

STAMPS AND COVERS  
CANADIAN PIONEER AIR MAIL

# BNA TOPICS

Vol. 2, No. 8

August 1945

Issue 17

**This issue:**

**The Alberta Law Stamp Controversy**

**A Few Unofficial Notes on Canadian Official Seals**

**Newfoundland Postal Slogan Cancellations**

W. H. Hoffman, President

VICTORIA STAMP CO.

NOTICE OF MEETING

August 20th

Official Publication of the  
British North America Philatelic Society

EQUITABLE STAMP COMPANY

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Very often members with a similar interest are thus brought together and a collaboration of efforts and knowledge is effected. Articles have appeared in our magazine which have been a direct result of such cooperation. Thus has new information been brought to our members.

You must realize how important are these group meetings which provide such benefits to the members. Many members live in the same or a nearby area. If three members from the same locality would get together and meet, they will thus have started such a group, and can start receiving the advantages of such meetings. Write to the Secretary and he will gladly provide you with the names of all members in your locality and you can then extend the invitation to these to enjoy some philatelic evenings with you. Notice of such new groups being formed will appear in the **Topics** and activities of all groups will also be reported in the magazine. The benefits are many, the efforts are few — start now.

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# The Alberta Law Stamp Controversy

by Jack Levine

The First Issue Alberta Law stamps has become the subject of much attention. The recent brochure by K. Bileski, of Winnipeg, Canada, reopens the question of how many different plate settings were used to print the background design of these stamps. Varied interpretations of the printing have been provided in different articles and the controversy arises around how many different plate settings were used to print these stamps.

The Province of Alberta received autonomy in 1905. A separate Law Court was set up for the Province in 1906 and Law Stamps were ordered from the local "Edmonton Bulletin," Edmonton, Alberta. The date of this first order is not known but the authorized date for their use was October 1, 1906. Two supplementary orders were placed on December 20, 1906 and on January 8, 1907.



The background design of each stamp consists of a fancy scrollwork made up of six hand-set blocks. Each block has three rounded corners and one three pointed corner. The location of this three pointed corner is not always the same on each block of the stamp. The following are the combinations of the location of the three pointed corner as it occurs on each block of the stamp:

Variety/Block	Top Left (1)	Top Right (2)	Center Left (3)	Center Right (4)	Bottom Left (5)	Bottom Right (6)
A	UR	UR	UR	UR	UR	UR
B	UR	LR	UR	UR	UR	UR
C	LL	LR	UR	UR	UR	UR
D	LL	LR	UR	UR	UL	UR
E	LL	LR	UR	UR	UL	UL
F	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL

A very comprehensive study of these stamps was made in 1922 in an interesting review by J. A. Calder. (1) In this study, Mr. Calder provides a similar description of the location of the three pointed corners. He believed that these combinations indicated at least four distinct plate settings as follows:

D D D	D D D	A A A	A A A
D C D	D C D	A A A	A A A
D A E	D A D	A A A	A A A
D B D	D B D	A A A	A A F

Listings of these stamps appear in many catalogues and price lists but none of these enters into the consideration of the number of plate settings

used to print them.

In 1942, the Canadian Revenue Society of Montreal, Quebec, (2) issued the revised edition of their catalogue. This catalogue offers an interesting outline and analysis of the printing of these stamps. A chart similar to the above is provided to explain the location of the three pointed corner. Five different settings are illustrated for the printing of the background. In addition to the four noted as in the study of Mr. Calder, they list the following:

E C E

E E E

E A G

E B A

Recently K. Bileski (3) issued the booklet which provides the results of his study of these stamps. He believes that only three different settings were used to print the background, as follows:

D D D

A A A

A A A

D C D

A A A

A A A

D A D or E

A A A

A A A

D B D

A A A

A A F

The three mentioned reviews are the most comprehensive studies of the subject and each offers a different version for the number of plate settings used to print the background design of these stamps.

Accompanying this article are reproductions of reconstructed sheets of two different stamps of the 25c denomination. The illustration noted as "Setting I" is the 25c Purple & Black, and the "Setting II" is the 25c Grey & Black. Each sheet contains 12 stamps arranged 3 x 4. A sheet is usually imperforate at top and at right, but may be imperforate at top, right and bottom or imperforate on all four sides.

