

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

Number 101

July/August 2003

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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DUES

It's getting to be that time again! You may pony up for 2004 now - \$13 (Canadian dollars), \$9 (United States dollars) or £6.50 (British pounds). Your support helps defray the expense of printing (especially colour), postage, etc. Send dues to our treasurer, Martin Goebel. **Please note he has a new address – below.**

BLACK AND WHITE?

For this issue, it's back to black and white. We will have at least one page of color in #102, as I have received a picture of a beautiful advertising cover from Ron McGuire.

BNAPEX2003

London, Ontario, September 25-27, 2003. We do plan a group workshop. Sammy Whaley will provide an update on his monumental study of 19th century Cents covers. He is now far ahead of what Robert Pratt found in his 1989 *Newfoundland Cents Issue Covers*. Details on exact time will be provided in the September/October issue.

ALCOCK 2004 FLIGHT

I gave a presentation to a BNAPS group at WESTPEX in April, and spoke with the flight engineer prior to my speech. They are still planning to recreate the flight next year but need additional donations. The Vimy Restoration firm is non-profit and things have generally been tough for non-profits during the current "downturn" in the economy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS !!!

David Piercey won a *Gold, Reserve Grand & BNAPS award* at the Edmonton Spring National in March for his exhibit --- **POSTAL ISSUES OF NEWFOUNDLAND: 1865-1908.**

Randall Martin won a *Gold* at the Philatelic Show at Boxborough, MA in May for his exhibit – **NEWFOUNDLAND SURFACE MAIL.**

David Handelman won a *Gold & Reserve Grand* at ORAPEX2003 in May for his exhibit **EARLY CANADIAN ROUND DATESTAMPS & THEIR MANUSCRIPT FRIENDS.**

Norris (Bob) Dyer, 1708 Granada Court, Petaluma, CA, 94954 nrdyer@attbi.com

Martin Goebel, 13 O'Mara Place, St. John's, Newfoundland A1A 5B7 goebel@roadrunner.nf.net

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RARELY SEEN NEWFOUNDLAND COD FORM ENVELOPE

David Handelman

FOR C. O. D.
PARCEL

REG. NO. 9923

Addressed to:
Wm White
Princeton

AMOUNT \$ 65

Heavy penalty for private use
to avoid payment of postage.

ADDRESS
R. A. Templeton
Water St.
St. John's
1500

Must collect the required amount, enclose Money order for same and send it to the sender of Parcel. All particulars page 39 Year book.

This is a form envelope from 1929 [backstamped August 31, 1929 at St. John's] used to send payment back to the sender of the original COD item. The postmaster was supposed to take the cash received, create a money order, and stick it in the envelope, so that it didn't need to be registered. However, it appears that the PM at Princeton (?) mailed the 65¢ payment as cash, and so registered it. He added 5¢ in postage, that I presume was the registration fee [correct].

Examples such as these exist from Canada (although I haven't seen any this early). However, when Canadian postmasters returned cash in such envelopes, the envelopes were sent registered *but* as the mail was from the post office and on official business, there was no need to pay the registration fee. A few examples were shown in the PHSC journal some years back. I imagine the rules were the same in Newfoundland. I don't know how big Princeton was, or how experienced the postmaster was with COD, but it was surprising to see stamps used. I had never before seen a COD cover from Newfoundland (although they are not uncommon for Canada) and neither had Ron McGuire. I know nothing of the COD system in Newfoundland but it must have been popular away from the larger cities, so such envelopes (properly used) should exist in some quantity, but they don't appear to.

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REVEREND BUTLER'S PRICELISTS

**REV. BUTLER'S
PRICE LIST
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS
INCLUDING
AIRMAIL STAMPS AND COVERS
1936**



H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

**WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF
REV. E. A. BUTLER
POINT - ST. GEORGE'S
NEWFOUNDLAND
MEMBER
A.P.S. S.P.A. A.S.D.A.
NFLD. MEANS REV. BUTLER**

**1947 Price List of
NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS
(Mint, Used, Singles and Blocks)
including
Airmail Stamps and
Flown Covers**



NFLD. means REV. BUTLER

**With the Compliments of
NFLD. STAMP CO.
(NFLD. means REV. BUTLER)
Sandy Point - St. Georges
NEWFOUNDLAND
A. P. S. 4818 S. P. A. 4264 A. A. M. S. 1016**

This is the third issue in a row with an article concerning Reverend E.A. Butler. In #99 we discussed his career as a stamp dealer specializing in Newfoundland - "NFLD. MEANS REV. BUTLER". The reverend stated in his 1936 pricelist - "I deal only in stamps of Newfoundland and cannot use those of other countries. For sums under \$1.00 mint stamps of Canada and U.S.A. will be accepted at face." His career as a dealer went from 1916-1948. The price list at the right, above, from 1947 may have been his last. Has anyone seen one from 1948?

