

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 99

March/April 2003

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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NEW MEMBER

Dave Symons has joined our group. His collecting interests are:

- 1) Canada & Newfoundland Revenues;
- 2) Canada & Newfoundland Tax Pairs. Tax Pairs are: Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette, Snuff and Liquor stamps;
- 3) Canada and Newfoundland stamps.

He can be contacted at 630 Morrison Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 7H1, Canada. Phone is (604) 936-0603 and email is jdss@dowco.com

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA

C. R. McGuire provided us a nice history of the Rev. Butler from which I extracted the information on Page 2. He has written a number of recent articles on Newfoundland postal history in the **PHSC Journal**. You may want to consider membership in PHSC. Annual membership is \$20 Cdn, \$20 U.S. or \$30 Cdn elsewhere. Last I heard they were giving away a 198-page volume celebrating the 15th anniversary of the society as an incentive to join. Contact R.F. Narbonne, 216 Mailey Dr., Carleton Place, Ontario, K7C 3X9

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE THE 100TH!!! LOOK FOR FOUR PAGES IN COLOR!!!

Support our dealer members:

David Eisenhauer, 7030 SW Kaufman Drive, Beaverton, Oregon, U.S.A. 97007
John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Center, P.O. Box 1870, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 3S2
Bill Longley, Longley Auctions, P.O. Box 620, Waterdown, Ontario, L0R 2H0
R.L. McGillivray, Stanley Stamps, 1096 Richard's St., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3E1
J-Claude Michaud, P.O. Box 31248, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5Y1

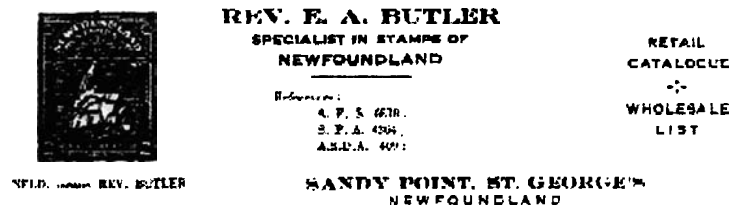
Chairman/Editor: Norris (Bob) Dyer, 1708 Granada Court, Petaluma, Ca 94954 nrdyer@attbi.com
Treasurer: Martin Goebel, 79 Highland Dr., St. John's, Newfoundland, A1A 3C3

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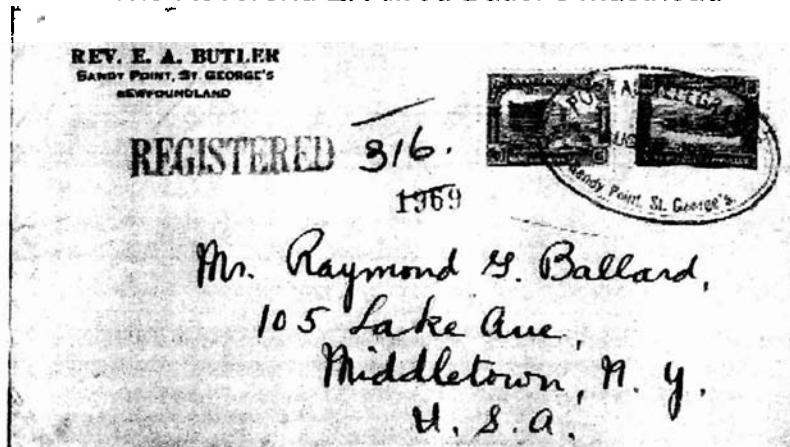
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WHO WAS THE REVEREND E.A. BUTLER? - The Editor



The Reverend E. Alfred Butler's Masthead



1931 registered cover to U.S. at 14¢ rate with Scott #177 & 178

The Reverend E.A. Butler launched thousands of covers during his career. You see them for sale everywhere. Dean Mario sent me an excellent article by our member, Ron McGuire on Butler from the PHSC Journal # 50, Pages 165-72, 1987. The information below is from the article.

