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THE R.P.O. NEWSLETTER  
OF THE CANADIAN R.P.O. STUDY GROUP ( BNAPS )

VOLUME 15 - No. 1      Whole No. 57      October, 1986

BNAPEX '86 - DEARBORN, MICHIGAN - August 29 to 31, 1986

Another Annual Convention and show are now past history. With a total registration of about 175, and the lovely setting of the Dearborn Inn, it must be rated as a success. Despite the Chinese right to left numbering of the frames, the 200-frame exhibition contained some remarkable material. Our Chairman Lew Ludlow exhibited his Pence Issues which won the Grand Award, but also showed an almost complete collection of the Provincial R.P.O. cancels as per Lionel Gillam's recent book on the pre-Confederation R.P.O.s of Upper and Lower Canada. This also won a Gold. There were no other R.P.O. exhibits this year, but our versatile Study Group members exhibited other subjects as follows -

Earl Covert	Postal Stationery	Silver-Bronze
Horace Harrison	Postal Stationery	Silver
Bill Robinson	B.C. Registered Covers	Silver
Clarence Stillions	Newfy KG6 Coronation	Vermeil

The Chairmen of all Study Groups met with John Burnett, the Study Group Co-ordinator to discuss the problem of specialty judging. The problem did not materialize to any extent this year thanks to the good common-sense of the judges, but action is being taken to develop criteria and guidelines such as those now in use for topical exhibits.

As a result of the bi-annual elections, this Study Group will be well represented in the elected officers and directors who take office in January, 1987, as follows -

President	Ed Harris	Calgary, Alberta
1st Vice-President	Lew Ludlow	Kirkland, Wash.
Secretary (continuing)	Earl Covert	Hay River, NWT
Directors (to 1988)	David McKain	Parkersburg, W.Va.
	Bill Robinson	Vancouver, B.C.
	Clarence Stillions	Washington, D.C.
Directors (to 1990)	Graham Noble	Kingston, Ont.
	Jack Wallace	Victoria, B.C.

I think this speaks well for the philatelic activity of the R.P.O. Study Group.

STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING

Twenty members and three visitors registered for the Seminar and Annual Meeting of the Group on the afternoon of Saturday, August 30. The Secretary-Treasurer's report (attached) was approved, and the 1986-87 dues were again set at U.S.\$ 5.00 or Canadian \$ 6.00. Twenty members paid there. A moment of silence was observed for members Joe Purcell and Bill Richards who died during the year. Thanks were extended to Jack Wallace, Alex. Price and Ed Harris for their efforts in producing the Craigellachie and Cliffside (E. & N.) commemorative covers.



1986-87 Dues  
Owing

.... / 2

STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

The Officers - Chairman, Lew Ludlow, and Secretary-Treasurer-Editor, Bill Robinson, were returned by acclamation as no one else could be railroaded for the jobs.

The next edition of the R.P.O. Handbook was discussed - possibly in another few years because of the large volume of additions and changes being reported.

Lew's planned publication on the Newfoundland and Maritimes hammer analysis, etc. was discussed, and the possibility of using the computer system of dating strikes Year-Month-Day rather than the Month-Day-Year system now used will be explored.

During the Seminar portion of the meeting, Palmer Moffat gave an excellent history of the Newfoundland Railway, including dates and maps. John McCrea showed slides of interesting items from his collection - including cross-border mail, and Jack Wallace described the varied history of railways in British Columbia. We hope to publish at least parts of their hand-outs during the year.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Lionel Gillam - writes regarding the supposed correction of "G.J. & M." on page 9 of the last issue. One error seems to lead to another - I should have amended both parts of the listing to read - Garneau Junction & Montreal. My error, Lionel, and your reputation is secure.

Jim Lehr advises that he is starting on a study of the Prince Edward Island Railway and would appreciate any data from the membership.

Warren Bosch writes regarding the recording and publishing of exact early and late dates rather than just the year. Lew advises that he records these, but that the volume of changes in each Annex would just be too large to publish. Ed. Maloney has sent some interesting facing slips which I hope to publish soon, and also an interesting notice regarding entry to mail cars (bilingual).

Peter McCarthy is a C.N.R. Trainman running on the Island Pond line. He has offered to write us a story on the scenery, etc. along the line, and I look forward to receiving it for publication.

Jim Miller specializes in the Kamloops and Rogers Pass areas of British Columbia, and has sent the two pages in this issue showing the C.P.R. in Kamloops, and the earlier Craigellachie commemorative covers (50th Anniversary).