Several or all of the stamps of a sheet have the same arrangement of the location of the three pointed corner. However, a constant variety of the background or lettering occurs on each stamp which differentiates it from every other stamp on the sheet. This makes it possible to allocate each stamp to its definite position on the sheet.

#### Illustrated "Setting I"

D D D

D C D

D A E

D B D

- Stamp No. 1 Small break at top right of block 2. Imperf at top.  
 2 Broken stem appearing as 'dot' in center of block 1. Imperf top.  
 3 Small break at lower left of block 5. Imperf top & right.  
 4 Broken bottom block 4. Small break top center block 3.  
 5 Fancy "L" plus break at bottom right of block 2.  
 6 Small break at bottom left of block 5. Imperf at right.  
 7 Broken bottoms on blocks 3 & 4.  
 8 Pointed corners at upper right and pointed corner of block 2 broken off, ending in two lines.  
 9 Break in left center of block 2. Imperf at right.  
 "Badly damaged" block 6 at top or at right.  
 10 Fancy "L." No break at bottom right block 2 as on No. 5.  
 11 Broken branch in center of block 2.  
 12 Fancy "L." Broken left side of block 4. Imperf at right.

## Illustrated "Setting II"

A A A

A A A

A A A

A A A

- Stamp No. 1 Dot in converge of branch Block 6. Imperf at top.  
 2 "Badly damaged" block 3. Imperf at top.  
 3 Small break at top of block 2. Imperf at top & right.  
 4 Pointed corner of block 1 broken off, ending in two lines.  
 5 Fancy "i." Broken center prong of pointed corner block 5.  
 6 Broken left side of block 6. Imperf at right.  
 7 Break at left top of block 6.  
 8 Broken bottoms on blocks 2 & 4.  
 9 Broken branch in center of block 4. Imperf at right.  
     Broken stem appearing as 'dot' in center of block 3.  
 10 Fancy "L." Stubbed center prong of pointed corner block 1.  
 11 Small breaks in bottoms of blocks 3, 4, 5  
 02 Fancy "L." Imperf at right.

It is obvious that the arrangement of the stamps on "Setting I" is entirely different than that of the "Setting II." In the first setting the three pointed corner appears in different positions on some blocks of the same stamp, whereas on the second setting, all the blocks have the three pointed corner located at the upper right.

The above "Key" describes a constant variety or flaw to allocate each stamp to its position on the sheet and shows that the same varieties occur on the stamps of both settings; **BUT**, that the same variety does **not** occur on similar position stamps of the two settings.

The "badly damaged" 6th block, stamp No. 9, setting 1, appears on stamp No. 2, block 3 in the setting II. The "Broken pointed corner," No. 8, block 2 shows up on stamp No. 3, block 1. The "Broken branch in center of block 2," stamp No. 11 on Setting 1 is found on Stamp No. 9, block 4 in the setting II. Further inspection will show that most of the varieties or flaws which identify the stamps of "Setting I" appear on the stamps of "Setting II," but in different locations or positions.

The "One Dollar" stamp illustrated at the introduction of this article is from another entirely different setting. The illustrated stamp is the No. 12 on the sheet. There again the "badly damaged" block 6 appears on block 4. The other varieties or flaws also appear on the stamps of this third setting but are found in positions entirely different from those in which they appear in either "Setting I" or "Setting II." The "Broken pointed corner" shows up on stamp No. 8, block 1. The "Broken branch in center of block 2" is found on No. 5, block 4.

The occurrence of these same varieties in different positions on these reviewed settings establishes conclusively that at least three different plate arrangements were used to print the background design. Seventy two blocks were used to compose the background design for the twelve stamps of a sheet and it is obvious that an original plate from these 72 blocks was dismantled and then reset, using the same blocks, to make up a different plate. The same procedure was followed to make a third setting from a dismantled second plate.

Reviewing the plate settings suggested in the referred studies, it is readily observed that all agree on three plate arrangements, namely:

D D D	A A A	A A A
D C D	A A A	A A A
D A D	A A A	A A A
D B D	A A A	A A F

The difference of opinion arises over the consideration of the illustrated

"Setting I" whereon stamp No. 9 has the background variety "E". Mr. Calder in his study and the Canadian Revenue Society in their Catalogue interpret this plate arrangement as a distinct setting used for the background printing. They credit two different settings, one whereon stamp No. 9 has a background variety "D" and another whereon stamp No. 9 has a background variety "E."

