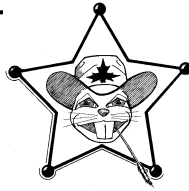


# BEAVER



# CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Prairie Beaver Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd.  
Chairman: **George Dresser** Treasurer: **David Nickson** Editor: **Vic Willson**  
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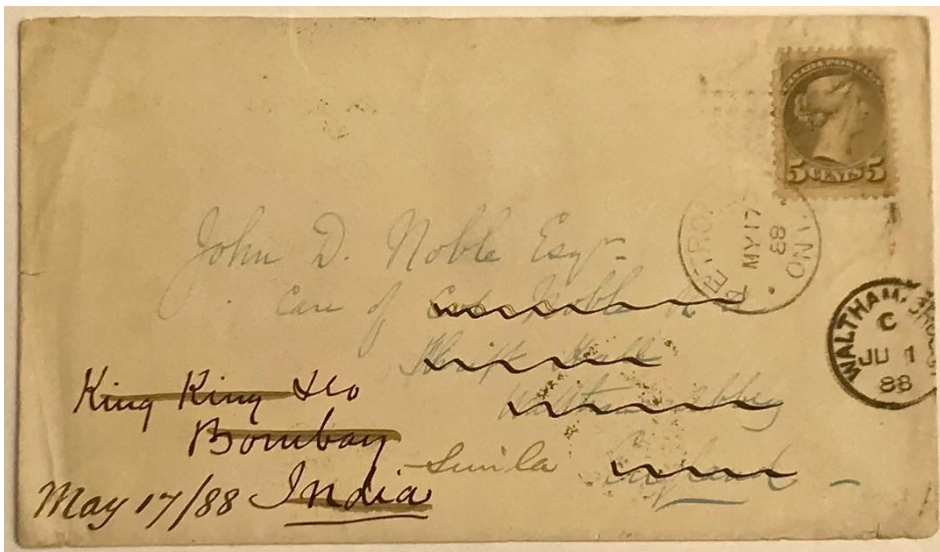
## UPU Surtax to India- Prepaid or not- Vic Willson

I bought a cover shown below (Fig. 1) sent from Wolfville NS on Nov. 6, 1889, to London, England. It was received in London Nov. 25 and sent from England on Nov. 28 to India without additional payment for the surtax. According to UPU rules, that should have been 2½d, equivalent to 5¢ Canadian due to the surtax for distant locations, which from Canada was 10¢ per ½ oz.

The cover has a Nov. 30 SEA POST OFFICE cancel on the back.



Fig. 1: Canada to UK, forwarded to India without additional payment for surtax, mailed 1889



I commented on it to Guillaume Vadeboncoer, who sent another example, shown in Fig. 2. Sent from Peterboro Ont. on May 17, 1888, and received at Waltham Cross, England June 1, it was immediately forwarded, as a SEA POST OFFICE cancel dated June 7 is on the back.

Fig.2: Canada to UK, forwarded to India without additional payment for surtax 1888

Guillaume also sent another cover sent from Seaforth, Ont. on May 8, 1888 and received at Waltham, England on May 20, Waltham Abbey on May 25, and at the SEA POST OFFICE June 5. It has a 2½d stamp added for the surtax.