I have an example of the top cover, and also the one shown below. Does anyone know of any other types?

Jim Karr has recently sent Whit Bradley listings of his R.P.O. markings on Map stamp. Does anyone else have any to report? Here are Dave Mayerovitch's - MA-129 W/OC 24/10, Q-270 S/OC 6/99, O-29 E/JA 13/99, O-118 T1S/FE 2/99, O-199, O-236 W/FE 7/99, W/MR 8/99, O-253 N/MY 8/99, O-292 S/JA 24/99, O-327 S/AP 3/99, O-349 W/SP 7/99, O-354 E/JA 17/99, O-369 NE/NO 12/99, DD-18 PM/FE 27/99. Dave also sent lists of airmails and Special Deliveries which will be printed soon.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

*Mr. Miller*

**Last Spike Was Driven At  
CRAIGELLACHIE Near  
Revelstoke B.C. NOV. 7-1885**

*Miss Jean Smith,  
Ste 8, Steel Bldg,  
Winnipeg,  
Man.*

Jim Miller also writes concerning the large number of double-ring oval rubber stamps inscribed "SUPT. RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE / (City)" which are shown in the proof books from about 1910 to 1932. Should these be listed? Lew's position on these is that they are office stamps used to date receipt or despatch of mail. If and when we find them used on a cover, they will be listed - but showing them as "Only Proof Known" would merely clutter up the handbook to little advantage. The same comment applies to the many Type 5 markings for numerous runs which were proofed during the same general period.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY AFFILIATION

At AMERIPEX, BNAPS was admitted as Affiliate No.144 of the A.P.S. As a result, we are now sending a copy of our News Letters to Bob de Violini, the Chairman of the A.P.S. Affiliate Coordination Committee. Bob writes a column in the American Philatelist outlining the activities of the Affiliates - and hopefully he will be tempted to write something good about this Study Group, leading to additional membership.

STUDY GROUP ANNUAL DUES

1986-87 dues, as mentioned on Page 1, are now payable -  
\$ 5.00 U.S.                      or                      \$ 6.00 Canadian

Please make cheques payable to W.G.Robinson, as we do not have the rather expensive luxury of a separate bank account for the Study Group. A tick in the box below indicates that your dues are owing.



AFTER THE AMPERSAND - A continuation of Frank Waite's listing for finding first terminals when only the second can be read. Previous sections appeared in Volume 14 - No.1, page 10, No.2 Page 7, No.3 Page 6, No.4 page 6, and No.5 page 6.

<u>2nd Terminal</u>	<u>Possible 1st Terminals</u>		
STE. AGATHE DES MONTS	Montreal	SOURIS (MA)	Charlottetown
STE. FLAVIE	Matane	SOURIS (W)	Winnipeg
STE. SABINE	Beauce Jct.	S(miths)FALLS	Montreal
SALISBURY	Albert	SPIRIT RIVER	Edm(onto)n
SARNIA	Blenheim Chatham London	SPOKANE	Eastport
	" , Blenheim	SPRINGFIELD	St. Albans
	Ridgetown	STANSTEAD	Sherbrooke
	Stratford	STRASSBURG	Kirkella
	Toronto	SUDBURY	Ottawa Toronto
	Tor., Lon.	STRATFORD	Port Dover Pt. Rowan
	Walk(erville)		St. Thomas
SASKATOON	Bins(carth)		Sarnia
	Brandon		Simcoe
	Bred(enbury)		Toronto
	Bulyea		
	Kamsack	STET(tler)	Calgary, Stet. & Vegreville
	Kirkella	SUMMERSIDE	Charlottetown
	Rivers	SUTTON	Drum(mondville) Sorel
	Yorkton	S(wift)CURRENT	Van(couver)
SAULT STE. MARIE	North Bay Ott(awa) Sud(bury)	SWAN RIVER	Reg(ina) W(inni)peg York(ton)
Seattle	Sumas	SYDNEY	Halifax Hal., Tru. Point Tupper Truro
SEN(neterre)	Que(bec)		
SEPT ISLES	Matane Rimouski		
SHARBOT LAKE	Kingston Renfrew		
SHAUN(avon)	Moose Jaw	SOUTHAMPTON	Guelph Ham(ilton) Harrisburg Lon(don) Palmerston Tor(onto)
SHERBROOKE	Lake Megantic Levis Montreal Newport Quebec Stanstead		
SIC(amous)	Kel(owna)	TO BE CONTINUED	
SKAGWAY	Vancouver		
SMITHERS	Prince George		