I thought it might be interesting to compare prices - from 1936, 1947 with the current Scott catalogue. I have not tried to convert the Canadian dollar to U.S. for this comparison - the two dollars were closer in par value then than they are now, in any case. My chart is on the next page.

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Reverend Butler's Stamp Prices

The following chart compares prices from the reverend's pricelists with the current Scott Catalogue. Prices are for unused stamps.

Scott Catalogue	1936 Pricelist	1947 Pricelist	Scott 2003
1	\$4.00	\$12.00	\$70.00
5a	8.40	28.00	180.00
11	18.00	45.00	225.00
17	12.00	36.00	125.00
25	24.00	48.00	450.00
33	10.00	20.00	225.00
76	4.20	10.00	160.00
77 (Used)	30.00	45.00	500.00
128	6.00	16.00	180.00
212-225	6.81	30.00	106.75
226-229	1.20	1.52	11.00
C2	8.00	30.00	175.00
C3	6.00	20.00	120.00
C12	10.00	50.00	250.00
C12 Cover	20.00	65.00	375.00
C13-17	7.50	32.00	130.00
C18	10.00	50.00	325.00
C18 Cover	20.00	50.00	825.00

The comparisons reflect inflation in values over the years. There were other factors, of course. The 1936 list came out in the middle of the Depression whereas things were much better in 1947 after World War II ended; even then, wouldn't you like to be able to buy any of these items today at the reverend's 1947 prices?

There was another factor affecting his 1936 prices I should mention - *discounts*:

When the orders of any customer reach \$10.00 I allow 10% discount on future orders, and when purchases total not less than \$20.00 I allow 20% on all orders after that.

There is no mention of discounts in the 1947 list.

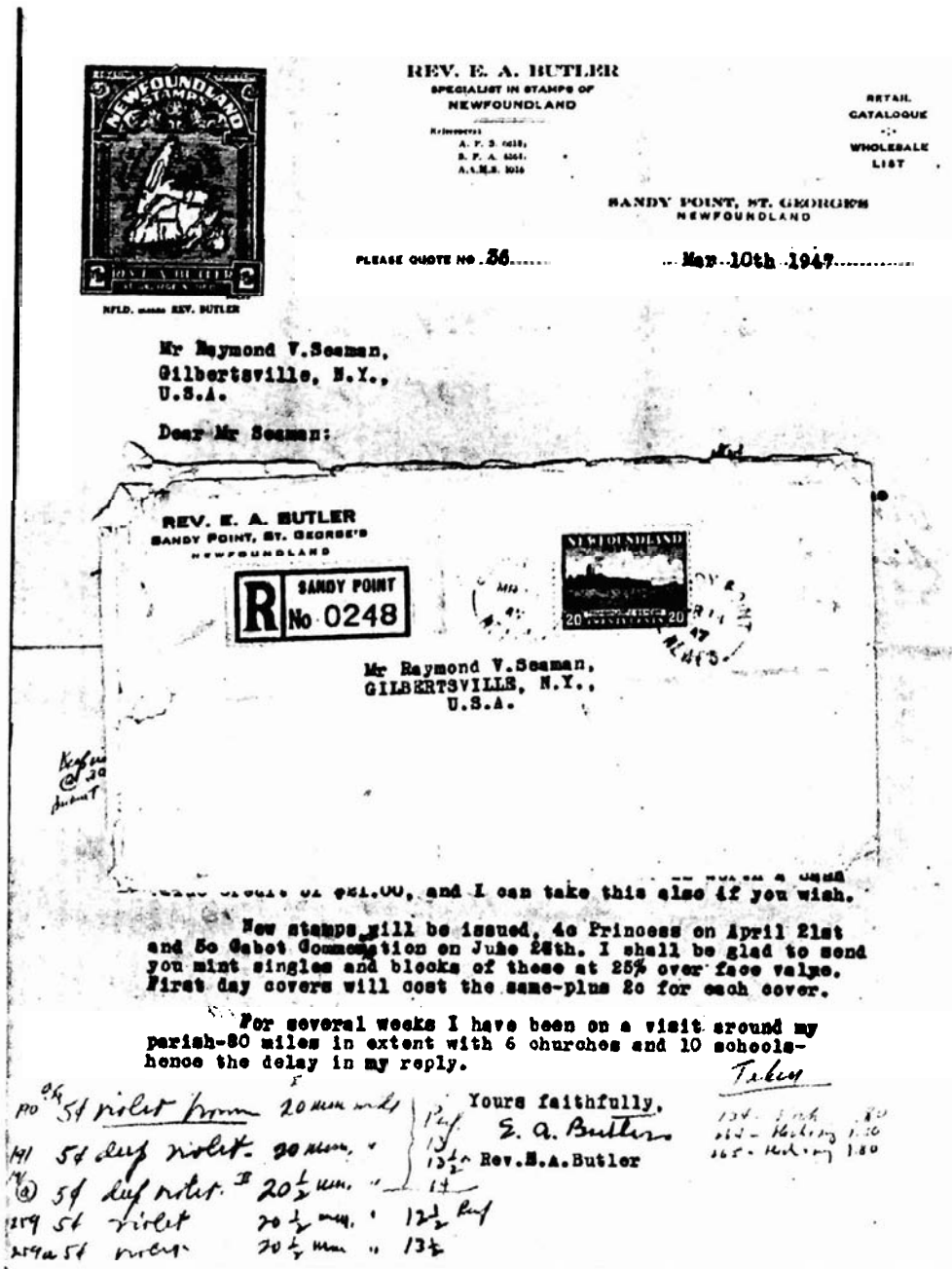
On the next page, we'll examine a Rev. Butler cover from 1947 and notes from his letter to a customer.