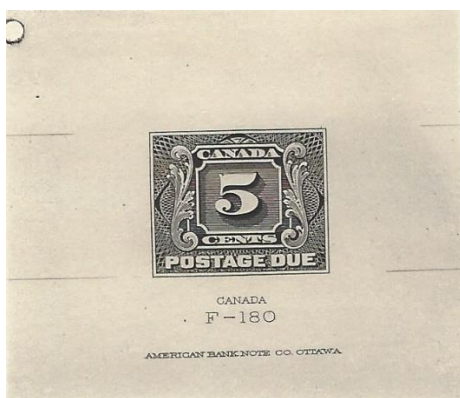
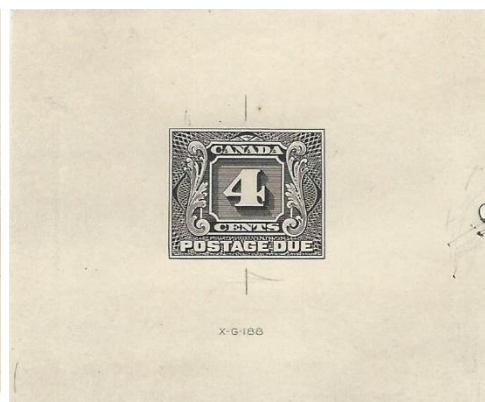
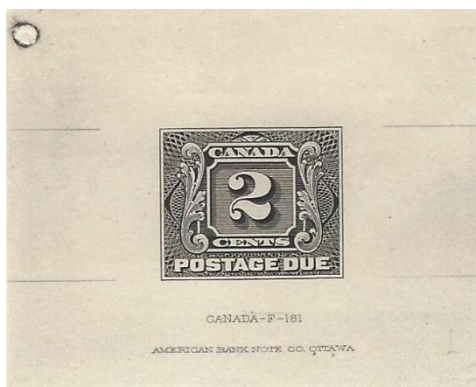
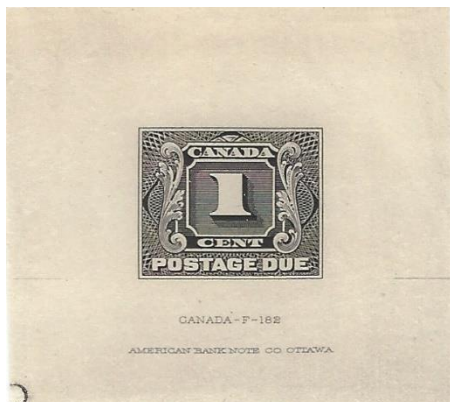
Fig. 3: Cover from Canada to England, forwarded to India with additional payment for surtax

Why two were sent free of additional payment and the third not is a mystery. That two examples were forwarded free of additional payment for the surtax may be a function of who was the postmaster or clerk handling the mail. The time frames for the covers do not support some change in regulation. Perhaps there are regulations of the BPO that our British members might comment.

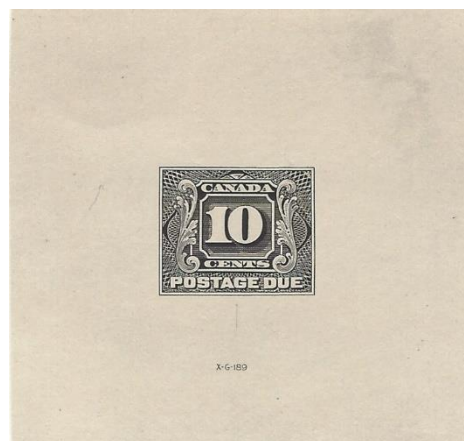


## DIE PROOFS OF THE FIRST POSTAGE DUE STAMPS OF CANADA- by George Dresser

The large die proofs in black shown below are reported to be one of two sets prepared. The 1, 2 and 5 values were apparently produced prior to issuance of the stamps in 1906, the 4 and 10 perhaps not until prior to the 1928 issuance.



The three trial color die proofs in green below were recently acquired, listed in 2007 BNAPS publication *Postage Due Stamps of Canada 1906-1928* by Elsie M. Drury and Stan Lum, but no other information. Perhaps they are unique given the amount of time since their likely production.



## A Fifth Large Queen Soldier's Letter Surfaces after 152 Years- by Vic Willson

I just acquired the cover shown below at auction by All Nations Stamp and Coin. It is the same



correspondence as the cover owned by Dave Hobden and discussed by him in An unprinted piece regarding its NOT being related to the 1870 Riel Rebellion regiments. It is shown in Fig. 1, with backstamp in Fig. 2.

*Fig. 1: Newly reported soldier's letter to England mailed Ap. 29, 1869*



The cover was mailed by John Hale, #1181, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade. Per Dave Hobden's analysis, Hale was in the Canadian Militia. This unit and Hale were part of the response to the Fenian raids in Eastern Canada. Hale and the unit were not part of the Riel Rebellion troops. The cover was sent from Quebec (CL) on April 29, 1869, to a solicitor, Mr. Lee, of Salisbury, England. The dates indicate the cover left Portland (Maine) May 2 on the *Peruvian* and arrived in Liverpool May 14, consistent with the dates and not consistent with any Cunard sailings.