# British North America Philatelic Society

WM. G. ROBINSON  
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MEMBER  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SECRETARY - TREASURER & EDITOR , RAILWAY POST OFFICE STUDY GROUP

REPORT FOR YEAR 1985-86

August 31, 1986

<u>INCOME:</u>	1986 Dues & Foreign Exchange	\$ 472.00	
	1987 Dues in Advance (Note 2)	12.00	
	Donations - Postage (Note 5)	40.00	
	TOTAL	\$ 524.00	
	Balance from 1985 report	13.75	
		<u>\$ 537.75</u>	
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	Vol.14 No.1 - printing, Postage	\$ 82.71	
	2 - "	87.06	
	3 - "	84.97	
	4 - "	86.16	
	5 - "	87.40	
	6 - (Est.)(Note 3)	87.40	
	Craigellachie Covers postage		30.93 (Note 4)
	TOTAL	\$ 546.73	
	NET DEFICIT	\$ 8.98	

- NOTES:
- All accounts in Canadian Funds.
  - Birchill & Harrison paid for 1987.
  - Postage costs for No.6 estimated only, as some copies being distributed at BNAPEX.
  - Postage costs only. Envelopes & labour supplied by Messrs. Price & wallace.
  - Postage donations by Messrs. Miller, waite & Robinson.
  - Present Membership -
 

U.S.A.	- 27 Paid	2 Free
Overseas	3 Paid	1 Free
Canada	50 Paid	4 Free
TOTAL	80	7

Last year total of 77 included 70 paid & 7 free, so we have increased by 10, or 14% in the year.

The free Newsletters are distributed to - Editors - "Topics", "Maple Leaves", National Philatelic Library, National Archives, BNAPS Library, Study Group Co-ordinator, & Map Stamp study Group Editor.

*Bill Rolan*

# Please Mr. Postman help save the sailor

By Dennis Bueckert Canadian Press

MONTREAL — The Seafarers' International Union of Canada is fighting to get mail service restored to some 10,000 sailors on the Great Lakes, left high and dry when the last marine post office on the lakes failed to reopen this spring.

"There was one post office to serve the entire Great Lakes region and now they've closed it," said Andrew Boyle, the union's executive vice-president. "Now a guy can't even get a letter from home."

The marine post office in Thorold, Ont., was one of several built along the St. Lawrence Seaway about a generation ago. Over the years traffic in the seaway has declined and the Thorold marine post office was the last one to close.

Canada Post spokesman Tom Dalby said the Thorold office handled 31,000 letters last shipping season — up to 125 a day.

He said Canada Post closed the office as a cost-cutting measure. It will save \$48,000, mainly accounted for by the salaries of the four part-time workers who staffed it.

Dalby said that seamen can still get mail through shipping company offices, and many of them were getting their correspondence that way even before the office closed.

But that's not good enough, says veteran seaman Dick Thomasson, who is leading the union's campaign to reopen the Canada Post branch at Thorold on Lock 5 of the Welland Canal.

"We've had situations when mail has been in company offices two or three months and nobody bothered to deliver it. They're not obliged to do it and it's not something you can depend on."

Said Thomasson: "There's nothing more important to a sailor than a letter."

Garry Gribble, personnel manager for Algoma Central Railway, which operates a fleet on the lakes, said he sympathizes with the sailors:

"We do deliver the mail, but they can't mail stuff now. And these guys move around a lot. They may be with one company this month and another company the next, and we don't even know where they are."

Sailors can still use ship-to-shore radio, but Thomasson says that is expensive, there is no privacy, and the service is intended for business or for emergencies.

"I speak first-hand," he said. "I spent 20 years on the boats. You can read a letter over and over again, and I've seen it many times."

"A guy that you can't normally get out of bed with a crowbar is up at mail call because he wants to know if he's going to get pictures of the new baby, or a letter from his girlfriend."

Thomasson said a petition with 6,000 names has been sent to Ottawa, a demonstration was held at Thorold, letters have been written to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Michel Cote, the minister responsible for Canada Post, but there had been no hint the decision may be reconsidered.