The Reverend E. A. Butler was born in 1872 at Kelligrews, Newfoundland. He began collecting in 1890, and dealing in stamps in 1916. A graduate of Queen's College in St. John's, he was "Rector of Bay St. George and Parish", which in 1927 consisted of 300 families. McGuire describes a catalogue of Newfoundland stamps from the same period as "quite elaborate". He continued to issue catalogues into the 1940's. The earliest Butler correspondence McGuire has seen is from 1921, the latest from 1944. Correspondence from Butler bears his Sandy point address, and are postmarked with one of two different Sandy Point oval rubber "POSTAL TELEGRAPH" handstamps (see above cover) or the town's split ring. The scope of his business in 1932 is reflected in his statement that his stock at that time was "over twenty thousand dollars value" and that he had over one thousand *new* customers in 1931. In 1927, he allowed a 20% discount on orders over \$50. In 1932 his prices were "NET and average 38% of Scott." In 1935, orders under \$10 were net, orders between \$10-20 discounted 10% and orders larger than that, discounted 20%. McGuire said "Butler was a well-informed philatelist as indicated by his comprehensive catalogue entries and the informative text..." In 1935, he added used postal stationery to his catalogue, and gave greater emphasis to it from then on. In April, 1949, his APS entry listed him "without classification" unlike earlier entries as "collector dealer". His last APS entry was in 1952. McGuire later from out that Butler disposed of his stock in 1948, and also resigned as Rector from his parish that same year. ***Want to share any interesting Butler covers? Send me a quality Xerox or attach to email by jpg! ---The Editor***

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PLACENTIA IN OUR TIME!

John Talman of John Talman Ltd. sent this item to us. It is the 3¢ Alexandra of the 1897 Royal Family set postmarked at Placentia on December 21, 1918. Look closely at the picture below.



Someone changed the L to an E, turning this into a patriotic **PEACE** postmark. Talman says this is the second one he's seen. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment crossed the Rhine into Germany on December 13, 1918 and the Armistice had been November 11th. Talman speculates that Placentia may have done this during the Christmas season, reflective of a particularly patriotic time in Newfoundland.

John Walsh has seen the two items and adds:

I have looked at this several times and come to the conclusion that the canceller has been adjusted by someone way back then. You will notice that the two 'E's' in **PEACENTIA** are not the same style. Looks like the L has two extra strokes added plus serifs that make this new E different from the second E. In the second E it has shorter center stroke and is sans serifs than first E.

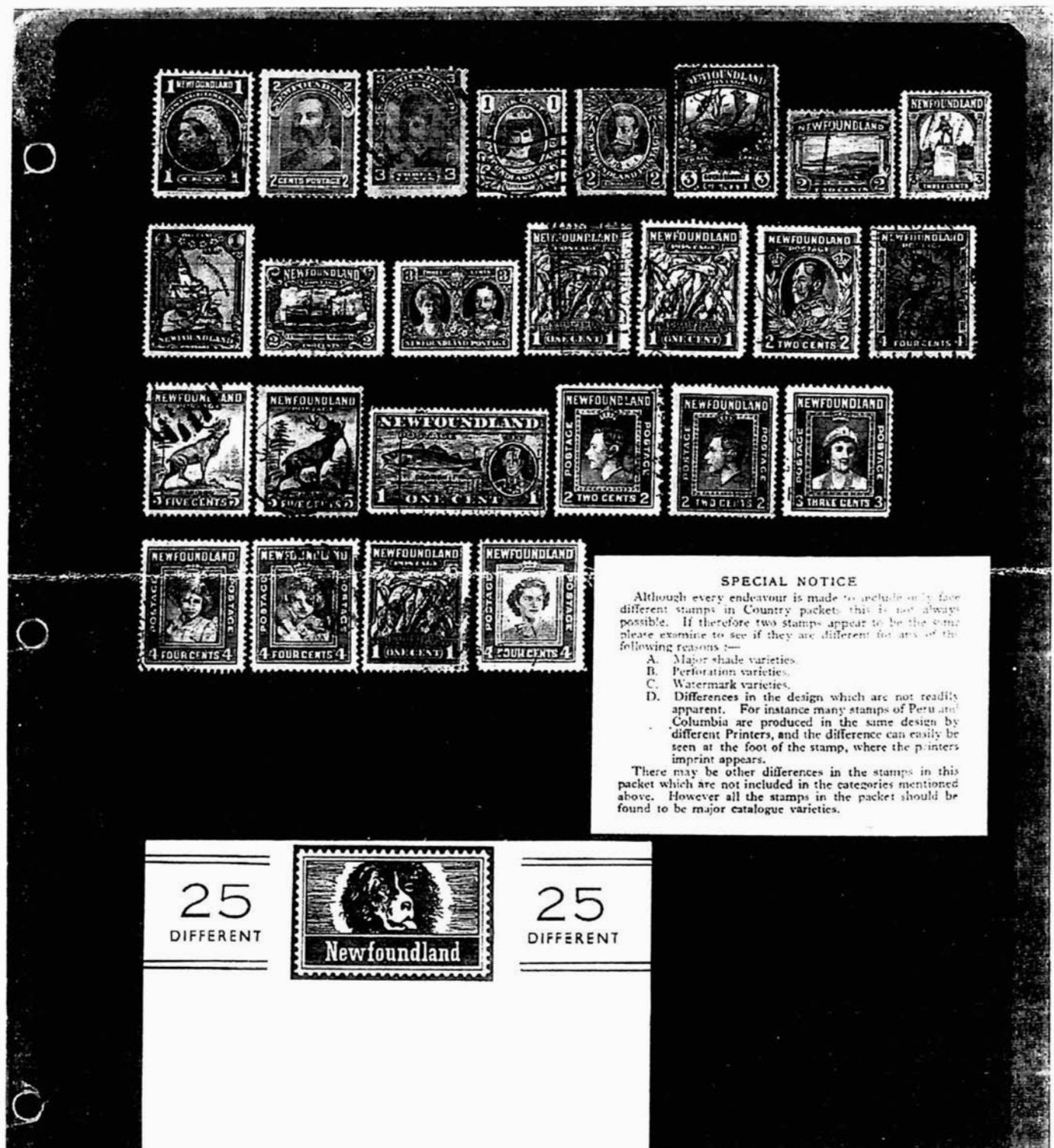
John Talman's website is www.talmanstamps.com

