

The Perforator

The Newsletter of the British North America Philatelic Society Perfin Study Group

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1 May 1990

Perfin S9: The Steel Company of Canada

by Bob Traquair

The Steel Company of Canada was created by Letters of Patent on 8 June 1910 as a consolidation of five companies:

Montreal Rolling Mills Company (perfin M22)

Hamilton Steel and Iron Company

Canada Screw Company

Canada Bolt and Nut Company

Dominion Wire Manufacturing Company

Genealogy of the Founding Companies:

Montreal Rolling Mills

In the 18th century, nails were a much prized commodity. John Bigelow opened a small workshop in the St. Laurent suburb of Montreal sometime in the 1790s, becoming Canada's first nail manufacturer. He was joined by his son, Thomas. In 1839, their company, The City Nail and Spike Works, employed twenty men and five horse-powered nail machines. They subsequently moved to the Lachine Canal area and by 1856 employed 50 men and produced 2500 tons of nails and spikes per year.

In 1868 the line of Bigelow male heirs ran out. Randolph Hersey, from Ohio, had previously joined the Bigelows as foreman and had made an investment of \$1000 in the business. In May 1868, Hersey and John Pillow, a Bigelow son-in-law, formed a partnership to operate the business.

Montreal Rolling Mills Co. purchased in 1902 Pillow-Hersey Company and Hodgson Iron and Tube Company, a firm that had been founded in 1889.

Mansfield Holland was an uncle of Randolph Hersey. In 1858 he built one of Canada's first rolling mills (Mansfield Holland and Son). The mill was not as profitable as had been expected and a wealthy backer threw out Holland. A similar event occurred when Holland built a larger plant for Thomas Morland and Charles Watson.

Thomas Morland and Charles Watson were wholesale hardware merchants on St. Paul Street, Montreal. In May 1868, Morland chartered Montreal Rolling Mills Company, a joint stock company new to manufacturing.

(continued)

The Steel Company of Canada

Geneology of the Founding Companies (cont.)

Hamilton Steel and Iron Co.

Charles Wilcox of Ohio incorporated the Ontario Rolling Mills Company in April of 1879. In 1899 it merged with the Hamilton Blast Furnace Company (established in 1895) to become the Hamilton Steel and Iron Company.