From the  
"Toronto Star"  
August 9, 1986

Courtesy of  
"Topics" Editor  
Mike Street

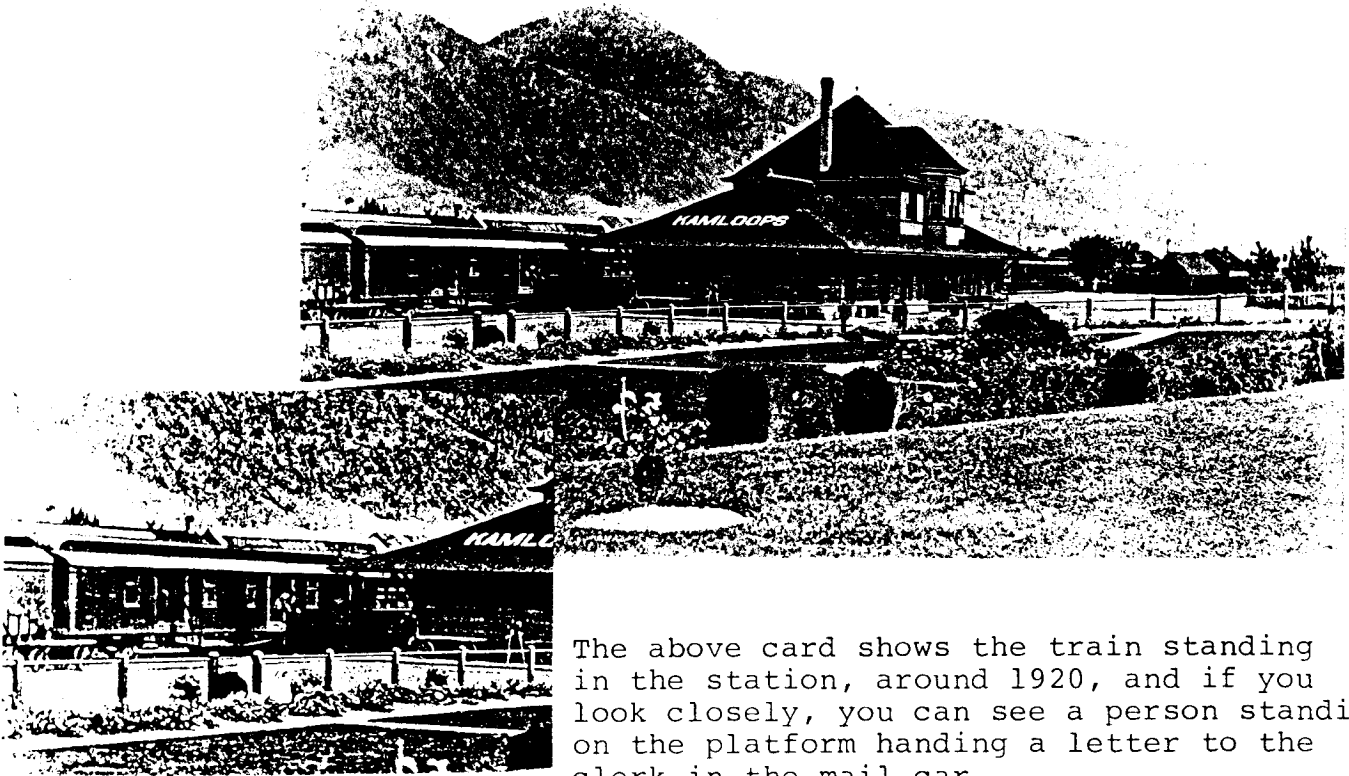


A Great Lakes freighter: no mail stops

STAR - AUG 9/86

KAMLOOPS, B.C.: On the CALGARY & VANCOUVER R.P.O. Run.

