

The Canada Stamp Sheet.

Devoted more particularly to the interests of the Collector of British
North American Postage and Revenue Stamps.

VOL. I, No. 6.

FEBRUARY 15th, 1901.

5 Cents.

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THE CANADA STAMP COMPANY.

592 John Street, - - - QUEBEC.

The Canada Stamp Sheet.

Published at 592 John Street, Quebec,
On the 15th of each month.

BY W. G. L. PAXMAN.

Entered at Quebec P. O. as second class matter.

Price 5 Cents per Copy.

Subscription Rates, 25 cents per year in the U. S., Canada and Mexico. All foreign countries 45 cents per year.

ADVERTISEMENTS 5 CENTS PER LINE.

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SPACE	1 MO.	3 MO.	6 MO.	1 YR.
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QUEBEC, FEBRUARY, 15th, 1901.

THE LEATHER CHAIR.

At 6.55 p. m. on January 22nd, 1901, at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, passed away our much beloved sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, Empress of India, at the ripe old age of 81 years, 3 months and twenty-nine days.

Canada, the United States, and in short the people of every clime have heard the news with the deepest sorrow. To the sons and daughters of England more particularly the death of the Queen comes as an overwhelming affliction. The great loving heart of the sovereign mother has ceased to throb, her words of pity, consolation and sympathy will no longer be heard by the distressed and sorrowful, but the memory of her life and kindly deeds will ever remain bright and shining in the hearts of all.

How will the accession of Edward the Seventh to the throne of England affect philately, is the question that is being asked on all sides by lovers of the science. It is perhaps a little early to make a reliable forecast of what is to come, but it seems but reasonable to expect that the advent of a new ruler will naturally lead to a fresh issue of stamps all along the line.

So far as our Canadians are concerned, it has been rumoured for some time past that the plates used in the manufacture of some of the denominations, the one and two cents for instance, are so worn as to be almost useless. That steps will be taken immediately by the Ottawa authorities to have these old plates replaced by new ones bearing the portrait of the King must be taken for granted.

There is little doubt but that a great rush will now be made by collectors to fill in the blanks in their albums with stamps of the reign of Her Late Majesty. That this large demand will bring up prices is to be expected. Holders of these stamps, particularly of the older issues, are not likely to throw them away at this juncture and an immediate stiffening of the market may be looked for. It would not be surprising if the prices given in Scott's 1901 Catalogue should be maintained net, and in some few cases a premium on these prices demanded.

Dealers, as a rule, report that the month of January was an exceptionally good one in the way of stamp sales. Generally orders begin to flow in with the beginning of February, but this year collectors appear to have taken up their albums much earlier.

In any case the prediction that

1901 is to be a boom year in the stamp line seems about to be fulfilled.

We are glad to say that the circulation of the "Canada Stamp Sheet" is growing day by day. Quite a large number of our century issue reached collectors who had not seen the monthly before, and the response to our appeal for new subscribers is very gratifying. Twenty-five cents in stamps brings the Sheet to your home for twelve months. Do not delay, but oblige us with your name to-day.

The practice of cutting ad. rates to please certain patrons is, in our opinion, a most undesirable and unfair one. Is not one dealer's money as good as his neighbor's, and why should the latter be better treated than the former? "The Canada Stamp Sheet" has one rate for all, and that is very reasonable considering its circulation and prompt service given. Dependence may be placed on its reaching the post office on the 15th of each month, and this feature should commend itself to every business man. Rush in your orders for space before the 7th of each month.

THE PRUNING HOOK AND SHEARS.

The report that a speculator had bought up from the Hawaii post office the entire lot of stamps remaining on hand at the time of its annexation to the United States is unfounded. It is understood that these stamps are to be destroyed shortly at Washington.

* * *

The Manchester, England, Post Office Employees had their hands full at Christmas, some 6,325,000 letters, having been handled and delivered in that city. Nearly half a million parcels or about 45,000 more than last year, were sent out.

The well known philatelist, Mr. Wells, whose fine collection of plate numbers was utterly ruined, so as not even to be available for postal purposes, in the Tar rant fire in New-York, in November, has recovered the full amount of the face of the damaged stamps from the Post Office Department.

