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A HISTORY AND CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN POSTAGE AND REVENUES.

BY "JEP."

IT is the humble opinion of the writer that no greater value for stamps exists than their historical connection, and that in the race for new specimens and minor varieties, many collectors overlook the study of the uses of the stamps they collect, being perfectly satisfied to know the catalogue name of the stamp or set of stamps, and peruse the matter no further. It is therefore with the hope that a greater interest in the uses and connections of the various stamps of British North America will be created that this historical catalogue has been compiled.

British North America is the cognomen for what is now the Dominion of Canada and the island of Newfoundland. The name Canada was originally given by the French to all the present Canadian territory, and also to a portion of the United States, embraced by the Ohio river on the south and the Mississippi on the west. Latterly this name was the title of the St. Lawrence and Great Lake country, and as this applied to Upper and Lower Canada, which were formed as these Provinces in 1791. In 1840 they were again united politically, and at the time of Confederation, the name passed into that of the Dominion, and what was Upper and Lower Canada, became the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

On March 29th, 1867, an Act for the Confederation of the British Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick was passed, and on July 1st of same year became law. In 1869 the Hudson Bay territories entered Confederation, British Columbia in 1871, and Prince Edward Island in 1873, and at no distant date Newfoundland will be admitted.

The government of the Dominion consists of the Queen's representative in the person of the Governor-General; an Upper House called the Senate, the members of which are appointed by the Governor-General, and hold their positions for life; a Lower House termed the House of Commons, the members being elected by popular vote. The area of the Dominion is estimated at about 2,500,000 square miles, and the population nearly 5,000,000.

With this brief sketch of the general history of Canada we can the more intelligently, but as briefly, outline the postal history.

The early Provincial postal systems were under the control of the Postmaster-General of Great Britain. Later the Provinces had charge themselves, and on Confederation occurring, postal affairs in their entirety passed into the hands of the Dominion government. It will, therefore, be seen that the stamps of British North America are to be classified under three Governmental heads—Colonial, Provincial, and Dominion issues. It may be of interest to here note the matters that come under Dominion control. They