

CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER

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- 🖙 Craig Marshall, Omaha, Nebraska

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Deceased:

A.N. Peatman, Edmonton, Alberta.

U.S. Cancel on Second Issue Bill Stamp J. Richard Fleet

When I was in Ottawa two years ago, I found a 5-cent Second Issue Bill stamp with a United States company cancel on it. This was the first time that I had ever found a bill stamp cancelled outside of Canada. Recently, I was able to fully identify the company by using an 1870 *Boyd's Business Directory for the Cities and Villages of New York State.* It was listed as R. Bell & Fred Gundry, Bankers. Shown below is an enlargement of the stamp along with my reconstruction of the complete cancel.



Fifty-cent Admiral Blocks Paying the Federal Excise Tax on a Stock Transfer Christopher D. Ryan

Illustrated opposite is Transfer № 309 from a register of stock transfers for the Frost and Wood Company, Limited of Smiths Falls, Ontario. The register covers the period of March 28th, 1914, through December 1st, 1928. The illustrated page, dated June 23rd, 1922, represents the transfer of two hundred and twenty-five common shares of the Company at a price of \$100 each, amounting to the sum of \$22,500. Affixed to the page are \$6.75 in Ontario transfer tax stamps and \$11.25 in Admiral postage stamps respectively paying the provincial and federal security transfer taxes on the transaction. The Ontario stock transfer tax was in effect at various rates from June 1st. 1911, through April 12th, 1973, while the equivalent federal excise tax was in place from July 1st, 1920, through February 19th, 1953.[1, 2] The use of postage stamps in place of excise tax stamps for the payment of the federal tax was permitted through September 30th, 1923, after which time excise tax stamps were required in every instance where stamps were used for payment in place of cash through a broker or a stock exchange.[3]

The Admiral postage stamps on Transfer № 309 consist of two vertical blocks of ten and a pair of the 50-cent denomination, along with two vertical pairs and a single of the 5-cent denomination. All of these stamps are from a wet printing. The blocks of the 50-cent stamp are silver-black while the pair is brown-black. The 5-cent stamps are violet.[4] Both the federal and the provincial stamps are individually cancelled by a vertical violet rectangle with zigzag borders enclosing the words "F. & W. Co. / Limited / Smiths / Falls" in four lines. While use of the blocks of 50-cent Admirals makes this an interesting and unusual piece, the amount of the federal tax paid by them is of even greater interest since it represents a rate of 5¢ per \$100. No such rate ever existed at any point during the lifetime of the federal excise tax on the transfer of stocks. The applicable rates for this tax were as follows: 2¢ per \$100 for the period of July 1st, 1920, through July 31st, 1922, followed by 3¢ per \$100 through June 30th, 1929, after which a graduated scale per share was introduced and later amended.[2, 5]

In addition to the page illustrated here, the Frost and Wood register contains four other transfers dated the 23^{rd} or 24^{th} of June and affixed with multiple 50-cent Admirals in payment of a 5¢ per \$100 federal tax. One of these pages bears the nearly identical combination of stamps as the illustrated item. The transfer immediately prior to these aberrant pages is dated May 22^{nd} , 1922, and is correctly taxed at 2¢ per \$100. The transfer immediately after the oddities is dated February 17th, 1923, and is correctly taxed at 3¢ per \$100. Thus, the question arises as to why, in June of 1922, did Frost and Wood affix stamps at the higher, incorrect 5¢ rate rather than the then current 2¢ rate?

The answer to the above question can be found in the federal budget speech of May 23^{rd} , 1922. For many years, it has been the custom in Canadian parliamentary practice for changes in taxes to take effect immediately (i.e. the next day) upon their announcement as part of a Budget speech. This has been particularly true for increases in existing taxes and the introduction of new taxes. The custom apparently developed in the days when the majority of government revenues came from customs and excise levies on specific goods. The immediate application of any changes was intended as a guard against evasion of the new taxes or rates through hoarding or other manipulation of the market. However, not all changes were put into immediate effect. One such item was the 1922 increase in the tax on stock transfers.

