



THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOV. 26th, 1896.

No. 14

SCOTT'S 57TH ED. PRICES.

These prices will prove interesting reading to our subscribers. Advances in other countries will be noted from week to week in the Canadian Weekly Stamp News.

JAMAICA.		
Wmk Crown and CC.		
1871		
1d blue	25	5
2d rose	75	3
4d vermilion	3 00	40
6d lilac	1 25	12
1sh brown	50	15
3d maroon	20	8

Wmk Crown and CA.		
1883 Perf 14.		
1d blue	3 50	25
2d carmine	6 00	25

LABUAN.		
Wmk Crown and CA. sideways.		
1879 Perf 14.		
2c green	18 00	25 00
6c orange	10 00	12 50
12c red	50 00	40 00
16c blue	3 00	10 00

Wmk Crown and CC. upright.		
1890-82		
2c green	50	1 75
5c orange	3 00	7 50
8c red	1 35	1 60
12c red	7 50	10 00
16c blue	3 50	7 50
8c on 12c red	15 00	18 00
8c on 12c red	11 00	20 00
8c on 12c red (eight cents)	1 15	3 20

LAGOS.		
Wmk Crown and CC.		
1874-75 Perf 12 1/2.		
2d blue	4 00	1 50
3d brown	6 00	2 50
4d rose	7 50	3 00
6d green	6 00	1 25
1sh orange	20 00	3 00
1875 Perf 11.		
1d lilac	1 25	85
2d blue	1 00	85
4d rose	18 00	1 25
6d green	2 50	1 25
1sh orange	23 00	7 50

Wmk Crown and CA.		
1882		
1d lilac	30	90
2d blue	12 00	1 85
3d brown	1 50	60

4d rose	12 00	2 00
1sh orange	1 50	1 00
1885-6		
2d gray	75	75
4d lilac	2 00	1 25
2sh 6d olive brown	35 00	
5sh blue	50 00	
10sh brown violet	100 00	

A LITTLE HISTORY.

There are a great many issues of stamps which have a history unknown to the average stamp collector. It is very interesting indeed to know the cause or reason why such and such an issue was brought into use, and since there have been a large number of what are to the uninterested, recalled for changes in the issues of the stamps of Canada since their first appearance in 1850, I shall in this short article endeavor to give a list of reasons for the most prominent issues and varieties.

The 12 pence was issued to prepay letter postage to Great Britain but was in use only for a short time when the postal rates were greatly reduced, and the 6 pence sterling stamp was put into use, this value being a British denomination was equal to 7 1/2 pence in Canadian currency, a shilling being equivalent to one shilling and three pence of Canadian currency.

These early issues (1851-57) are records of the transition state of the monetary systems of the then Province of Canada, the stamps in many instances showing the decimal as well as the old currency. At this time if the letters were sent through the United States the postage was 8 pence sterling or 10 pence Canadian currency, which was cause for issue of the last mentioned denomination in 1855. A year or so later, the rates for postage to Great Britain, not changed, the 7 1/2 green stamp was introduced.

When the decimal currency (dollars

and cents) were adopted the 6 pence sterling—7 1/2 pence currency, was changed to 12 1/2 cents (1859) green. The 8 pence sterling—10 pence currency—was represented by the 17 cent (1859) blue, it was in this year the monetary denominations were all changed.

In 1862 during the course of the civil war in the United States, some trouble arose between that country and Great Britain which required the presence of British troops in the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, for a very uncertain length of time, and as these troops were brought from the British Isles, where it was customary always to allow soldiers' letters to go or come, to or from any part of the world at the rate of one penny per half ounce; the privilege was demanded by the two or three thousand men sent here. The various Governments decided as they none of them had a stamp of the denomination required—two cents—new dies should be obtained, which very soon resulted in the issue of the 2 cent of the respective Provinces. Strange as it may seem not one hundredth part of these stamps which were issued specially for the purpose were used as letter postage, the soldiers preferring to use the 5 cent stamp which contained a representation of the emblem of Canada, the beaver. This was a rather strange affair as they had to pay five cents in cash for that stamp, as only the 2 cent was kept at the regimental post-offices; but maybe they took a fancy for the beaver.

The stamps of the Prince Edward Island to many seem to be odd in denomination; but the fact that the currency not only differed from that of Great Britain but also from the rest of Canada as it were; the shilling of the island province was only worth about 8 pence sterling, and in the decimal currency issues the denomination had to be higher to be on a par value with the other provinces.

The shilling of Nova Scotia, commonly known as the Halifax shilling as also the Halifax currency, was only equal to 20 cents Canada or 10 pence British, New Brunswick being so near Nova Scotia used the monetary values, mostly altogether of the latter.