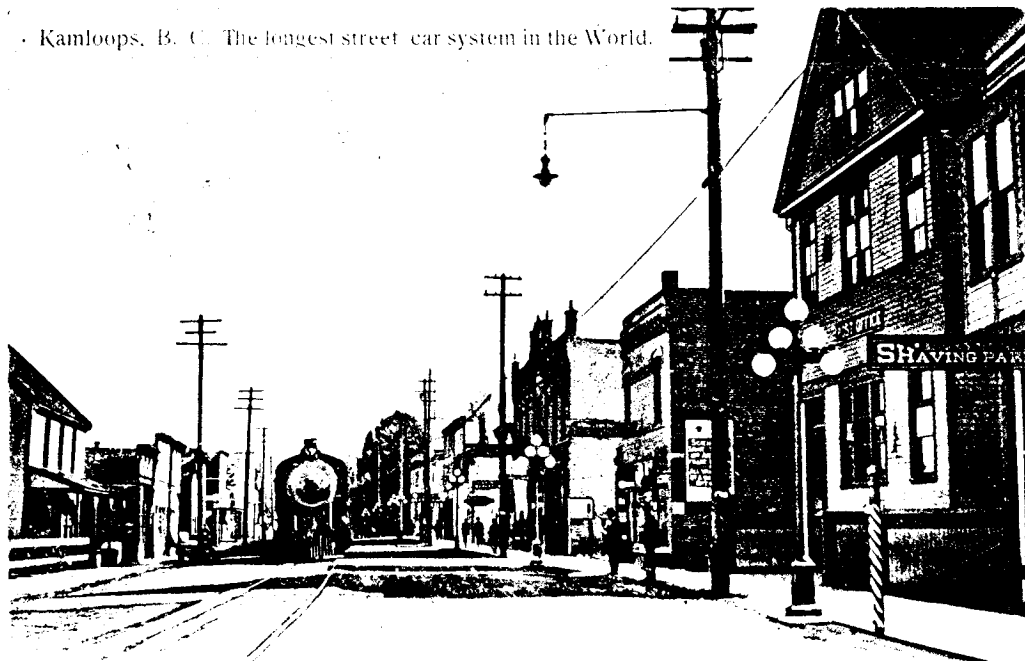
C. P. R. Station, Kamloops, B. C.



The above card shows the train standing in the station, around 1920, and if you look closely, you can see a person standing on the platform handing a letter to the clerk in the mail car.

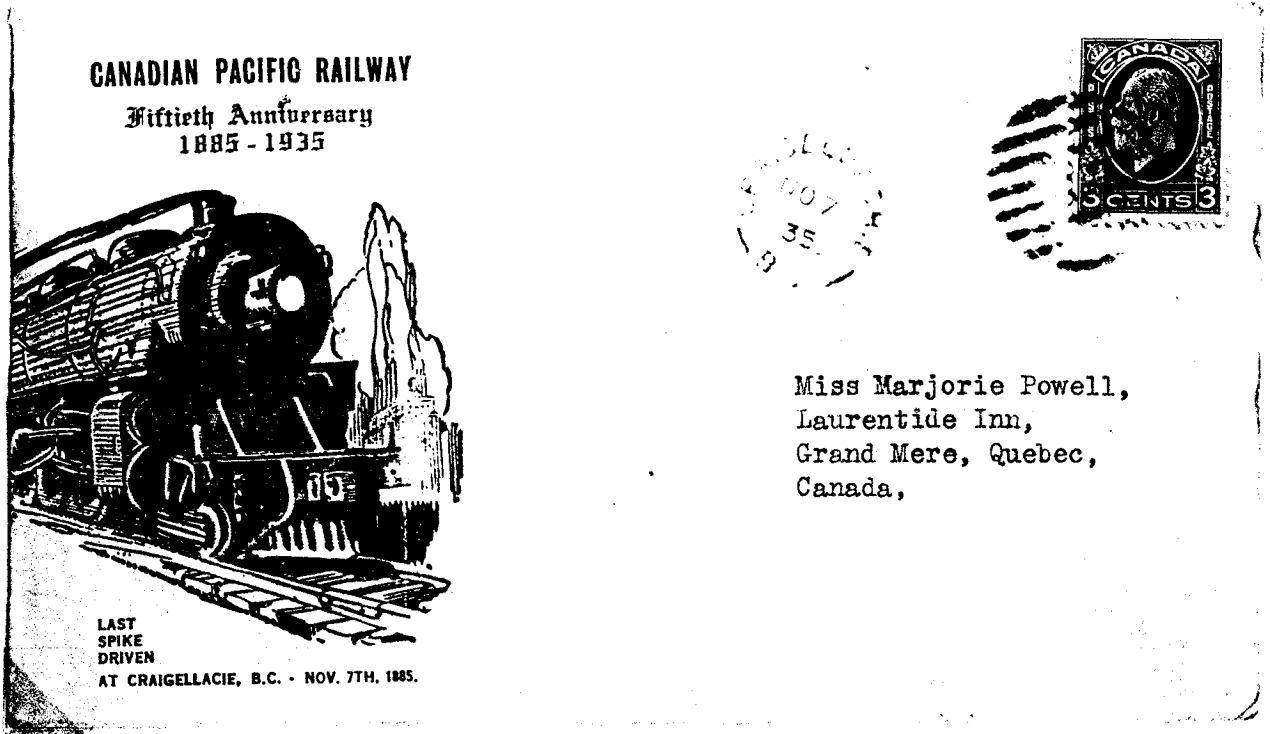
In the card below, the mainline of the C.P.R. ran down the main street of Kamloops until 1914. Kamloops was one of the very few towns that existed along the C.P.R. route prior to the construction of the railroad in the west. Due to the large river and rugged terrain around the city centre, there was nowhere else they could put the tracks. Notice the post office, first building on the right.