The federal Budget of May 23^{rd} , 1922, proposed an increase in the national stock transfer tax from 2ϕ to 5ϕ per \$100. The new, higher rate was to take effect only on July 1^{st} of that year. On June 12^{th} however, the Budget resolutions were amended to limit the increase to

 3ϕ per \$100 and to include the previously exempt transfer of bonds as taxable. On June 20th the resolutions were further amended to move the implementation date to August 1st.[6]

In view of the above, it can be surmised that on or about June 23^{rd} and 24^{th} , 1922, the corporate officers in charge of Frost and Wood's register of stock transfers had been somehow mistaken or misinformed as to the implementation date of a new 5¢ tax rate. They might have misunderstood a media report or the report itself might have misrepresented the details of the original (May 23^{rd}) Budget resolutions. Subsequently, Frost and Wood also failed to note the legislative amendments of June 12^{th} and 20^{th} that first reduced the new rate to 3¢ per \$100 and then moved its introduction to August 1^{st} , 1922.

Acknowledgement

The Author would like to thank **Leopold Beaudet** for his assistance in identifying the printings and shades of the 50-cent Admiral stamps.

Reference Notes

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 - Taylor, G.W., *Stock Transfer Tax Regulations and Rulings*, Department of National Revenue, October 10th, 1931, Customs and Excise Library, Connaught Building, Ottawa.
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- [4] Morris, R.M. Color Guides for the Admiral Issue of Canada. Norfolk, Massachusetts: Pittsboro Philatelics, 2000.
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- [6] Canada, Debates of the House of Commons, 1922, 12-13 Geo. V, pp. 2117, 2125-2127, 2853, 2856, 3261.



Office Stamp Cancellations on the Ontario and Upper Canada Law Stamps.

MARSHALL LIPTON 500 WASHINGTON AVE, APT 9G KINGSTON, NY, USA 12401

Transfer № 309 of June 23, , 1922, for 225 common shares in the stock of Frost and Wood Company. The document bears Ontario tr ansfer tax stamps and Admiral postage stamps in payment of the respective provincial and federal transfer taxes. Due to a misunderstanding of changes in the federal tax, a rate of 5¢ per \$100 was paid in error. This proposed rate was never put into effect. Execution salare have Ambox Certificate No. 225 Dharles Conner Herent stordey Gox Brederical Burns Dorg Con and I TANSFERDAW Shares of Capital Stock ould my Robert Clarge W ills and Sound Standay Willsler Durates Boorde Corrector Registrate Boorde The Cand 2000 Shares of \$100 each in the Capital Stock of "FROST AND WOOD COMPANY, Dollars per share, amounting to \$220000, has been paid,-subject to the Charter, By-laws, and Regulations of TRANSFEREE do hereby assign and transfer unto Preserved auto Fur Balue Received, we seclar 5. 6 or 5 Federed Burns Execution lete Rombor day of Serve day of. MITED."-whereon the sum of Occe stundered . " Xh. Hitness Orive hand this Queenerg Think ine thousand nine hundred and Zwenny Zwee as above this do hereby accept the one thousand nine hundred and Jourson Ropent 0000000 Transfer No. 200 of the said Company. transferred to. ANN A Mitness: HS IS Attorney Power of Attorney Stock Ledger, Jeducial Power .pru Fol. No. 5 8 20 3 0 20 GE

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Uncatalogued Varieties of Federal Tobacco Stamps (1)

The first three stamps illustrated below originated with the Tuckett Tobacco Company (licence code: 1-18-E) of Hamilton, Ontario. The first two stamps are from the collection of **John Harper**, the third belongs to the Editor. In each figure a second image is provided that has been electronically manipulated to emphasize the surcharges of interest. None of these stamps are listed in the Brandom catalogue.

The date code 'CMB' on the stamp in Figure 1 dates it to June of 1942, when an excise tax was first applied to tobacco products in addition to the existing excise duty. This item bears a violet, hand-stamped '2 ct / EXCISE / TAX' surcharge in three lines. Like the multitude of other tobacco company surcharges, this particular hand-stamp was used to show the payment of the tax by the company prior to the introduction of stamps surcharged by the British American Bank Note Company (BABN).

A 1/10 pound denomination with a surcharge similar to that in Figure 1 was described (but not illustrated) in the April 1949 issue ($N_{\rm P}$ 100) of *The Bulletin* of the old Canadian Revenue Society. That particular stamp would appear to have been a violet version of Brandom's M603, which bears what is described in the catalogue as a red hand-stamped surcharge.