Canada Screw Company

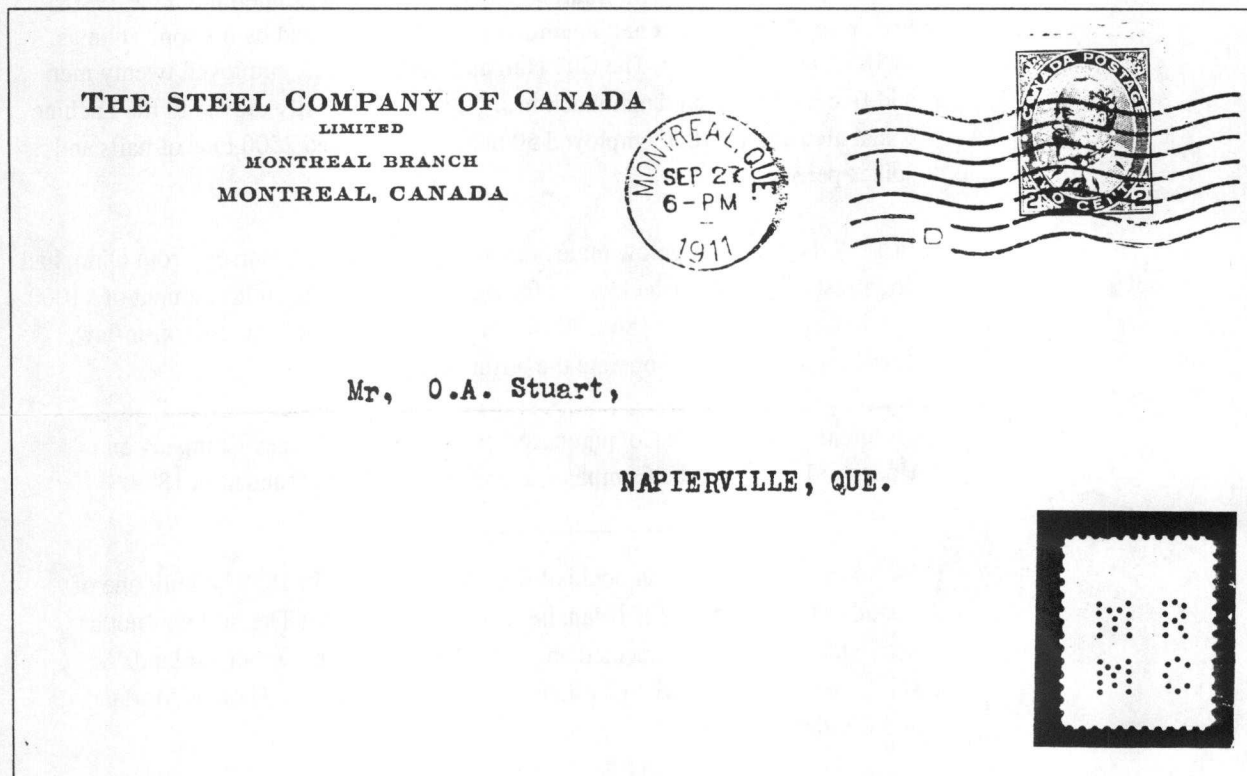
The Canada Screw Company was formed in Dundas, Ontario, in 1866. In 1887 it moved to Hamilton. The Ontario Tack Company was formed in Hamilton in 1885. These two firms merged in 1907, and retained the Canada Screw Company's name.

Canada Bolt and Nut Company

The Canada Bolt Company was founded in Perth in 1868 but closed during a depression. It reopened in Toronto in 1879 as the Dominion Bolt Works and moved to Swansea in 1882. Lloyd Harris merged this company with others to create the Canada Bolt and Nut Company in 1910.

Dominion Wire Manufacturing

The Fairman and Cooper Company of Montreal was established in 1872. In 1883 this company became the Dominion Wire Manufacturing Company of Lachine, Quebec.



MR/MC (Montreal Rolling Mills Company) Perfin

Identifying Perfins on Covers

by Bruce Holmes

I have discovered a new way of identifying perfins on cover without removing the stamp from the cover. A company here in Montreal will photocopy onto transparent film. Transparent overlays from the perfin handbook have settled perplexing problems I have been faced with many times.

If you use this technique, make sure to check that the photocopy is the same size as the image copied. Some photocopiers reduce images in one or both directions.

Perfin Positions

Many collectors share Mike Hargraft's interest in collecting perfins by position. In order to stimulate the exchange of information about this fascinating branch of perfin collecting, he has compiled charts of perfins listed by known positions. Interested collectors can have a copy of these charts by writing to Mike. All he asks in return is that you send back a list of your holdings. Write to:

Mike Hargraft
P.O. Box 60,
Port Hope, Ontario,
L1A 3W2

News About The Perforator

Our newsletter is produced in the offices of Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Limited. HP, as it is known to its friends, is involved in a large number of businesses, none of which is newsletter publishing. However, in the course of making computer equipment, HP has had to invest a tidy sum of money into what has become known as "desktop publishing" equipment. And being a company with a good attitude towards employee relations, HP generously permits its equipment to be used after hours for, among other things, the production of newsletters. Consequently, this branch of the company has about 10% of its employees producing their own newsletters after hours! On the other hand, HP does not take these newsletters into consideration when making its business decisions, so the software program that I used to use to produce this newsletter was discarded when it became obsolete. This has contributed to the delay in producing the current issue. Sorry for the inconvenience.

At the BNAPS convention I was able to talk to a number of members of the perfin study group. In the course of conversation it became obvious that the post office is failing to deliver perhaps as much as 5% of the newsletters I mail out. I am at a loss to know what can be done about this, but I thought you should be aware of the problem.