Mr. Bileski in his study claims that only one distinct plate setting was used whereon stamp No. 9 may have the background variety "D" or "E." He is of the opinion that sheets were printed from a plate whereon stamp No. 9 originally had the background variety "D" and the 6th block was not damaged. During the printing the damage appeared on the right side of the block and was noticed by the printer. To make this flaw less conspicuous, the printer turned the block so that the defect was at the top, and then continued with the printing. In turning this defective block, the position of the three pointed corner was changed so that the same stamp which had the background variety "D" now had the variety "E."

It has been shown that the same 72 blocks appear on the stamps of three settings, but on different position stamps of each. This fact was the determining consideration to establish that an original plate was dismantled and reset each time for two subsequent settings.

The plate settings suggested in the review of Mr. Calder and in the Canadian Revenue Society Catalogue offer two plates whereon 11 stamps are identical in arrangement of background structure and whereon the 12th stamp differs in one block of the six of the stamp. They credit two different settings, each composed of 72 blocks, whereon 71 of the blocks are identical in position and structure.

In view of the fact that three settings were accredited by showing that the same blocks occurred on different stamps in each setting, it is difficult to understand and accept a setting whereon, by some strange coincidence, 71 of 72 blocks were reset in exactly the same order of position and structure. It may reasonably be recognized that such an arrangement was not a separate setting, but, as expressed in the study of Mr. Bileski, an arrangement which resulted from a correction or adjustment of a damaged block.

A fifth setting is illustrated by the Canadian Revenue Society Catalogue and this suggested setting notes several of the stamps with the background variety "E." The "E" variety was created by the turning of a defective block which resulted in a change of the location of the three pointed corner. The "E" variety appears on a stamp of one setting and does not occur on any stamps of the other settings. In view of these considerations, it would seem unlikely that such a plate setting was used.

Therefore, it can be said in concluding that only three different plate settings were used to print the background design of these stamps.

#### Comments

The author wishes to take advantage of the opportunity provided by these pages to comment on the study and collection of these Alberta Law Stamps.

These stamps are a fascinating and intriguing subject for study and collection. Most of the interesting features offered by our Hobby are provided by these stamps. Major varieties, minor varieties, plate varieties, shades, plating, etc., — an interesting issue for general collection, a fertile field for specialization.

To some, these same attractive features may prove confusing and perplexing. Background varieties, fancy "L," lowered "2," decimal 5, damaged "N," and so on. It was intended by presenting the illustrations of the reconstructed sheets to acquaint the reader with certain of these varieties and to help to recognize and identify them.

Fancy "L" — 'Law' both settings — stamps Nos. 5, 10, 12.

Lowered "2" — UL "25" — setting I — stamp No. 1.

Small "2" — LL "25" — setting II — stamp No. 11, also on 3, 5, 9.

Decimal 5 — LL "25" — setting I — stamp No. 4.

Damaged "N" — both settings — Stamps Nos. 8, 12.

Another consideration which may help to simplify the collection and study of these stamps is the classification of the background variety "F." The reader know that this variety was created by the turning of the damaged

block. Actually, the normal variety is the "D" and the "E" is an 'error' of this normal setting. In catalogues and handbooks, an 'error' or sub-variety is not qualified as a separate stamp and identified by a different number. It is usually classified with the normal variety and designated with a lower case letter. Therefore, why shouldn't this "E" variety be treated in the customary fashion and be identified in a similar way. Thus we would have only five instead of six background varieties, and future listings could read as follows:

#### Location of three pointed corner

Variety/Block	Top Left (1)	Top Right (2)	Center Left (3)	Center Right (4)	Bottom Left (5)	Bottom Right (6)
A	UR	UR	UR	UR	UR	UR
B	UR	LR	UR	UR	UR	UR
C	LL	LR	UR	UR	UR	UR
D**	LL	LR	UR	UR	UL	UR*
E	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL

D\*\* — Normal. Occurs with 6th block badly damaged at right.

D\* — Pointed corner at UL, caused by turning damaged block, defect at top.