The 25-cigarettes stamp in Figure 2 came from a sheet on which a printed, red surcharge (Brandom's C563) was mistakenly centred by Tuckett on the margins between the stamps rather than on the design. This error was then corrected by the company through the application

of a 5-cent rose hand-stamp of the same type as found on the stamp in Figure 1.

The stamp in Figure 3, with its 'BOB' cancel, dates from May of 1943. It bears a red 2-cent surcharge from BABN that was later revalued by the printing company with a dark-blue '4' over the red '2' to reflect the new excise tax rates introduced in March of 1943. The enhanced portion of Figure 3 does not show the red BABN surcharge.

Prior to the introduction of the official revaluations, tobacco companies were permitted to surcharge existing stamps to reflect the higher rates paid by them for these stamps. One such company-surcharge was needlessly applied to this stamp (Figure 3) by Tuckett in light-blue as part of its printed '1-18-E/BOB' cancel. This superfluous surcharge would appear to date this stamp to the introduction of the underlying BABN product for this particular production line at Tuckett Tobacco.

The stamps illustrated in Figure 4, courtesy of **Paul Stephens**, comprise a green plate-proof mounted on white card. The Brandom catalogue lists a plate-proof for the 250 mm-long variety in this denomination and colour (P523PP), but not for the 155 mm version shown here. If listed, the illustrated item would be Brandom's P502PP.

Stephens also reports that he has an imperf copy of Brandom's P427, the 1/10-pound Windsor Division re-worked stamp. The stamp has a serial number and is of a very pale shade of violet. — C.D. Ryan



Figure 1: Tuckett Tobacco's violet hand-stamp surcharge on 2/19 pound small tobacco stamp.



Figure 2: Tuckett Tobacco's violet hand-stamp surcharge used to correct a misplaced printed surcharge by the company.



Figure 3: Tuckett Tobacco's light-blue surcharge and cancel (4¢ / 1-18-E / BOB) on dark-blue '4c.' BABN revaluation of a red 2-cent BABN excise tax surcharge on 1/11 pound small tobacco stamp.



Figure 4: Card-mounted plate-proof of the green, 155 mm-long, Series of 1897, 1/11-pound strip-stamp.

Canada's Stamp Taxation of Tobacco Products: 1864 – 1974

Christopher D. Ryan

— Part 4 —

Manufactured Tobacco Stamps and Stamping: 1883-1897

The Inland Revenue Act of 1883, in effect as of July 1st, completely \mathbf{I} revised the means by which the excise duty on tobacco products was collected. The key change was the replacement of the semimonthly payments of duty and stamps being affixed by excise officers with the purchase and affixing of the stamps by manufacturers or merchants. In addition, the new procedures discontinued the red warehouse and the brown or violet re-worked stamps. Under the new system, packages were not stamped when put in a bonding warehouse and general purpose tobacco duty-stamps were affixed to all packages released for consumption. This included packages released from a bonding warehouse or directly from a factory or following any reworking. The colour scheme for the duty-stamps was reduced to black for products in whole or in part of foreign leaf, green for products of Canadian leaf exclusively and blue for imported products. Divisionspecific stamps were eliminated as existing supplies were consumed.[3, 9,93]

Another new development was the sale of tobacco duty-stamps to authorized merchants who owned and operated specially licensed bonding warehouses. Under this system, tobacco products would be shipped in excise bond from a manufacturer to a merchant's licensed warehouse where they remained in bond until taken for sale to a consumer. Stamps would be purchased by the merchant from the local Revenue Collector and affixed to packages prior to their removal from the warehouse.[3, 9, 93]

In anticipation of the new procedures, Revenue Collectors were advised on May 22nd, 1883, of the pre-1883 tobacco stamps that were to continue in use on and after July 1st and of those stamps that were to be discontinued and returned to the Department.[3, 93] These two groups, with one June amendment, are itemized at right in Table 3.