*Fig. 2: Backstamp of new soldier's letter*

The two covers are quite similar, being mailed only three months apart. The Officer countersigning is different and will need a bit more time to determine, but as the Commanding Officer of the Battalion should be figured out. The addressee is the same solicitor. This brings to five the number of soldier's letters in the Large Queen era, three with a 2¢ to England, a domestic letter with a pair of 1¢, and one to India with 4 x ½¢, returned with large letters DEAD, most insensitive.



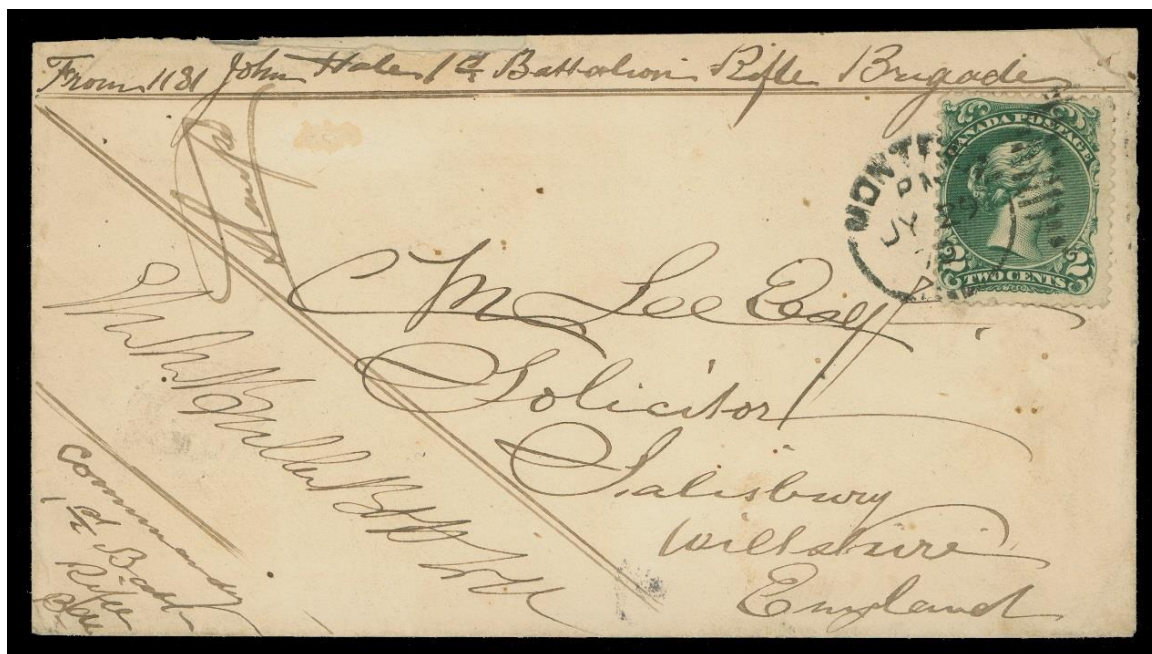


Fig. 3: Hobden soldier's letter JY 20, 1869 reported earlier

#### Use of the 7 Cent Edward VII Stamp- by George Dresser

The 7¢ stamp of the Edward VII series, issued July 1, 1903, was a continuation of the 2¢ under 1 oz. rate value for domestic, US, and British Commonwealth first class registered letters as of Dec. 25, 1898, for many Commonwealth destinations, and Jan. 1, 1899, for domestic and US destinations. While the latter two are the most common covers available, there are other interesting uses of the stamp, some shown below. All are fairly scarce uses.