* * *

Now that the collecting of pre-cancelled stamps has become so general it may be interesting to note the post office requirements in their regard, which are as follows:—

The concern desiring to use the pre-cancelled stamps makes application to the local postmaster, and if there seems to be no valid ground for objection, permission is granted. At the time the application is made it is to be specified what value stamps are desired. The firm then buys the desired number of sheets of stamps, and a sworn official of the Government is detailed to be a party to the pre-cancelling. This may be done by means of a rubber stamp, or by running the sheets through a printing press. Then the stamps are *affixed* in the presence of the Post Office official, the number of pieces of mail corresponding with the number of stamps purchased.

* * *

The United States has declined to join with Great Britain in arranging for penny postage.

* * *

Scott's Standard for 1901 is practically a reproduction of the old catalogue with the necessary additions of new issues. Prices have not been changed materially, although a number of the cheaper U. S. revenues of the first issue have been considerably advanced in price, as also have many of the stamps of South Africa. Although the book is well printed, the binding is not as good as in previous years. Very thin covers have been used which overlap the edges of the book so far that they are likely to become badly creased and bent in the mails.

* * *

A \$50,000.00 mortgage of the Third Avenue Railroad was recorded a few days ago in the Register's Office of Westchester County. It was decorated with twenty-five one thousand dollars revenue stamps.

WATERMARKS ON PAPER.

BY FOSSIL.

Amongst the curiosities connected with the manufacture of paper none are more interesting than the water-marks on paper. From an early period in the history of the manufacture these marks have been used. It is in 1330 we first find a manufacturer's symbol; it is a ram's face, and this figure seems to suggest that wool might be one of the fibres used in the preparation of the paper. Holland gives evidence of the use of water-marks rather earlier than this—1301; among the memorials preserved at the Hague there is an account-book, the paper of which has a water-mark of a circle or globe surmounted by a cross; while on some paper of a little later date appears a rude representation of a jug or pot. The globe and jug are consequently the most ancient marks as yet discovered. The next specimen is from the paper on which is written the account of one of our own countrymen, Henry Burghersh, Bishop of Lincoln of the expenses of an embassy in which he was employed in the year 1337. The mark is very like a pear.

By means of these marks we obtain certain fixed points, and they render great assistance in determining the age of manuscripts of great importance. The mark of the manufacturer has often been found of use in the detection of literary forgeries. This most ingenious and admirable invention was introduced into Europe by the Spaniards, but the originators of it are veiled in obscurity. The marks of the fourteenth century were for the most part very rudely executed. The most noteworthy amongst these, besides those already mentioned, were a circle enclosing the letter S lying longitudinally, surmounted by a fleur-de-lis; a circle containing what appears to be letter h, and a straight line as if suspended by a thread; 'a can and reaping-hook,' which appears on a letter dated 1353, written by Edward van Gelre to the Zutphen magistrates; the 'Two Cans,' 1384; the 'Human Head,' 1386; and the 'Half-lily,' 1390. At the commencement of the sixteenth century the marks begin to present a symmetrical and artistic appearance.

The oldest document or paper as yet discovered with a mark is the account-book of 1301, supposed to be manufactured out of linen rags by the Holbein

family at Ravensburg. Except this particular specimen, all paper manufactured by the Holbeins bears the 'Bull's Head,' doubtless taken from the coat-of-arms of that family, whereas, as we have already stated, this account-book is marked with the 'Globe and Cross.' The Globe and Jug are the most ancient mark as yet discovered; and these, together with the Post-horn, which appeared about 1376, became by the end of the fourteenth century the principal marks on paper manufactured in the Low Countries, whence they spread during the ensuing hundred years to Gouda and Delft.