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A NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP "PACKET" -- Dean Mario



*Editor – see the next page for Dean's description of this item and a close-up of **SPECIAL NOTICE**.*

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THE STAMP "PACKET"

The illustration on the previous page shows the contents and packaging of an "old-type packet" of Newfoundland stamps. It would have been the type of item sold in hobby shops, walk-in stamp stores, or perhaps by one of the many mail order firms who specialize in used worldwide stamps. Often this type of stamp "memorabilia" or ephemera is quite interesting, despite the fact that the stamps are perhaps some of the most common issued by the island nation. Is it from the 1940's, 1950's, or 1960's?

The stamps are not exactly in order but they reflect a good range of items which could be utilized as a "starter" for a young (or novice) collector. Most are in surprisingly good condition for packet material, despite the few perforation problems and centering which a few of the stamps have. The 2¢ King George V issue from 1911 has paper attached to the back. Note the 2¢ value from the 1923-24 Pictorial Issue with a blue crayon "cancel" and a few perf holes – presumably from an old cheque. The striking Newfoundland dog was printed in burgundy.

Do any members know which company sold, or issued, this type of packet? There is nothing to indicate its source. Because it is so attractive, one would think that other countries were also produced. Responses through the Newsletter Editor would be appreciated...*Dean Mario*

SPECIAL NOTICE

Although every endeavour is made to include only face different stamps in Country packets this is not always possible. If therefore two stamps appear to be the same please examine to see if they are different for any of the following reasons :—

- A. Major shade varieties.
- B. Perforation varieties.
- C. Watermark varieties.
- D. Differences in the design which are not readily apparent. For instance many stamps of Peru and Columbia are produced in the same design by different Printers, and the difference can easily be seen at the foot of the stamp, where the printers imprint appears.

There may be other differences in the stamps in this packet which are not included in the categories mentioned above. However all the stamps in the packet should be found to be major catalogue varieties.