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A 1947 Reverend Butler Customer Letter



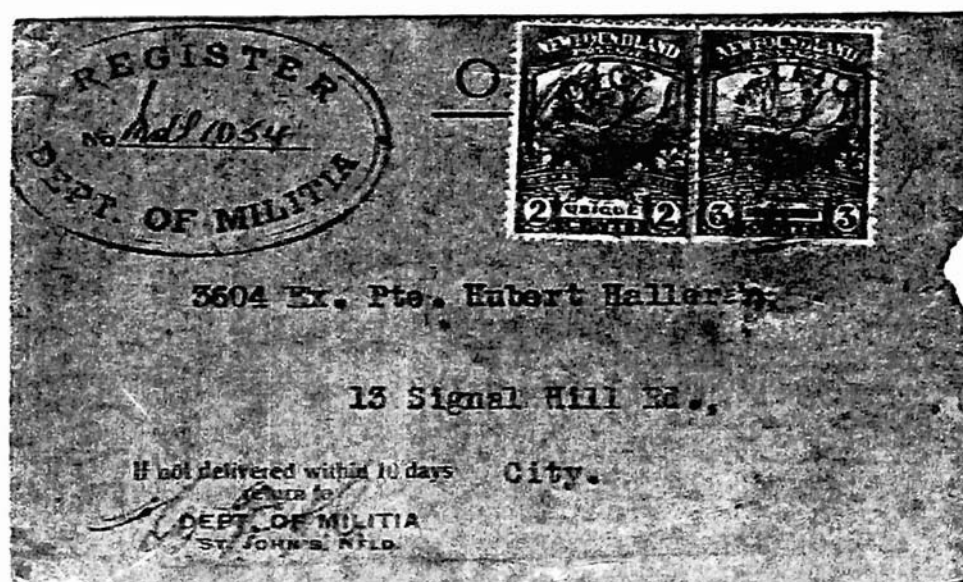
The last paragraph shows Butler was still serving as a rector in May, 1947 - at the age of 75! He would resign in 1948. The pencil marks are probably from the customer, Raymond Seaman. He apparently took a block of #134, for .80¢, a block and single of #264 for \$1.50, and a block and single of #265 for \$1.80. The grand total was \$4.10. Butler accepted several items from Seaman for "cash value credits" - detailed earlier in the letter, and not shown. He allowed \$7.50 for a used #21, \$6.50 for a used #103, and \$21.00 for a set of Gilbert covers (#212-225). Not a very profitable sale for the reverend that time. *Thanks is due Sammy Whaley for providing the 1947 pricelist and customer letter.* ---- The Editor

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Newfoundland
Department of Militia
Registered Free Frank



An O.I.M.S. "Dept. of Militia" Local Rate cover with Free Frank privileges as evidenced by the facsimile handstamp at lower left. It bears two oval registration markings, "REGISTER DEPT. OF MILITIA" and "REGISTRATION ST JOHN'S NEWFD.". Cover is franked with a single each of the 2 cent and 3 cent values from the 1919 Caribou issue. This pays the 5 cent Registration fee since the Free Frank privilege only covered the actual postage fee but not the Registration fee.