#### Plate Settings

D D D	A A A	A A A
D C D	A A A	A A A
D A D	A A A	A A A
D B D	A A A	A A F

- (1) Calder, J. A.; Alberta Law Stamps, Collectors Club Philatelist; Vol. 1, No. 1, page 138; October 1922.
- (2) Canadian Revenue Society, Montreal, Que.; Catalogue of the Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Canada; compiled by R. A. Odell, Mem. C. R. S.; arranged and edited by R. DeL. French, Mem. C.R.S.; page 20; 1942.
- (3) Bleski, K.; Alberta First Issue Laws Stamps. 1944.

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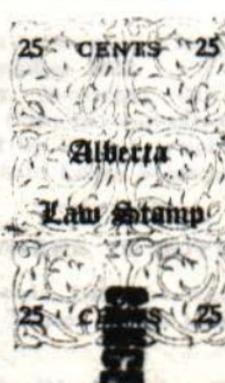
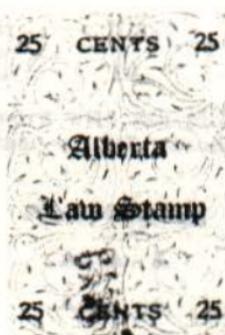
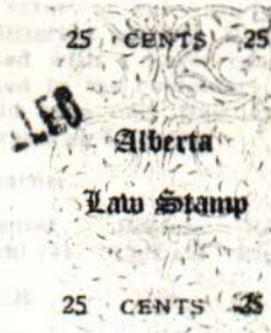
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SETTING I





## Report of the Secretary

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 194 Gray, J. A., Dept. of Physics, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., Canada  
 195 Grafftey, W. Arthur, 69 Rosemount Crescent, Westmount, P. Q., Canada  
 196 Wilson, J. F., 52 John Street N., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.  
 197 Woodhouse, Rev. D. H., Grace St. Andrew's United Church, Arnprior, Ont., Can.  
 198 Young, P. L., 287 Flora Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

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 Pollock, William W., Carleton Place, Ont., Canada (C) Canada — Small Cents — George V. shades. By R. A. Jamieson, No. 72.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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 Sollinger, W. C., Box 162, Grove City, Pennsylvania.

## Experiences in the Search for the new Tobacco Revenues

By Charles Armstrong

Since the start of the War there has been a lot of new Revenues issued but I believe the surcharged Tobaccos are the most interesting. Collectors who were in at the start had many varied experiences digging them out and separating the different types.

My experience was typical of others. We found that the clerks in the tobacco shops were not as a rule very cooperative. My usual procedure was to explain very carefully that I especially wanted the stamp on the package for a collection and that I was buying the tobacco in order to get the stamp. I'd further explain that I wanted a certain excise tax which would be printed on the stamp. He (the storekeeper) would ask, "What brand" and I would reply that I didn't care what brand but that it should be on  $\frac{1}{8}$  lb. Then he would start looking through the shelves and finally come down and with a happy smile say, "Boy are you lucky. Here's one that hasn't got the tax on it. I didn't even know I had it." I'd very calmly explain that I **wanted** the tax on it. He can't follow this — so again I would go through the whole thing. "Is it fine cut?" Still very gentle I would repeat that I didn't care what kind of tobacco it was as it was only the **stamp** that I was interested in. And so on until I eventually leave the store with tobacco that I don't want and he is slowly shaking his head in a contemplative and knowing way.

So it would go as I walked down the street. I see a storekeeper who has a friendly face but, the same rigamarole over and over again. Fortunately I remember three storekeepers who were stamp collectors and they would understand what I wanted. They very nicely ordered tobacco according to the stamps I wanted. How many times I carried home armfuls of tobacco like some people carry home groceries.

Then things would really start. Blue prints and photo-stats exchanged with other collectors...corroboration of types...new types reported. The "hunt" was on. Along "The Danforth" — Yonge Street was combed — every hamlet and four corners was gone over many times — new types were appearing and new denominations of previous types — every store had a possible find. Thrill?? Of course there was a thrill, just as if we were finding an inverted center, or almost. In the course of it all I got one that was the "only one" of that type.

Professor French, Mr. Odell, Doug Ferguson, Roy Woodhouse and others have other "only ones," and that brings up prices. If there is only one stamp in existence should it be priced at \$40.00 or a mere \$1.00. The highest price in the Catalogue is \$2.00. Anyway we had a lot of fun in making the finds.