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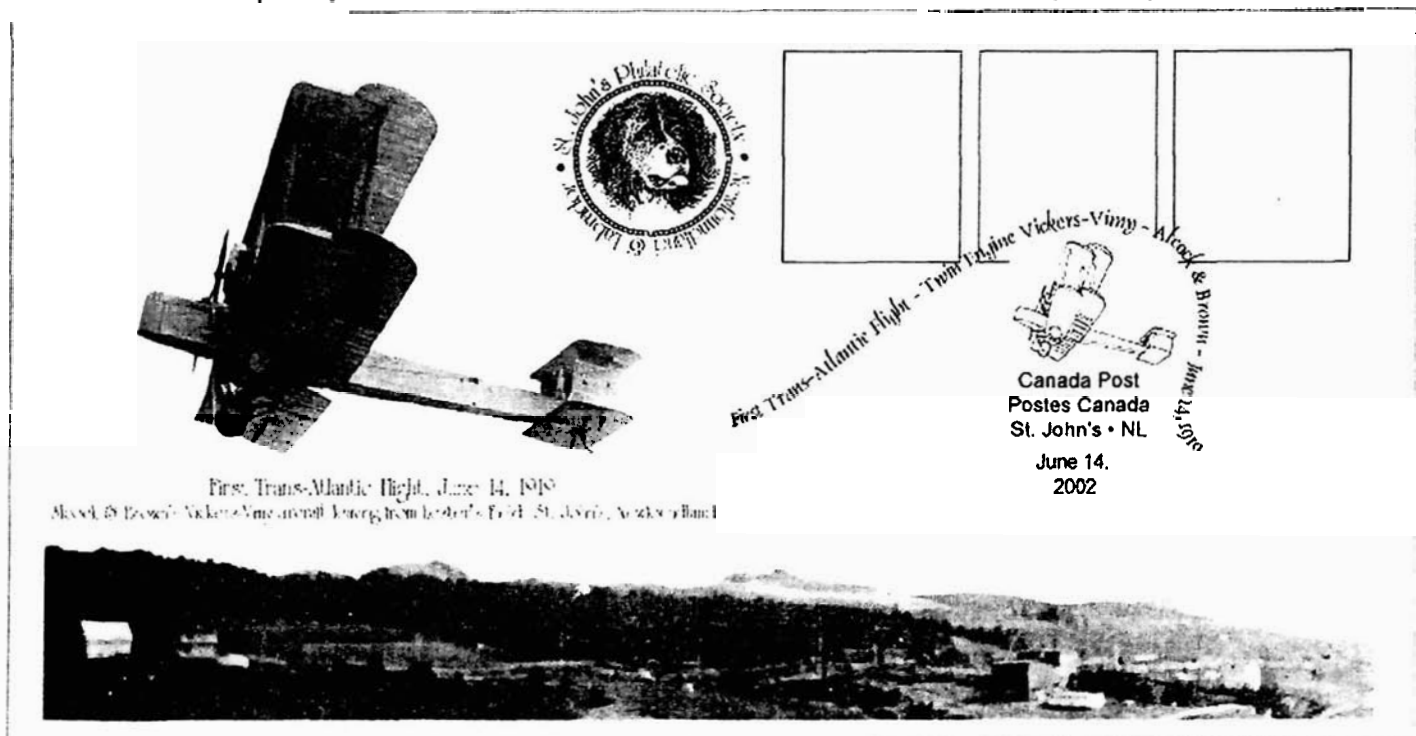
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VIMY FLIGHT POSTPONED UNTIL 2004!

I recently spoke with John LaNoue, Vimy chief engineer, to get an update on the scheduled 2003 flight by the Vickers Vimy recreating the historic 1919 flight by Alcock and Brown (see #98, Pages 6-7, with LaNoue's photo on Page 7). The flight is postponed until July, 2004! The problem is money. With the economy and the pending war with Iraq, charitable contributions are just not easily available. Blair Adamson, with whom I had been working previously has left. LaNoue is my new contact. He is still working on the installation of the two Orenda engines, and that has been challenging, also. Below is their logo.



Here is a beautiful draft of a cacheted envelope created by members of the St. John's Philatelic Society. They will be working on revisions, incorporating the Vimy logo somewhere in the design – but now we have plenty of time. LaNoue seemed warm to the idea of a special philatelic mail.