Thanks goes to Barry Senior for sending in this interesting cover.

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ONCE IN A BLUE M.O.O.N.: THE PORTLAND CREEK, NO.1 POSTAL AGENCY

Dean Mario

Mile Sagar's and John Butt's previous multi-part series on Newfoundland Money Order Office Numbers have been most helpful and informative [see **Newfie Newsletters #83-84, and 86-91**]. This area of post-1949 Newfoundland specialization is certainly gaining momentum. Even the late Ed Richardson extolled these markings' collectible nature before they became generally popular among collectors (BNA Topics, 145, April 1957, pp.112-113).

One interesting facet of Newfoundland M.O.O.N.'s is the existence of unusual and seldom-seen **Postal Agency** markings. Sagar, in a previous issue (#86) described them as private retail license-holders allowed to sell stamps, register mail, and handle money orders of low value. He also noted that they were considered to be "non-accounting" and had their own separate five-digit M.O.ON. number series (40000-40999).

Group member, G.D. Murray, in his informative article "Postal Agencies" (PHSC Journal, 80, Dec. 1994, pp. 275-287) also found that these offices were allowed to:

...sell postage stamps at face value by special license'. They were not allowed to cancel mail, yet the Pritchard & [sic] Andrews proof books show 39 different strikes [from across Canada] between late 1950 and mid 1953...Almost all of these shown are accompanied by both a registration box and a straight-line numeral cancel....

Murray and R.C. Smith listed seven Newfoundland-related Postal Agencies (ibid, p.284):

BROWNSDALE P.A. #1	40020
DOYLES P.A. #1	40045
HEARTS CONTENT P.A. #1A	40087
HEARTS CONTENT P.A. #1b	40020
PORTLAND CREEK P.A. #1	40829
WHITBOURNE P.A. #1	40087
WHITBOURNE P.A. #2	40020

Members will note that some offices were issued similar M.O.O.N. numbers.

See Next Page

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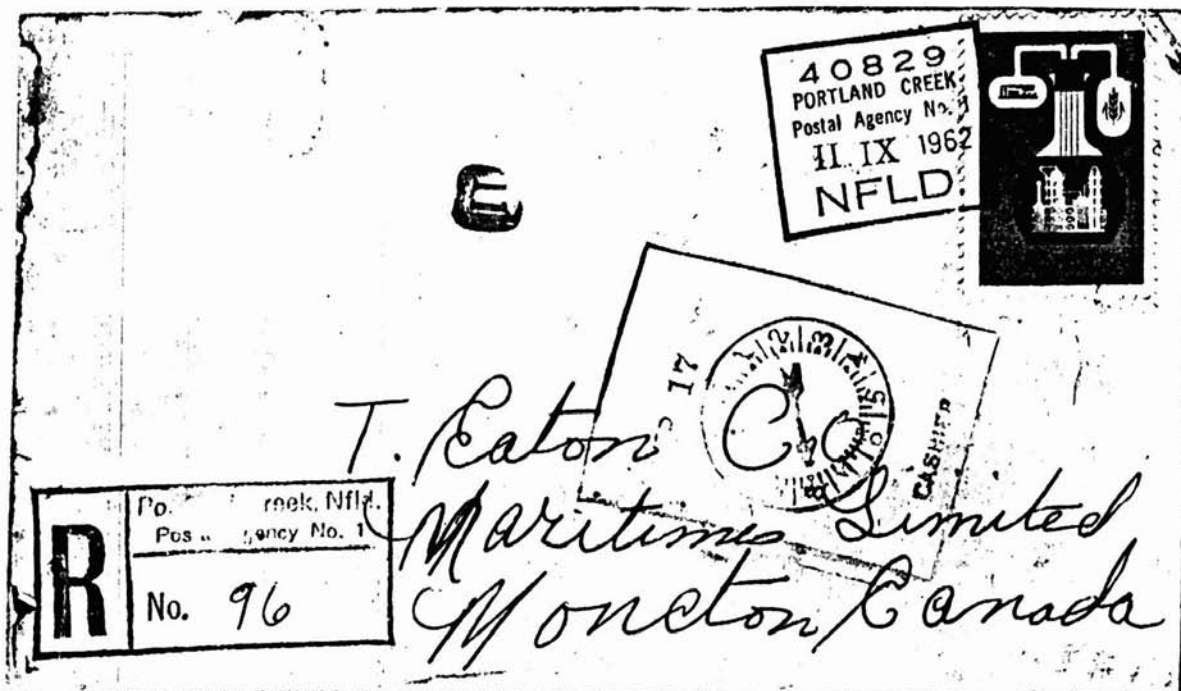
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BLUE M.O.O.N. (concluded)

Illustrated within Murray's article (*ibid.*, p.283) was an elusive cover from Portland Creek, P.A. #1 similar to the one shown below. This cover, used on the same day in 1962 shown in his article, precedes the other by just two registration numbers!