Among the first stamps to be issued under the new Statute, as part of the Series of 1883, were large, denominated stamps to replace the discontinued Caddy and Box stamps on packages of pressed tobaccos. Initially (May 1883), these stamps were to have consisted of a 10-pound rectangular stamp (Figure 52 at right) and four coupon-stamps (Figure 53 below) of 15, 20, 60 and 70 pounds, covering packages from 15 to 25 pounds and 60 to 80 pounds. However, prior to their July 1st introduction, a 10-pound coupon-stamp was added to the set for packages of 10 to $14\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. [3, 93]

The 10-pound rectangular stamp in Figure 52 was withdrawn from use by 1888, presumably because it had been redundant from the time of its introduction in 1883.[3, 94] BABN records indicate that this stamp was produced only in black and in blue.[46 pp. 614, 618]

Additions to the series were made in 1885, when 35 and 100-pound coupon-stamps were introduced. These stamps added 35 to 45 pounds and 100 to 110 pounds to the range of available sizes for packages of pressed tobaccos. The 1 and 5-pound coupon stamps, covering packages from 1 to 4 and 5 to $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, were not introduced until 1890 and 1888, respectively.[95, 96, 97]

Table 3: Status of pre-1883 tobacco revenue stamps as of July 1st, 1883.

Remained in use on and after July 1st:

- All black strip-stamps for cut tobacco and cigarettes.
- All blue strip-stamps for cut tobacco and cigarettes.
- Green 1/5, 1/4, 1/2 and 1-pound strip-stamps.
- Black 5-pound stamps for fine-cut chewing tobacco.

• Black 10-pound stamps for pressed and fine-cut chewing tobaccos. Discontinued as of July 1st:

- All brown and violet stamps for re-worked tobacco.
- All red stamps for warehoused tobacco.
- All Box and Caddy stamps, regardless of colour.
- All black 15-pound stamps.
- Green strip-stamps other than those listed above as remaining in use.



Figure 52: Series of 1883, excise duty stamp for packages containing ten pounds of pressed tobacco.



Figure 53: Series of 1883, excise duty coupon-stamp for packages of 15 through 19½ pounds of pressed tobacco, used at 19 pounds.

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The introduction of the 1 and 5-pound coupon-stamps was made for the benefit of small retailers who could not afford to keep a large supply of pressed tobacco in stock. Prior to this, these retailers often remedied their problem by breaking up the larger caddies or boxes. This practice was illegal and the cause of many seizures by revenue officers.[98]

For some time after its 1888 introduction, the 5-pound coupon-stamp was not popular with tobacco manufacturers. By 1890, only two of twenty-eight firms had made use of this stamp. The arguments made by manufacturers against the production of smaller packages were that reduced sizes increased production costs and harmed the quality of pressed tobaccos. To compensate for the increased costs, the duty on pressed tobaccos was reduced in 1890 by five percent when these products were packaged in units of four pounds or less.[97, 98, 99]

The coupons on the 1 through 20-pound stamps were denominated in one-half pound units, while those on the 35 through 100-pound stamps were given in one-pound units. All of these stamps were printed by intaglio and were used in the standard colours, black, blue and green, except for the 100-pound value, which was not produced in green.

During the period of 1883-1897, the 15 and 20-pound values were by far the most heavily used denominations of the coupon-stamps.[46 pp. 614, 617, 618, 621, 623] As will be discussed later in this work, it would not be until after 1897 that market demand shifted to smaller packages for pressed tobaccos. By the late-1920s, the 1-pound denomination would be the most commonly used coupon-stamp.[100]

Unlike the coupon-stamps for pressed tobaccos, the Series of 1883 strip-stamps for cut tobacco (Figure 54 above) were not immediately required in July of 1883. Due to substantial quantities of old stamps on hand, obsolete denominations were surcharged and the new, 1883 designs were only introduced over time as required by depleted stocks. Pre-1883 issues of strip-stamps were still being supplied by BABN until late-1887. By the beginning of 1888, the pre-1883 designs had been declared obsolete.[101; 68 pp. 2-3, 74] The new denominations of 1/12, 1/9 and 1/6-pound were added in the 1889-1892 period, while the new 1/7 pound stamp was added in or after 1892.[102, 103] Starting in November of 1887, with the addition of a 1/8-pound value, the available denominations of green strip-stamps were expanded over time to include items as low as 1/10-pound by 1892.[103, 104]