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THE STORY OF NILS OHMEN

Members of our study group have been researching Nils Ohman, an important stamp dealer in St. John's the latter part of the 19th century. Anne Pallen, reports on the Ohmans, from Beaconsfield, Quebec, and knew the Ohman watch making (jeweler's) shop in Montreal:

"I remember the shop, but more importantly I know one of the Ohman Granddaughters! I had to do a little detective job, great fun, but ran her down through a son-in-law. I had thought they were in the U.S. but they are in the next suburb to me, and I visited her yesterday. Nils died in 1936, her father Eric took over and died in 1959, and then the shop was managed for her mother until it closed..."



Nils sent this 1892 card to a New York dealer, touting the ½¢ rose Newfoundland dog stamp

Some weeks later, Anne provided us this biographical sketch written by Nils' granddaughter:

"Nils Ohman was born in the north of Sweden near Lulia in Boden in July, 1843, one of 9 children. His father, Nils Erikson Ohman, had a sawmill and a farm, and Grandpa had a happy carefree youth riding horses until he was 16 years old, when he broke his legs. He spent 2 months in bed recovering. At this time a next-door neighbor knew of a watchmaker in Umea who needed 'a young fellow of good reputation' to come and learn the watch making business. He sent passage to Umea, 200 miles south. He worked for 6 years as an apprentice there, board and lodging included and 50 crowns a year. He also studied mathematics by candlelight. He received a certificate from a board of watchmakers, making him an expert watchmaker. A friend told him that a John Lindberg in St. John's Newfoundland needed a good watchmaker. Grandpa accepted the position, landing in St. John's on August 2, 1869...He worked for Mr. Lindberg for 2 years, 6 months...He married Jessie Murray in 1880. She was Presbyterian and he Lutheran...The great fire of July 1892 swept through St. John's after which many banks failed. I feel this may have precipitated the move to Montreal in 1899, where my grandfather's sister and husband were living in Westmount. My father, Nils Eric, was born at Brazil's Square in St. John's in 1894...Nils and Jessie are buried in Mount Royal Cemetery in the old section. Grandpa died in 1936, aged 92 years, of pneumonia. He died reading the 'funnies', bright to the end. Grannie Jessie died the following year of a broken heart, a very happy couple."

More research next issue, including Jessie's important role in Newfoundland history.

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THE 12-CENT CHESTNUT ISSUE OF 1894

Colin D. Lewis, Swansea UK

All references that I have had the opportunity of consulting (see list below) show that the reissued 12-cent Chestnut shade was released in August 1894, but none quote the actual date. The registered cover below is an example of early usage of this stamp. The date of mailing was Tuesday, 31 July 1894 and it is highly probable that this was the first day of issue. If anyone has an earlier usage I would be grateful if they would contact the Newsletter Editor with details.



Students of the rates of Newfoundland will note that the cover is overpaid by 2¢. As the cover was an official "ON POSTAL SERVICE" envelope it is probable that it contained mint copies of the new 12-cent stamp and the Post Office used a copy to cover postage required. There are numerous registered covers of this period that have an excess of postage, and many were forwarded by use on the "ON POSTAL SERVICE" envelope [Editor, for another example, see the bottom cover on the next page]. There seemed to have been a GPO policy at St. John's to ignore correct postal rates and to frank covers with excess postage, or did the customer request that?

The majority of these over-franked covers is to overseas destinations and would undoubtedly have been filling orders for mint stamps. Although these covers are often offered for sale today as philatelic contrivances they did perform a proper commercial transaction at the time of mailing.

This cover was forwarded via Boston where it received a transit backstamp of August 4th. The backstamp arrival mark of Providence, Rhode Island was struck on August 6th.

References consulted:

- i) Stanley Gibbons SG #61
- ii) Newfoundland Specialized NSSC #53
- iii) Unitrade Specialized #29
- iv) Boggs Postage Stamps of Newfoundland #61
- v) Scott #29

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THREE CABOT COVERS USED ON REGISTERED LETTERS TO U.S.



Three Registered Cabot covers to U.S.: Jan/98, Aug/97, July/97 (dbl. Rate), all with precursors

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 -Horace Harrison

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WEST & EAST BOUND
BLACKHEAD, FE 19, 84 TO N. Y. C.



ST. JOHN'S NO 15, 93 TO CUMBERLAND, ENGLAND
OVAL GLASGOW PACKET LETTER C.D.S. NO 27, 1893

