

British Columbia and Vancouver Island issued their first stamp in 1861, and it was of the denomination of $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence, printed in pink, and had the names of both colonies on them. They are found imperforated, and perforated 14, the imperforated being very rare. In fact, I think, without exception, it is the rarest of all B. N. A. stamps, as very few are known to exist.

The next to follow were the 5 cents rose and 10 cents pink of Vancouver Island, and are priced in cents, as the accounts of that colony were kept in dollars and cents from 1862, during which time those of British Columbia were expressed in pence. They were issued about July, 1875, and were typographed on white paper, watermarked a crown and C C, and are found imperforate and perforated 14, like the $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence British Columbians, are much rarer imperforate than perforated. As they were only in use one year when the colonies became united, we can thereby judge the rarity of good used copies, and Scott's price is not too high.

In 1866 we have the 3 pence blue, bearing the names of both colonies, printed in blue, in shades from dark to light, and watermarked crown and C C, and is the commonest of all the British Columbia and Vancouver stamps.

To meet the requirements of the change in currency, in 1867, the decimal series came in use. To save the cost of a new plate, they were all printed from the same plate as the 3 pence blue, only in different colors, and had the values printed at the bottom. The colors are—for the 2 cents, brown; 5 cents, red; 10 cents, rose-pink; 25 cents, orange; \$1, green. The earliest printings are perforated

14, and some measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$. In a later printing they were all perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, except the 2 cents value. The 10 cents and \$1 are found in about the same proportion both ways; the 5, 25 and 50 cents are much scarcer perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

To those making a specialty of B. N. A. stamps, I would advise to fill up their British Columbia as quickly as they can, as the time will surely come when the true value of them will be more generally known, and consequently the prices will advance.

Like most other countries, they are not entirely free from the counterfeiter, but as the printing is so poorly executed, and are on unwatermarked paper, it requires only a comparison with a genuine copy to be able to distinguish the difference.

THE secret mark on the stamps of Queensland consists of a crown and the letter Q, embossed faintly—in fact, being difficult to distinguish. It is nearly the size of the watermark, and is impressed on the center of the stamp. It exists on all the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 pence stamps, on their wmkd. paper.

THE principle difference between the original issue and the re-engraved of the 1854-6 1 pence red stamps of Great Britain, is in the eyelids, which are scarcely visible in the original, and are very plain in the re-engraved series.

WE are somewhat late this month due to waiting for reports as to the amalgamation meetings. We must apologize for this, but the chance of securing a "scoop" was tempting, so much so that we held the paper back a week in order to have the news in the matter of amalgamation.