Current plans are for three or four issues of the Perforator to be produced this year. Remember that the number of newsletter issues is limited by the amount of news. I encourage you to share your expertise by writing articles.

Employment Opportunity

Major Canadian perfins newsletter seeks new editor. The successful candidate will have experience in collecting perfins and in writing. Ownership of a typewriter or of a desktop publishing system is recommended. Applicants should contact: Michael Behm, 39 Roslin Ave. S., Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 2G7.

New Patterns?

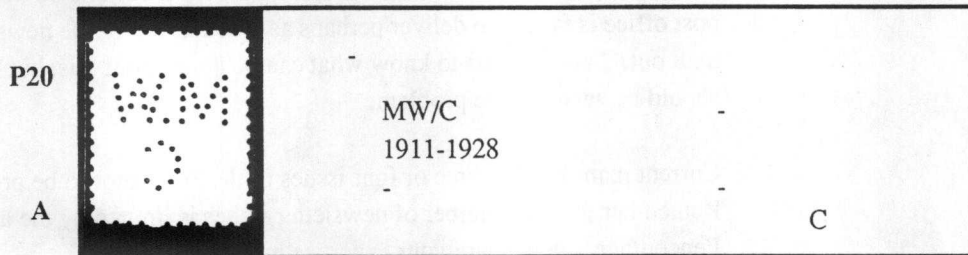
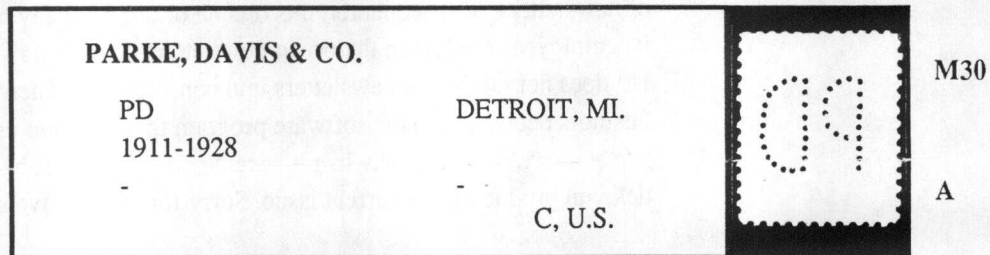
The two patterns are not officially new patterns, however there are reasons to suspect they are, in fact, two new "A" designs.

The Parke Davis pattern appears to be from Detroit insofar as it has no code hole and is otherwise a clean hit. It has a partial slogan cancel that reads:

EARLY AND
ADVANTAGE
AY MAILS

The stamp is a 3 cent red Admiral.

The Handbook shows an MW/C pattern that has the identifier M28. M28 appears to be known only on Edward issues. The MW/C below is obviously different from M28 and appears on a 2 cent red Admiral. Thus, the pattern below appears to be an example from a new perforator.



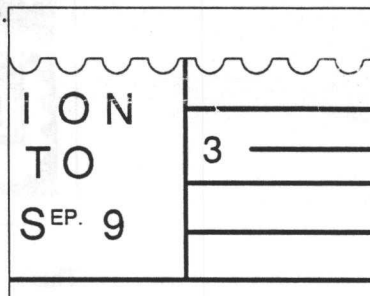
Perfin C3

by Jack Benningen

Back a few years ago when Joe Purcell was gathering perfin data for the Handbook, he received reports from about 35 study group members listing 17 C3 perfins on only three different stamps, #90, #91, and #106; the most common being #106. A note was also made of a Montreal roller cancel.

