six perforated specimens were thereupon issued; they were much like the earlier