Kamloops, B. C. The longest street car system in the World.



CRAIGELLACHIE/B.C. NO 7/35

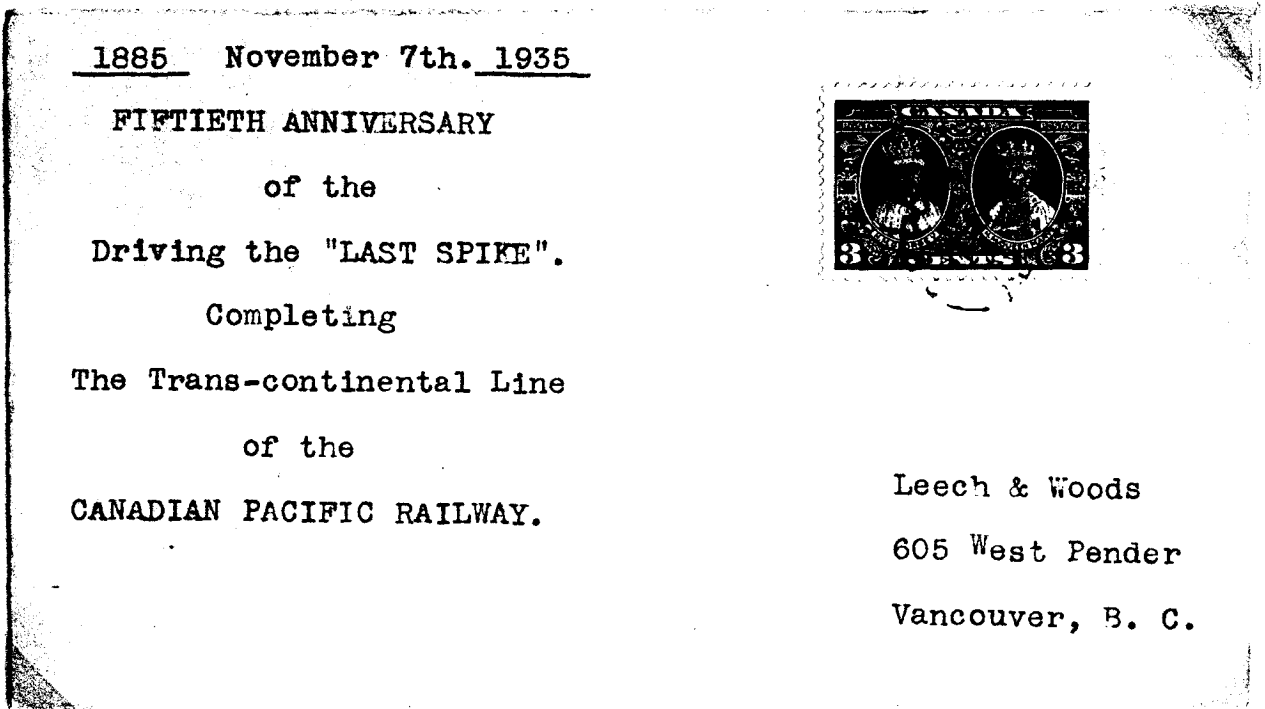
50th Anniversary of the Last Spike on the C.P.R.



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY  
Fiftieth Anniversary  
1885 - 1935

LAST  
SPIKE  
DRIVEN  
AT CRAIGELLACIE, B.C. - NOV. 7TH, 1885.

Miss Marjorie Powell,  
Laurentide Inn,  
Grand Mere, Quebec,  
Canada,



1885 November 7th. 1935

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
of the  
Driving the "LAST SPIKE".  
Completing  
The Trans-continental Line  
of the  
CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.



Leech & Woods  
605 West Pender  
Vancouver, B. C.



R.P.O. STUDY GROUP - B.N.A.P.S.  
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Totals - Canada 52  
U.S.A. 27

Overseas 4  
ExOfficio 6