

## A Short History of Canadian Stamps.

THE year 1900 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps as a means of prepaying postage on letters. In 1840 Great Britain issued its first stamp. Brazil followed in 1843, and the United States in 1847.

The first Canadian stamps were issued in 1851. They were of three denominations, three pence, six pence, and twelve pence. They may be described as follows:—Three pence, oblong in shape, head in centre, surmounted by a crown, and letters "V.R.," color red. Six pence has portrait of the Prince Consort in perpendicular oval frame, color purple. The twelve pence bears a crowned head of Queen Victoria, enclosed in a perpendicular oval frame, "Canada Packet Postage" at top, "Twelve Pence" at bottom, color black. The latter is one of the rarest stamps in the world, as much as \$500 having been paid for a good specimen. In 1855 another stamp was issued, viz., the ten pence. It was ornamented with the head of Jacques Cartier in perpendicular oval frame, "Canada Postage" above, "Ten Pence" below, "8d. stg." in upper corners, "10d. cy." in lower corners, color deep blue. In 1857 two other values were printed, the half-penny and seven pence halfpenny. The halfpenny has head of Queen Victoria to left in oval frame, color pink. The 7½ pence bears a portrait of the Queen similar to the twelve pence stamp, "6d stg." in left hand corners, "7½d cy." in right hand corners, color green. Up to this date all stamps were issued imperforated. In 1858 the 3d, 3d and 6d were issued perforated.

In 1859, owing to the change in currency from £ s. d. to \$ and cts., a new set of stamps was issued, consisting of five values, designs similar to previous issue, the value of each being expressed in cents. The 1 cent same design as the 12d, 5 cent same as 3d, 10 cents same as 6d, 12½ cents same as 7½d, and 17 cents same as 10d. All were perforated. In 1864 a 2 cent stamp was issued similar in design to the preceding 1 cent, color pink.

In 1867 the Dominion of Canada was formed, and in the following year a new set appeared, consisting of 12c. black, 1c. brown red, 2c. green, 3c. red, 6c. brown, 12½c. blue, and 15c. violet. The color of the 1c. stamp of this issue was changed to yellow in 1869. In 1869-72 the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 6c. stamps were reduced in size, the designs being much the same as preceding issue. A 10 cent stamp was also added, color rose-lilac. In 1875 was issued a 5 cent stamp, color olive-green, of same size and similar design to 1868 emissions. This stamp is a comparatively rare one, as it was shortly reduced in size to conform with the other denominations.

Registration stamps were issued in 1875. They consisted of three varieties: 12c. orange, 5c. green, and 8c. blue.

In 1882 the 12c. black in use since 1868 was made much smaller. In 1892-93 were issued a 20c. vermilion and 50c. blue, both somewhat larger than the lower values, also an 8c.

stamp of the ordinary size, color slate. This stamp was designed to cover both postage and registration on ordinary letters, so that the special stamps issued for registered letters were withdrawn.

In 1897 came the famous Jubilee issue, consisting of 16 denominations. They were oblong in shape and of one design, viz., two oval frames, side by side, containing portraits of Her Most Gracious Majesty at two stages of her life; one in 1837, at the time of her ascension to the throne, and the other as she appeared in 1897, after a reign of sixty years. The values and colors were as follows: 12c. black, 1c. yellow, 2c. green, 3c. red, 5c. blue, 6c. brown, 8c. violet, 10c. violet-brown, 15c. blue, 20c. vermilion, 50c. blue, \$1 red, \$2 purple, \$3 brown, \$4 purple, and \$5 olive. These are the stamps in use at the present time, but a slight alteration is being made by substituting the figure of value for the maple leaves in the lower corners.

## MONTREAL NOTES.

BY GEO. F. WISEMAN.

The stamp business is rather dull here in this city at present though dealers say that business this season through the summer months has been remarkably good—much better than last summer. They predict a good fall trade and I am inclined to agree with them.

I had the privilege of examining one of Needham's new Canadian Revenue albums a short time ago and I must say it is a real up-to-date book and a credit to the enterprising dealer who publishes it. It supplies a long felt want and will undoubtedly have a large sale among those who are interested in our beautiful Revenues.

By the way, speaking of this Album a very pleasing feature is the artistic manner in which the blank spaces are arranged. It requires to be seen to be appreciated and altogether it adds much to the appearance of the stamps when mounted.

This dealer has also issued a Catalogue of Canadian Revenues which is a companion to the Album. It is a neat compact little book and is nicely and clearly printed on medium paper. The prices are on an average just about 1/2 of Hall's although in a few instances, particularly unused bills, the prices are somewhat higher.

An amusing instance of the curious light in which Philatelists are regarded by some people came to my notice a week or so ago. When passing one of our leading dealers' office, on street car, the conductor having collected all the "fares" happened to look up and see the dealer's name etc. printed in large letters about his office. The conductor seemed lost in reflection for a while then he turned to an acquaintance on the car and said he couldn't understand how anyone could make enough money out of old stamps to pay for all that display, unless it was by removing the post marks and using them over again. What a libel on stamp dealers! I was about to enlighten him on the subject when I checked myself with the old adage "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise."

## CANADIAN NOTES.

BY JUBILEE.

The most complete catalogue of Canadian Revenues issues is the one lately published by Chas. Needham and Co. of Montreal. There are four hundred and fifty nine varieties listed including many telegraph stamps.

The Canadian Post Office department has lately made a new parcel post arrangement with Russia. Hereafter parcels for Russia will be sent "via Hamburg" the rate being 58 cents per pound, or \$1.62 for 11 pounds, which is the limit of weight.

The issuance of a 4 and 7 cent stamp of Canada to pay double postage and registration at the imperial rate, is contemplated by the government.

The Special Delivery stamp seems to be a failure. About 10 stamps are used per day but of course many are sold to collectors and dealers.

The Post Office department has now in preparation the high value numeral issue, 15c. to \$5.00, which will be placed on sale as soon as the jubilees and old issue are exhausted.

Revenue collectors should complete their sets of Canadian Revenues at an early date, as there has been an immense sale of all classes of these stamps since the appearance of the jubilees and new issues and the present prices cannot long prevail.

The Postmaster General has issued a notice to postmasters, stating that the 3 cent envelope, letter card and stamp will become obsolete, and that all 3 cent stamps will be surcharged two cents.

Collectors who specialize in the stamps of British North America now have an album for their favorites. The album is issued by Chas. Needham and Co. of Montreal and contains spaces for revenue stamps.

The 2c. red has appeared. It was printed about August 21st.

It looks as if the 3 cent envelope and letter card might be scarce, as almost all unused ones were surcharged.

Nearly all Canada jubilees cancelled bring half of face except the 3 cent value.

Some collectors (and others) think our 2 cent Imperial stamp very large and they are not in very great demand for postal use, but the United States Newspaper stamp of 1865 put it completely in the shade. The newspaper stamp measures 2 by 4 inches.

The abolition of the penny postage stamp in Great Britain is the latest proposal that has been made to the post office for the improvement of the system. It is suggested that a form of automatic machine should be employed, with a slit into which the letter should be inserted. When the penny is placed in a slot the machine will stamp the letter and obviate the use of ordinary postage stamps.

Canada 2 cent purple envelope is going down in price as low as 50 cents which is nearer the true value.