Fig. 1: 7x domestic 6-7 oz. letter

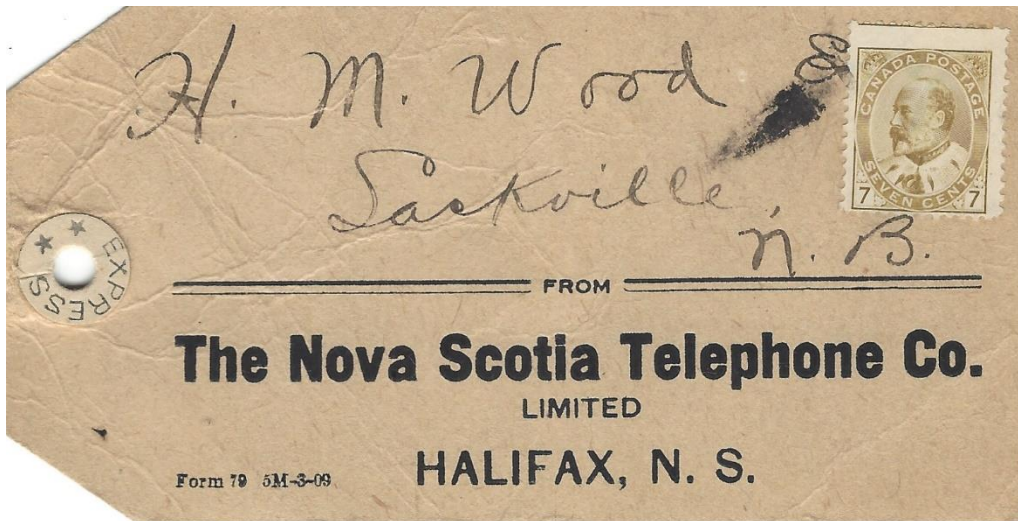


Fig. 2: 6-7 oz. 4<sup>th</sup> class parcel tag

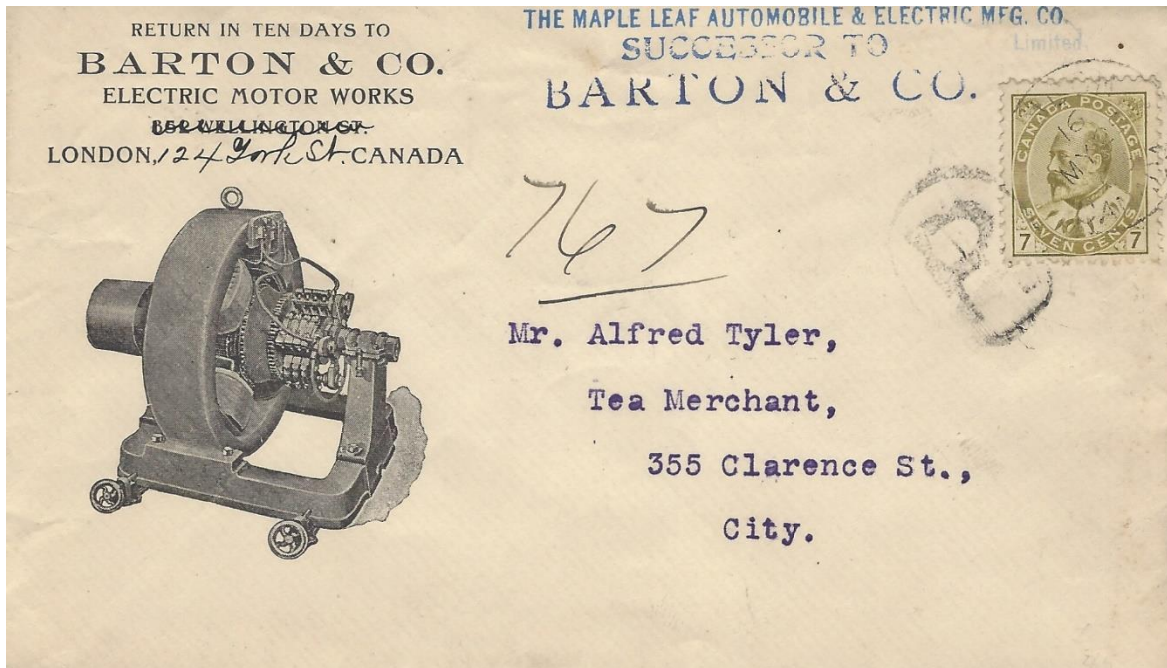