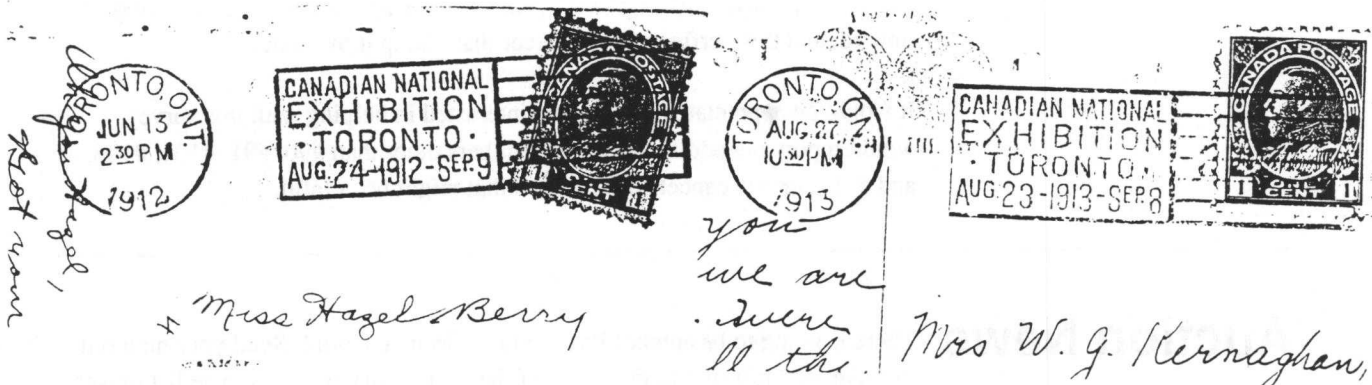
Just over a year ago I acquired the basic collection of Joe's perfins at auction and the C3 acquired was a #106, which made a nice addition to my C3 on #90. By habit, I notice the cancel on any stamp in my varied interests before its other features, and this #106 had what appeared to be the end of a CNE-Toronto Exhibition slogan (see illustration).

As I didn't have access to slogan or CNE data, I sent a copy of the cancellation fragment to Bob Traquair in Toronto asking if he could purchase for me a clear example of this slogan with the distinctive tall S and 9 in the date. Bob responded with an extract from the Proulx Slogan



Handbook listing all of the Toronto CNE slogans. He also located a clear copy of the 1922 slogan on cover, 1922 being a year in which the CNE closed on September 9 and also a year when several of the Admiral values changed color. Unfortunately, the lettering did not match that on the C3 perfin, so back to square one!

A further check of the Proulx listings showed that the only other record of a September 9 CNE-closing date was for 1912. About this time, Bob rechecked his own C3 perfins and found he had a #106 with a September 8 CNE-closing date (this was used in 1913). Another search of dealers' stocks located postcards with CNE slogans that matched our perfins exactly.



Bob Traquair has also reported a C3 on #104 in the earlier, deep green color and Don Fraser has sent me a C3 on #111 for examination of this roller mess.



This is the only 5 cent blue Admiral reported to date, making a total of only five issues reported.

I should mention that Don returned from the Hamilton BNAPS Convention with a copy of the new Rosenblat/Switt book, "Slogan Postal Markings of Canada," which gives considerable enlightening information on the slogan markings discussed. I initially hoped that the "3" in my slogan cancel would uncover in which area of Toronto my C3 was cancelled. The Rosenblat book reports there were four machine numbers and a blank used with the 1912 cancel. Bob has recorded all the companies operating in Toronto in 1912 and 1913 that had the initials CB. We now await the discovery of a cover to positively identify this unknown user.

The very rough and angled holes of the CB in Don's #111 might indicate a single-die perforator. The small number of stamps recorded suggests use by a small company. Outside of #106, stamp usage appears to have been very limited, and this perfin may be scarcer than thought by some.

It would be appreciated if members interested in helping with this survey would report any additional stamp numbers other than #90, #91, #104, #106, and #111, or any cancels/information that might be helpful.

Auction News

There is going to be another Perfin Study Group auction! Send your material to Mike Hargraft (not to the editor of the Perforator) by July 1. The list of lots will be sent out in September. Be sure to put a reserve bid on each lot you submit (or ask Mike to put in a reserve bid for you).