Things are pretty well stabilized now with the King's Printer style of surcharge, but it is thought that when the tax is reduced, there will be another flood of surcharges.

## Newfoundland Postal Slogan Cancellations

by Dan Meyerson

The admirable series of articles written by C. B. D. Garrett concerning Canadian Postal Slogan Cancellations first begun in the January 1945 issue of the *Topics* and running serially at present, first stimulated my interest in the Newfoundland Postal Slogan Cancellations.

As usual, recourse to Boggs' revealed a list of slogan cancellations that while not complete, certainly proved to be an excellent starting point. The idea of collecting these slogans on cover appealed to me when I saw how few different varieties there were. Most of the cancellations found were included amongst the various covers that I had accumulated in the course of collecting just about everything pertaining to Newfoundland. Those that I did not have were purchased at prices ranging from 10c to 50c.

Very little has been written about this phase of Newfoundland collecting and in addition to the article in Boggs' book, the only other mention that I have been able to find is an occasional note by Harry E. Huber written in the early 20's about the dates that certain of the slogan dies were put into use by the postal authorities.

For the benefit of those collectors who may be interested in a collection of slogans as an inexpensive sideline to add to their collection, I am illustrating all those that I have, and in addition, I am also including the dates of the earliest and latest use that I have record of. I am certain that many of the members will have covers bearing an earlier or a later date than will be found in my list, but again I stress that these are the earliest and latest that I have, have seen, or have read about.

Before proceeding any further let me state that with one exception all of the slogans listed are used from St. Johns. The exception in question is that one slogan cancellation used from St. Johns East which will be discussed later in this article.

1. Record of use from September 27, 1918 to December 21, 1918.
2. Exactly the same as #1 except for the figure "2" found to the right of the slogan. Record of use from April 10, 1918 to May 16, 1918.
3. Used from June 10, 1921 to February 10, 1923 at St. Johns. Used at St. Johns East from September 17, 1929 to August 22, 1933. This is the only instance of a slogan cancellation from a city other than St. Johns.
4. Put into use on March 14, 1922, and latest record of use in August 29, 1922.
5. Enjoyed a tenure of more than ten years since Huber states that the first day of use was March 1, 1923 and latest record of use that I have found on cover is September 23, 1933.
6. "Newfoundland" written as two separate words. The only record of use that I have is April 28, 1925, though Boggs records its use as early as 1923.
7. According to Huber, in use from October 17, 1923 to October 31, 1924.
- 7a. Exactly the same as #7 except that the year appears as "1925" instead of "1924." This slogan is recorded in Boggs and in the 1928 price list of the Reverend E. A. Butler. However I have never seen a copy of this slogan and its appearance in this list is based solely on the basis of the above mentioned references.
8. Followed directly after #7 and was put in use on October 31, 1924 with the latest record of use October 21, 1925.
9. "Newfoundland" written as one word. Record of use from June 16, 1927 to September 25, 1930.
10. A commemorative slogan and in use only on June 14, 1929.
11. Seen on covers from July 25, 1929 to January 10, 1934.
12. Record of use on covers from November 22, 1929 to February 20, 1932.
13. One of the scarce ones and usually found as a backstamp in conjunction with the 1931 flight to the White Bay District. Records of use from November 2, 1930 to February 18, 1931.
14. Seen on covers from May 31, 1934 to May 12, 1937.
15. Records of use from April 14, 1938 to December 12, 1940.
16. Slogan in current use and first record of its appearance on cover is February 27, 1941.

Food  
will  
win the war  
don't waste it


1

Food  
will  
win the war  
don't waste it


2

BUY  
MADE IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND  
GOODS


3

HAVE YOU  
CONTRIBUTED  
TO THE  
WAR MEMORIAL


4

ADDRESS  
MAIL  
TO  
STREET OR  
BOX NUMBER


5

NEW FOUNDLAND  
FOR YOUR  
VACATION  
WRITE TOURIST  
BUREAU


6

BRITISH EMPIRE



EXHIBITION 1924-7

WEAR A  
-POPPY-  
REMEMBRANCE  
DAY


8

NEWFOUNDLAND  
FOR YOUR  
VACATION  
WRITE TOURIST  
BUREAU


9

COMMEMORATING  
-FIRST-  
TRANS ATLANTIC  
AIR-MAIL  
JUNE 14TH 1919


10

PREVENT  
FOREST FIRES  
-SAVE-  
OUR FORESTS


11

SHOP AND  
MAIL EARLY  
INSURE  
PARCELS


12

KEEP  
SUNDAY  
SACRED


13

"BUY GOODS  
MADE IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND"