Paper, as a rule, without any characteristic sign is the oldest; since the water mark signifies a certain progress in the art of paper-making. Other noteworthy marks are: a sprig with leaves and a fruit or flower; a drawn bow with an arrow; a perpendicular line with stars at each extremity between two circles; the letter R ensigned by a cross; two crescents through which a perpendicular line passes, terminating at each end; a cross, a bull's face, a demi-griffin, a pair of balances, the unicorn, an anchor, and 'P' and 'Y,' the initials being those of Philip of Burgundy and his wife Isabella, whose name at the time would be usually spelled with a Y. The Duke married Isabella in 1430, and before that date P only is found; after that date, P and Y. Caxton seems to have used paper chiefly obtained from the Low Countries, and in addition to the 'Bull's Head' and the 'P' and 'Y' there will also be found the 'Open Hand' worked on the paper on which the *Golden Legend* was printed in 1483, and also the 'Unicorn.' Other paper employed by this famous printer came from Germany, since in his *Recueil of the History of Troy* (1468) there appears the 'Bunch of Grapes,' which was a German mark. In the *Game of Chess* the paper bears evidence of Italian origin, as there is the mark of an 'Anchor enclosed by a Circle.' The 'Dolphin and Anchor' was a very famous mark, and after the 'Bull's Head,' perhaps the best known; the reason for this being because the device was extensively used by Aldo Manuzio, who has thus perpetuated to our day the ancient symbol of the city of Venice.

Many of these water-marks have determined the names of the different-sized papers. For instance, the post horn was the mark of a paper now called Post paper, the texture and size of which have been little altered. Then there is the

fleur-de-lis of the Demy, which also retains its primitive device and nearly its proportions. There is little doubt that the Fool's Cap gave name to the paper now distinguished by that singular epithet, although it has resigned its mark and adopted various others, such as Britannia, and the Cap of Liberty on a pole. Many of the water-marks for a considerable period have been emblematic, so to speak, of the subject-matter of the book. One of the early Strasburg Bibles, although it contains the common 'Bull's Head,' yet adopts a 'regal crown' on those pages which were devoted to the printing of the two Books of Kings. In the *Berlingheri Geographia*, the pages will when held to the light be found to be embellished with ships, ladders, arrows, and other figures symbolical of discovery and speed. At the present time, nearly every manufacturer has his own special device, so that any attempt to form a collection would be a task of immense labour. 'Paper-mark' is the more correct term to be used in speaking of these marks, since they are merely ornamental figures in wire or thin brass sewn upon the wires of the mould, and like those wires, they leave an impression, by rendering the paper where it lies on them thinner and more translucent. The manufacture of paper intended to be distinguished by a mark requires three contrivances—the sieve, cross-wires, and the mark or mould; to the second of which are to be ascribed the upright or transverse lines; and to the latter the particular figure or ornament of which it is the counterpart. These contrivances have in recent years been improved upon, so that sladed water-marks of the most artistic forms can now be produced.

As in the human countenance, while a general conformity of design exists, there is nevertheless sufficient distinctness to mark the identity of the individual; so among paper-marks, the various species or families, as they may be termed, while consisting of the same general figure or design, present a variety of minor characteristics by which they may be particularised. We have alluded to the names given to denote various kinds of papers, which are curious and in many instances absurd terms. In ancient times, when comparatively few people could read, pictures of every kind were much in use where writing would now be employed. Every shop, for instance, had its sign as every public-house; and those signs were

not then, as they are now, only painted upon a board, but were invariably actual models of the thing which the sign expressed. For the same reason, printers employed some device, which they put upon the title-pages and at the end of books; and paper-makers also introduced marks by way of distinguishing the paper of their manufacture from that of others, which marks becoming common, naturally gave their names to different sorts of paper. And since names often remain long after the origin of them is forgotten and circumstances are changed, it is not surprising to find the old names still in use, though in some cases they are not applied to the same things which they originally denoted. The same change which has so much diminished the number of painted signs in the streets of our towns and cities, has nearly made paper-marks a matter of antiquarian curiosity, the maker's name being now generally used, and the mark, in the few instances where it still remains, serving the purpose of mere ornament rather than that of distinction.

It is perhaps too well known to collectors for their pocket's sake, that postage stamps on water-marked paper bring from five to fifty times the price of the same stamps on ordinary paper. Take the 1868 mint issue of Canada for instance.