Many of the Series of 1883 strip-stamps for cut tobacco were produced in both intaglio and lithographed versions. The government did not become aware of the lithographic printings in this Series until the 1896 tendering for the 1897 security-printing contract.[107] Once discovered, the lithographic printings were considered by certain individuals in the government to be a violation of its ongoing contracts with BABN. This view prompted an action in the Exchequer Court of Canada against BABN. As part of the proceedings, an accountant examined BABN's production records to compile a detailed list of quantities of intaglio and lithographed stamps and related items produced since 1868 for the Revenue Department.[46 pp. 94-95, 611-624]

Production details, as extracted from Court documents, are itemized below in Table 4. Please note that this data is taken from a secondary source compiled by an independent accountant from original BABN records years after the actual time of production. The source is particularly unclear as to the printings of the blue and black 1/20-pound stamps. As a result, the information presented in Table 4 may contain

Denomination	Intaglio Printings black - blue - green			Lithographic Printings black - blue - green		
Denomination						
1/20 lb.	Х	?	_	?	?	_
1/16 lb.	Х	Х	_		—	_
1/12 lb.	Х	Х	_	_	_	_
1/10 lb.	Х	Х	Х	Х	_	_
1/9 lb.	Х	Х	Х	_	_	_
1/8 lb.	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
1/7 lb.	Х	_	_		_	_
1/6 lb.	Х	Х	Х	_	_	_
1/5 lb.	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
1/4 lb.	Х	Х	Х	Х	_	Х
1/2 lb.	Х	Х	Х		Х	_
1 lb.	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

errors and should be verified by an examination of available stamps.

The key item that would have concealed BABN's supposedly unauthorized production of lithographic stamps is the company's position as the Revenue Department's distributor for the tobacco revenue stamps. From the late-1870s until December of 1891, BABN was required to maintain an estimated six-month stock of tobacco stamps. Out of this stock, stamps were sent by the Company directly to local Revenue Collectors upon receipt of requisitions either from the Collectors or the central office in Ottawa.[108; 46 p. 84; 68 pp. 45-50; 81 p. 10]

A detailed statement of the tobacco stamp stocks held by BABN in its capacity of official distributor was prepared on December 19th, 1882, at the request of the Revenue Department. At that time, the company held over 7.8 million tobacco stamps. In anticipation of the Act of 1883, the Revenue Department then instructed BABN on January 13th, 1883, not to print any new supplies of the soon to be supplanted stamps unless specially authorized to do so.[109; 68 pp. 3, 16, 18] In February and March of 1888, BABN delivered nearly 4.67 million of the now obsolete Series of 1880 and 1881 tobacco and cigar strip-stamps to the

Revenue Department as remnants of the old stocks. Nearly 1.76 million of the remainders were 1/20-pound stamps in black or blue, about 2.11 million were stamps that had been obsolete since 1883 and almost 0.8 million were other miscellaneous denominations.[110]

Beginning in 1886, the Revenue Department supplemented the cut-tobacco strip-stamps with small, upright rectangular stamps. An example is illustrated at right in Figure 55. The three denominations of these items, 1/10, 1/8 and 1/12-pound, are designated in their designs as Series of 1886, 1887 and 1889, respectively.

BABN records show that these small stamps 1892



Figure 55: One of three values of small stamps for cut-tobacco. These stamps saw limited use from 1886 until circa 1892



Figure 56: Series of 1883, green excise duty strip-stamp for Canada Twist made by licensed farmers.

were produced only in black by intaglio and in relatively small quantities. In addition, the following evidence indicates that they were in use for only a few years. First, a September 1892 Revenue Department list of available stamps includes only the 1/10-pound denomination.[103] Second, BABN records indicate that no supplies of any of the small stamps were delivered to the government after 1892.[46 pp. 613-624] Third, a Finance Department document from 1896 describes these stamps as no longer required by manufacturers.[105]

The Series of 1883 stamps for Canada Twist, as illustrated above in Figure 56, did not appear until late-1887 at the earliest. They were prepared in green by intaglio in three denominations, 1/4, 1/2 and 1-pound.[106, 46 pp. 613-624] Unlike other strip-stamps, the stamps for Canada Twist had only a small printed portion at their centre with long, blank ends at either side, presumably to be wrapped by licensed farmers around the coils of twisted tobacco. The total length of the twist stamps varied from item to item, but was about nine inches (22.8 cm).