14

EAT MORE  
NEWFOUNDLAND FISH -  
HELP OUR FISHERMEN

15

SAVE FOR SECURITY.  
BUY SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.  
VITAL FOR VICTORY.

16

## A Few Unofficial Notes on Canadian Official Seals

by "84"

If — as has been mourned in a previous article in these pages — it be true that Postage Due stamps are the **step-children** of philately, certainly the Official Seals of the Post Office Department's Dead Letter Office are the orphans.

In fact, so scant is the notice taken of them even in the otherwise "highly specialized" handbooks on Canadiana that one might be led to believe there was something dubious about the parentage of these abandoned creatures....or at least of the circumstances under which they were conceived!

Despite the fact that from the standpoint of rarity they rank high amongst the "hard to finds" of Canadian philately, only a few specialists find album room for them. And the values assigned in those catalogues which do list them are disproportionately low, their rarity being considered.

Having no access to official records, the author is not qualified to make authoritative statements regarding these stamps. It might be reasonably argued that when such students as Jarrett, Holmes, et al, agree on basic facts, these facts can be accepted as accurate.

But when one realizes that printed errors tend to perpetuate themselves not only *ad infinitum* but — unhappily! *Ad nauseam*, as well....and when it can be clearly pointed out that at least one flat statement occurring in every checklist is an out-and-out-mistake, one may be permitted to lift a quizzical eyebrow at earlier students' entire list of "facts."

Such an erroneous statement **does** appear in all listings the author has seen of Official Seals. The first Dead Letter Office seal of Canada is everywhere listed as "perf. 12." Now, it may be that a "perf 12" variety of this seal has been seen by someone at some time. But the author has checked a number of them....and each and every one is perf 11½ x 12!

Having established, then, at least a basis for re-examination of the entire field, let us look at each of the Official Seals separately, and see if common-sense agrees with the facts as generally reported.

### First Issue

It is generally accepted that this stamp was issued in 1879. The color is commonly designated as "brown," and the perforation is stated as "perf 12."

All copies the author has seen are in a shade of **yellow-brown** identical with that of the Montreal printing of the 6c "Small Cents" postage stamp. It is known that this 6c stamp was perforated 11½ x 12 between 1875 and 1879... and that the sheet imprint is of Jarrett's second type, with upper and lower case letters reading, "British American Bank Note Co., Montreal."

The admission that an 11½ x 12 guage was in use until 1879 has significance, since it at least indicates the possibility that the first Official Seal was an 1879 emission. But a more careful study of Jarrett's analysis of perforation readings observed on Small Cents issues from January, 1870, to December, 1879 (1929 ed., p. 75) again casts a cloud of doubt. His table of frequencies indicates an extremely rare occurrence of this odd perforation as early as September of 1873....an almost equally rare appearance as late as 1879....but very common occurrence (that is, as common as this perforation **ever** is) between December, 1873, and July 1876.

In other words, the chances are more than three times as great that the First Official Seal made its appearance between 1874 and 1876 than that it was issued when the earlier cataloguists claim.

As to the rarity of this seal....Jarrett quotes it at \$2.50 mint or used, while Holmes (1943) maintains the value at \$2.50 mint and merely states that all used Official Seals "are extremely rare."

Authorities differ as to the number of stamps to the sheet. Jarrett claims all Official Seal issues were printed in sheets of 50. But from a purely logical point of view, the author would **guess** that the plate from which these stamps were printed contained 25 subjects, arranged 5 x 5....though he would not like to hold his breath until this point is proven. These stamps are of the same size as the early British Columbia Laws, also engraved by the British American

Note Co., and it is known that the plates for the B. C. Laws were 5 x 5. A larger plate would be unusual considering the limited demand for these seals.