The 1 and 2c. on wove paper is quoted by Scott at 75c., on watermarked paper \$10; the 3c. wove, 85c., watermarked, \$10; the 6c. wove, \$2, watermarked, \$15; the 12½c. wove, \$1.50, watermarked, \$15; the 15c. wove, 50c., watermarked, \$25.

From my Note Book.

E. R. ALDRICH.

In 1895, a writer in the *Eastern Philatelist* described an unsevered pair of 4c black 1882 stamps so perforated that they varied in width, one being 14mm. across while the other was 16mm. This could only be accounted for by some accident to the managing of the perforating machine.

In 1856, no less than three different postal rates prevailed between Canada and Great Britain. The cheapest 7½d. was for letter endorsed *via* Halifax and went by Cl. per sailing from that point; the next, 10d. was by British Packet sailing from U. S. port, and the third rate

QUERY AND REPLY COLUMN.

Ray P. Concord.—The Ocean Post Office to which you refer must be the one in the Magellan Straits, which has done duty for years. It consists of a small cask which is chained to the rocks of the extreme cape in the straits, opposite Tierra del Fuego.

Each passing ship sends a boat to open the cask and take the letters out and place others in it. The post office is self acting, and is under the protection of all the navies of all nations, and at last accounts there was not a single case to report in which any abuse of the privilege it affords had taken place.

C. L. Elgin.—It is hardly correct to call the two cent purple Canada envelope of 1898-99 an error. This envelope was issued in the regular way at the time when the ordinary two cent postage stamp was printed in purple, but awaiting the exhaustion of the old two cent in green, was not immediately supplied to postmasters.

It must be borne in mind that the two cent envelope was primarily intended, and in fact was seldom used in any other way than for drop letters in the cities of the Dominion.

A few hundreds only of the purple envelopes had been sent out when the new two cent letter rate took effect in Canada, and in accordance with the Postal Union agreement the two cent postage stamp and envelope were afterwards printed in red instead of purple. As but a small quantity of the purple envelopes fell into the hands of the public they are not easily picked up to-day, and specimens are therefore quoted high.

J. R. Como.—All the plates, dies, etc., of Newfoundland stamps, of the issues of 1866 to 1896, in possession of the American Bank Note Co., of New York, were destroyed about this time last year. Among the plates were the 6c pink, 12c brown, 13c orange and 24c blue. As the plates in possession of the British American Bank Note Company, of Montréal were destroyed several months before and also the plates of the Cabots, there will be no further reprints of Newfoundland.

S. B. Como.—We believe the following to be a complete list of the Colonies of Great Britain which have issued stamps bearing a portrait of Queen Victoria.

Bahamas, Bermuda, Bechuanaland Protectorate, British Honduras, Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Fiji Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Grenada, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Natal, Newfoundland, New South Wales, Niger Coast, Queensland, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Australia, Straits Settlements, Tasmania, Trinidad, Victoria and Western, Australia.

All the above still issue stamps, but in the following Colonies, special stamps, are no longer used:—Antigua, British Columbia and Vancouver Islands, Dominica, Heligoland, Ionian Island, Montserrat, Nevis, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and St. Kitts.

Six Colonies—Barbados, Mauritius, Turk's Islands, Labuan, Transvaal and New Zealand—have at one period or another issued stamps bearing Queen Victoria's portrait, but no longer do so.

ON THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN.

Come Britons come and with me mourn
Our widowed Queen's demise,
Our Empire' Queen who in her tomb
So silently now lies.

Your heartfelt mourning robes put on,
With them the soul adorn,
Thus for her will we grieve as one
The chief of women born.

A noble type of womanhood,
With virtuous thoughts refined
Drawn from the fountain of all good
Deep in the heart enshrined.

The wisdom which does life prolong
Was bountifully given,
Which led her safely all along
The path that reaches heaven.

Within its sacred portals, we
Believe she liveth there,
And with the saints eternally
Eternal joy shall share.

CHARLES BENTLEY, Quebec.

OTTAWA NOTES.