Fig. 3: 1 oz. free delivery city drop registered letter rate



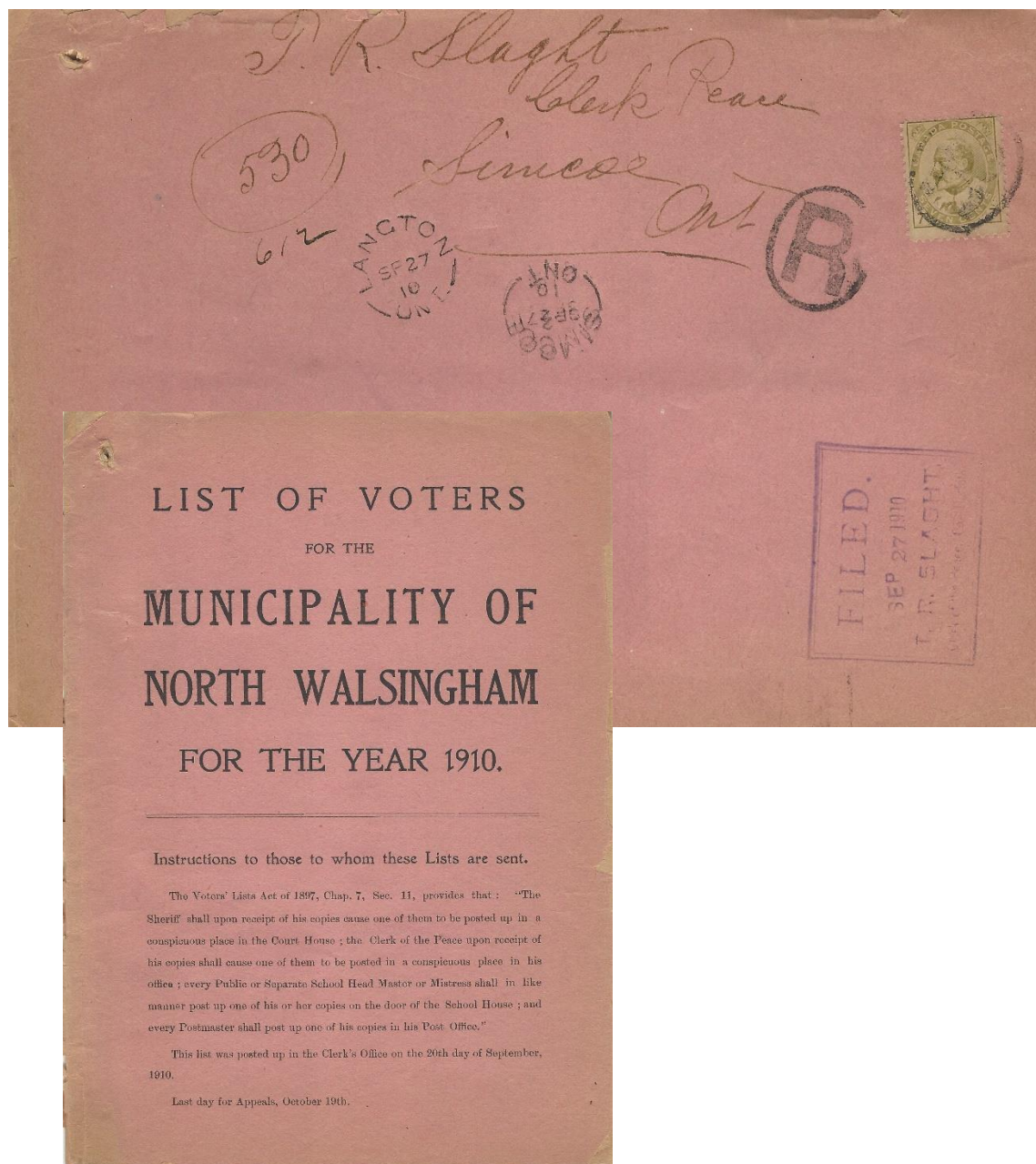


Fig. 4: 2-4 oz.  
registered printed  
matter (voter's list)

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