Under any circumstances, since 11½ perforation varieties of the small cents stamps sell at prices ranging from three to five times the value of the perf 12s...and since there was an extremely limited printing of these first Official Seals...the value of \$2.50 usually set upon them is ridiculously low. Of course, market values always reflect collector-demand. This fact, and this alone, has held down the price of Official Seals. But let Scott bestow upon them the benison of recognition, and — as in the case of the booklet panes, three years ago — Canadian Official Seals will skyrocket beyond the reach of most pocketbooks!

The canny specialist might be wise to gamble on such a listing, and find for his albums the four Canadian Official Seals before it be too late.

### Second Issue

Here again we have a stamp — two stamps, in fact — with what at first glance appears to be a clean-cut record. But closer scrutiny of known facts casts a shadow of doubt on that record.

We are told by the cataloguists that the first type of this Second Issue (i.e., on blue paper) was printed in 1905, and that the second type (on white paper) was released in 1907.

These facts may be provable from Government archives...but until such proof is forthcoming, the author is inclined to assign an earlier date to the Second Issue Official Seals.

In the first place, the vignette is that used in the Supreme Court Law stamps of 1897. Dr. Holmes begs the issue when he states that, "doubtless the design was copied from the 1897 Supreme Court stamps." Examination under a strong glass indicates that this is no copy, but the identical vignette.

Queen Victoria died on January 22, 1901. Not until July 1, 1903 did the Edward set replace the Victoria Numeral. It may be reasonably assumed that such "sideline" issues as Revenue Department stamps were engraved after the more important Post Office Department had been taken care of. But we discover that King Edward's likeness appeared on the \$5 and \$10 denominations of the 1897 Weights and Measures stamps in 1906. Obviously, then, by this date the American Bank Note Co. had finished its work for the Post Office Department, and was creating new designs for the Revenue branch.

All of which indicates that the Second Issue Official Seals were not issued in 1905, but at a date which may have been considerably earlier...possibly around 1900.

Is there any substantiation for this theory? There is. The first type Second Issue Seals was printed on what cataloguists have carelessly designated as a "thick blue wove" or "very heavy blue-green paper"...but which every collector of Canadian postal stationery can immediately identify as the typical light cardboard of the Lettercards!

Since the Post Office abandoned its use of lettercards in 1900, it is an altogether logical assumption that the printers, attempting to find a use for surplus stock, made their first printing of the new Official Seals on the old lettercard paper. The experiment was foredoomed to failure, since Official Seals were folded over the opened end of an envelope. The thick, easily cracked lettercard paper could not withstand such abuse, and subsequent printings were made on a normal white paper.

We have already indicated the use of the lettercard stock around 1900. But to go a step further...the 1900 lettercards differed from the lettercards 1897 not only in the color of the imprinted stamps (which had been changed to correspond to the postal issues), but also in the fact that in 1900 were used two experimental types of stock: a thin, glazed card and a bright blue "fuzzy" paper.

Had mere "surplus stock" been used to print the Official Seals, we might then reasonably expect to find these seals on three distinct types of blue paper. The fact that we do not implies that the Official Seals were printed on lettercard paper before January of 1900...possibly as early as 1898.

Here, again, an official statement would be of great interest to all collectors of Canadians.

We are again inclined to disagree with Jarrett's statement on plate layout. Reaching into the hunch-bag, the author would like to submit his **guess** that there were 20 subjects to the plate, arranged 5 x 4. These stamps are double the size of the Customs Duty stamps, which have been reported as being printed from 40 subject plates arranged 5 x 8.

As to values...specialists who have vainly sought it know the rarity of the Second Issue Official Seal on **blue**. The same stamp on **white** paper was, a very short time ago, offered on the Philatelic Agency List at 50c. The author is under the impression that this stock has been exhausted, but collectors might try the Agency before shopping around elsewhere for this stamp.

### Third Issue

Here, at last, we have a seal upon which an official statement is available. The current list of stamps available through the Philatelic Agency supplies the date of 1913 for this seal...the date noted in all catalogues.

Still lacking, however, is authoritative information as to the plate layout on this seal, and the number of copies issued. Jarrett again says 50 to the sheet. This time he may be right.

### Checklist:

The following check-and price-list will serve as a guide for those who have not yet added Dead Letter Official Seals to their Canadian collections. The listings do not pretend to be authoritative but are purely the author's opinions. Current net retail market values are well known. The values noted in this listing represents the author's opinion as to probable net values **one year after listing** of these stamps in Scott.