The letter carriers of Canada have addressed a petition to the Postmaster General, setting forth that the cost of living has increased since the inauguration of the free delivery system in 1874, and asking for an increase of 20 per cent in their pay. They begin at \$360 a year and work up to \$600. The increase asked for would bring the maximum to \$720. The hours of labor are from 8 to 10 per day. This agitation has been started at different times during a period of some years past, but the prospects for an increase in salaries are considered to be better now than before.

Robbers broke into the Hull Post Office on the night of the 27th ult. and either took away or tore up all the letters they could lay their hands on which were supposed to contain money and ransacked the place generally. The safe was left untouched. An entrance was effected in the back of the building by breaking open a shutter. The authorities believe that they are on the track of the culprits. The latter, very foolishly for themselves, have passed in Hull several of Mr. Gilmour's orders taken from the Post Office and the police hope to be able by these to secure the robbers. Shortly before noon on the following day, Chief Genest had a young man arrested on the charge of breaking into the Post Office. Several letters and chaques were found on his person. The prisoner is well known in Hull and comes of a very respectable family, for which much sympathy is felt.

POSTAL REFORM.

The postal revenue of Canada has now fully recovered from the effects of the reduction of the foreign and domestic letter rates. In 1896-7 before the accidental drop from three to two cents the revenue was \$3,202,938. The Jubilee stamp speculations swelled the receipts of 1897-8 to \$3,527,809, but in 1898-9 they dropped to \$3,193,777, under the influence of cheaper postage. This gave the progress of postal reform a temporary check, which has, however, been quite overcome by the results of the past year. The receipts for 1900 reached \$3,205,585 and may be considered normal. There is still a deficit, which amounts for the past year to \$652,479, but it is a deficit to which we have long been accustomed and, in spite of cheaper postage, is smaller than the shortage of \$536,540 shown by the ac-

counts for 1896. The "accident" by which the two cent rate was secured is still quite familiar to the public. The Postmaster General decided one fine morning that he would do a good stroke of business for the flag, and, perhaps, for the party too, by reducing the rate on letters between Canada and the Empire from five cents a half ounce to two cents. So he dashed off a proclamation, beginning with his famous "I William Mulock," which decreed and brought the change into effect. Soon afterwards he discovered that the matter was regulated by international treaty, and that the rates cannot be changed by a mere proclamation from "I, William Mulock." By following carefully the instructions of those who knew the law the Postmaster-General was able eventually to bring the change into effect, and a very good one it was. He soon discovered that however much the people of Canada might like to communicate cheaply with New Zealand, they were far more anxious for cheap postage between the different parts of their own country. The absurdity of charging only two cents for a letter going ten thousand miles and three cents for one carried five miles forced the P. M. G. to another reform, namely, the extension of the two cent rate to Canada. He did not, however, see any reason why such a reduction should be made on letters going to the United States until it was pointed out that under the law the domestic rate in both countries is also the rate that must prevail between them. Thus the third step in the reform of the postal rates was taken, unwillingly it may be, but irretrievably beyond a doubt. Thanks to this chapter of accidents postage was cheapened, and as the figures show the public treasury is now as well off as it would be if the old rates still prevailed. Like a true reformer, the Postmaster-General is now looking for other worlds to conquer. He is inquiring into the proposed rural free delivery, by means of which the peripatetic post office will pass every farm in the country at stated intervals, delivering and collecting mail matter. The idea is an attractive one, and as it is being utilized in the United States with success we may soon witness its introduction into Canada. The Postmaster-General is certainly enterprising. The results of his ventures so far ought to encourage him to make further reforms.

Quebec Chronicle.

WHAT IS A POST LETTER?

A very important legal point of interest to all who are in any way interested in the working and efficiency of the post office, was raised at the preliminary trial on the 26th ult. before Judge Chauveau of a Quebec letter carrier named Trepanier accused of robbing the mails.

The charge against the prisoner, read as follows:—"Accused of having stolen a post letter with the sum of \$4.50 enclosed in it, the property of the Postmaster-General."