Beginning July 1st, 1883, excise stamps affixed to tobacco products were required to affixed by the manufacturer or merchant. This cancellation was done in part by rubber hand-stamps that produced a rectangular impression enclosing an identification code along with the month and calender year.[3] A model of the cancellation from July of 1883 for Macdonald Tobacco of Montreal is given below in Figure 57.



Figure 57: Cancellation from Macdonald Tobacco for July of 1883. The characters respectively represent the Licensed User, the Revenue Division, the Month and the Calender Year.

In addition to the rubber-stamp cancellation, the coupon stamps were to be cancelled by a die that imbedded part of the stamp into the wood of the package. Coupon stamps on metal packages were to be defaced by a sharp edge that cut the stamp.[3]

The stamps used by licensed merchants can be differentiated from those used by manufacturers by means of the stamped cancellations. Manufacturers were assigned a numeric identification code such as '1-17' for Macdonald Tobacco of Montreal. Licensed merchants were assigned an alpha-numeric code such as 'A-17' for D.C. Brosseau of Montreal. A listing of the numeric designations for the Revenue Divisions is given in Table 5. A partial list of tobacco manufacturers' codes was presented in *CRN* № 13 of August 1996.

Beginning in April of 1884, individuals who did not operate a licensed bonding warehouse could receive tobacco products in bond and pay the duty on their arrival. In such situations, the dutiable goods would be shipped in bond to the local Revenue Collector who would affix and cancel the requisite stamps. Special rubber-stamp cancels were issued for this purpose.[91, 112] The impressions produced by these devices are surmised to have included the date and the numeric designation of the Division.

Beginning in July of 1887, the rectangular hand-stamps were replaced with roller cancels from which the date was omitted.[94, 113] Models (not to scale) of the impressions produced by these rollers are illustrated below in Figure 58.

From the very beginning in 1883, manufacturers could be given permission to cancel their duty-stamps by means other than the official rubber stamps.[3, 94] Over time, these manufacturers' cancels (usually stencilled or printed) would almost completely replace the official cancels, especially with respect to small tobacco stamps.

(To be continued.)

Table 5: Official designations for Revenue Divisions, 1883-1921.					
1 = Charlottetown PEI	15 = Terrebonne QC	29 = St. Catharines ON			
2 = Cape Breton NS	16 = Beauharnois QC	30 = Hamilton ON			
3 = Pictou NS	17 = Montreal QC	31 = Brantford ON			
4 = Halifax NS	18 = Cornwall ON	32 = London ON			
5 = Yarmouth NS	19 = Prescott ON	33 = Stratford ON			
6 = St. John NB	20 = Ottawa ON	34 = Windsor ON			
7 = Chatham NB	21 = Perth ON	35 = Algoma ON			
8 = Quebec QC	22 = Kingston ON	(later Port Arthur)			
9 = Trois Rivieres QC	23 = Belleville ON	36 = Winnipeg MB			
10 = Sherbrooke QC	24 = Cobourg ON	37 = Victoria BC			
11 = Sorel QC	25 = Peterborough ON	38 = Vancouver BC			
12 = St. Hyacinthe QC	26 = Toronto ON	39 = Calgary AB			
13 = Iberville QC	27 = Owen Sound ON	40 = Dawson YT			
(later St. Jean)	28 = Guelph ON	41 = Moose Jaw SK			
14 = Joliette OC					

• Most Divisions were named after a principal municipality and encompassed areas that were much larger than would be suggested by their names alone.

• In 1883, the list ended with N_{2} 37, Victoria. Divisions N_{2} 38, 39, 40 and 41 were added later, usually by the partitioning of an existing Division. In addition, some smaller Divisions were absorbed over time by larger Divisions.

• Some Divisions, such as № 20 and 36, Ottawa and Winnipeg, encompassed areas in more than one province and/or territory. [111]



Figure 58: Rubber-stamp cancels introduced in and after July 1887.



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- [69] Crown versus BABN, "Case for Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada," pp. 308, 311.
- [70] Brunel, A., Letter of July 1st, 1880, to BABN, National Archives, RG 19, Vol. 3652, File *Correspondence*.
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