		On		
		Mint	Used	Cover
OS 1	Yellow-brown, 1874-6 (?) .....	5.00	7.50	10.00
	a. Imperf pair (?) .....			
OS 2	Black (on blue), 1898 (?) .....	25.00	37.50	50.00
	a. Imperf pair .....	100.00		
OS 3	Black (on white), 1900 (?) .....	3.00	4.50	6.00
OS 4	Sepia, 1913 .....	2.00	3.00	4.00

**Note:** OS3 and OS4 were still offered by the Philatelic Agency on January 1, 1945, at 50c each, but no well centered copies were available. Increased demand would swiftly consume all stock, and cause values on well-centered copies to leap immediately. The above estimates **may** be too conservative. OS 1a was "reported" and queried by Jarrett. The author has verified the existence of OS2a. Since no used imperfs have been seen or reported, these **may** be proofs.

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21	V. F. Blk. O. G. good margins all sides .....	26.50
23	V. F. Blk. O. G. large margins two sides .....	10.50
36	V. F. Blk. O. G. almost perfect centered .....	3.00
49	V. F. Blk. O. G. very nice block .....	5.75

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4d	3d thin paper, horiz. pair, barely touched in 1 place, fine	20.00
4	3d Major reentry, close at right, very good	30.00
5b	6d greenish black, horizontal pair, cut at bottom, rare	80.00
5f	6d grey lilac, thick hard paper. Bright, fresh O. G. copy cut at right. Very good. (Cat. \$600.00)	150.00
7a	10d dull blue, fresh O. G. touched right. V. good. (Cat. \$300)	85.00
8	½d mint block, large margins, full o. g., slight creases which do not mar appearance. A rare and beautiful block	225.00
8	½d deep shade, horizontal pair. Close at left but fine	50.00
8	½d horizontal pair. Four margins and unusually fine	60.00
8	½d stitch watermark, large margins, slight thin. Very rare	25.00
8	½d part O. G. minor gum creases, ample margins. Fine	25.00
9	7½d, three large margins. Very good. (Cat. \$85.00)	55.00
15c	5c Beaver. Major re-entry, fine, lightly canceled copy	40.00
18	12½c 1859. Fine lightly canceled block. (reinforced)	60.00
33b	1c Small Queen, imperf, very fine horizontal pair. No gum	22.50
39a	6c Small Queen, imperf horizontal pair, superb O. G.	30.00
37a	3c Small Queen, v. f. horizontal pair. No gum. \$20.00 block	40.00
41c	10c Small Queen, imperf, very fine horizontal pair. No gum	22.50
44a	5c Small Queen, imperf, very fine vertical pair. O. G.	25.00
44a	5c Small Queen, imperf, very fine imprint block of 8. O. G. Crease between stamps. Showpiece	120.00
48d	8c Small Queen, imperf, very fine vertical pair. O. G.	27.50
59-64	50c, \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 Jubilee, Overprinted "Specimen". Each at	10.00
61	\$1.00 Jubilee. Very fine mint block	150.00
63	\$3.00 Jubilee. Superb used block	130.00
64	\$4.00 Jubilee. Very fine used block	110.00
65	\$5.00 Jubilee. Very fine used block	110.00
66	¼c Maple Leaf, very fine imperf block. No gum	40.00
67	1c Maple Leaf, very fine imperf block. No gum	40.00
68	2c Maple Leaf, very fine imperf block. No gum	40.00
69	3c Maple Leaf, imperf pair, one stamp thin. O. G.	15.00
70	5c Maple Leaf, very fine imperf block. No gum	40.00
72	8c Maple Leaf, very fine imperf block. O. G.	55.00
73	10c Maple Leaf, superb imperf block. O. G.	60.00
74	½c Numeral, very fine imperf block. No gum	40.00
77	2c Numeral, very fine imperf block. No gum	50.00
98	2c Quebec, imperf pair. Superb O. G.	25.00
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119a	20c George V, imperf block, bottom pair creased	50.00
121a	50c Sepia, O. G. imperf pair, cut close bottom	15.00
122a	\$1.00 George V, O. G. imperf block. One stamp creased	55.00
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