The prisoner's Attorney, Mr. Lane, claimed.

1. "That the letter in question was not a letter:

2. "That it was not a letter entrusted to the post."

In support of these two points, the Attorney for accused quoted many definitions of a post letter, among others the definition found in the Revised Statutes of Canada, Vol. 1, Ch. 35, Art. 2, Sec. 1, that says:

"The expression 'post letter' means any letter transmitted or deposited in any post office to be transmitted by the post or delivered through the post, or deposited in any letter box put up anywhere under the authority of the Postmaster-General, to be transmitted or delivered through the post; and a letter shall be deemed a post letter from the time of its being so deposited or delivered at a post office, to the time of its being delivered to the person to whom it is addressed; and a delivery to any person authorized to receive letters for the post, shall be deemed a delivery at the post office; and a delivery of any letter or any other mailable matter at the house or office of the person to whom the letter is addressed, or to him or his servant or agent, or other person considered to be authorized to receive the letter or other mailable matter, according to the usual manner of delivering that person's letters, shall be a delivery to the person addressed."

Consequently, so that a document be a post letter, it has to be mailed and transmitted through the post. It is a communication sent from one party to another. It can be a business letter, commercial letter, friendly letter, etc.

Did the document taken by Trepanier answer these dispositions required by the Code to constitute a "post letter"? No. It was simply a document placed in an

envelope. It had been forged in the post office. Supposed persons were created and their names attached to the said document. It bore the post mark of Murray Bay post office, and a stamp, once used, was made use of, so as to give the fictitious letter all the appearances of a post letter. Hence the supposed letter in question was not a post letter, but only a document placed in a bundle of letters to try the honesty of the accused.

Since there was no letter, the accused could not be sentenced to stand his trial for having stolen a post letter, when no such letter ever existed.

In support of the stand thus taken, Mr. Lane quoted many cases of a similar strain among others, Regina vs. Rathbone, Regina vs. Young, and Regina vs. Gardner. The first mentioned, Regina vs. Rathbone is analogous to the present case.

Rathbone was suspected of having stolen letters out of the bag and keeping them. The post office officials invented a letter and placed a marked sovereign in it. The letter was dropped in with the letters that Rathbone had to deliver. The letter disappeared and the marked sovereign was found in Rathbone's possession. Two accusations were brought against him: one of having stolen a post letter, and the other minor offence of stealing a sovereign. Fifteen English Judges declared that the first accusation could not be maintained, because the fictitious letter was not a "post letter." The gist of the offence being that a letter should be posted in the ordinary way, otherwise the letter sent was not a post letter.

The other cases quoted by Mr. Lane were of the same nature, all showing that the prisoner could not be condemned for stealing a post letter and of thus violating the Postal Laws.

Mr. L. Brunet, on behalf of the Crown, contended that it made no difference whether the letter was a postal letter or not; the facts were there to speak for themselves. The prisoner had the intention of breaking the law.

The defendant's Attorney, replied, in this case then, that Trepanier would have to be accused of stealing \$4.50 and not of breaking the Postal Law. In answer to the Crown's contention that it made no difference, Mr. Lane made the case clear by the following illustration: A man burns

a shed, and for this is accused of murder. If the accusation of murder is allowed to stand when it should be an accusation of burning a shed, the result would be that the prisoner would stand his trial in a case wherein he was liable to be hanged, while in the case of an accusation for setting fire to a shed, simple imprisonment would follow, if convicted.

So it is in Trepanier's case. If the present accusation is maintained, and he is sent to stand his trial for breaking the Postal Law instead of stealing \$450, the result will be that instead of being condemned for a few months, he would be liable to imprisonment for life.

Judgment was reserved, and subsequently it was decided to make the case a reserve one for the full Court of King's Bench in February.

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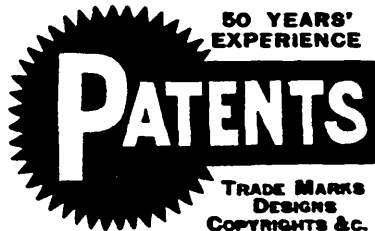
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