Newfoundland Postal Agency covers are unusual and seldom seen. Having two nearly-identical covers recorded from the same office must be rarer than a "blue moon"!



HARMER'S "LABRADOR" AUCTION, 25TH FEBRUARY, 2003 - (a high-flying sale!)

- #3004 & 3005 Hawker covers – they each went for £8,234
- #3011 "J.A.R." manuscript on 2¢ *Caribou* on cover, which has been described as "the greatest rarity in Newfoundland Air Mails" --- £88,223
- #3070 DePinedo cover with additional franking, two 2¢ red South West Arm, Trinity stamps --£17,645
- #3086 Columbia air mail on Harbour Grace cover (rarer postmark) --£3,823
- #3095 Artist preliminary oversized drawings for the 1931 air mail set --£25,879
- #3138 Rejected essay of Dornier surcharges – Did not sell
- #3144 Dornier block with inverted surcharge – Did not sell
- #3182 15¢ L.&S. vertical strip of 10 (2 X 5), top stamps missing overprint [ten known] --£8,822
- #3186 Sheets of 100 of the Labrador air mails, never hinged -- £3,823
- #3206 Balbo single with inverted surcharge [four known] --Did not sell
- #3206 Balbo single with inverted surcharge from repaired block [four known] -- £8,822

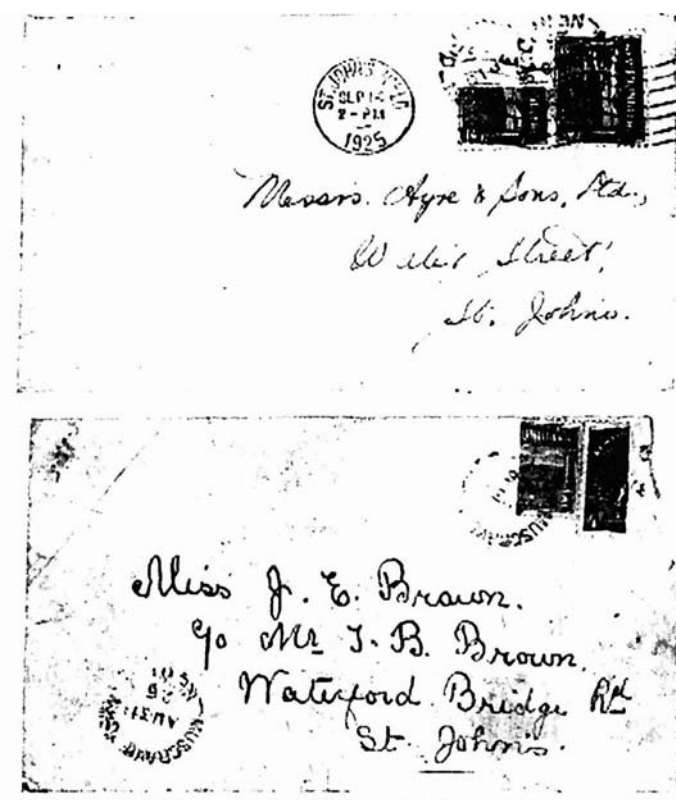
Items that did not sell were items where the highest bid did not reach the reserve. Prices above include commission. *There were few bargains...*

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BISECTED STAMPS FROM MUSGRAVETOWN, 1925 & 1926
WHY???



Randall Martin submitted the above covers for the carefully scrutiny of members. They both contain bisected copies of the 2¢ South West Arm, Trinity of the 1923-24 Pictorial Issue, and the bottom also has a bisected 4¢ Humber River stamp from the same series. Both covers are from **MUSGRAVETOWN** to St. John's on September 14, 1925, and the second August 31, 1926. NSSC tells us the inland rate during this period was 3¢. This was reached by 1 ½ 2¢ stamps, and bisected 2¢ and 4¢ stamps below. Neither Scott, Unitrade or NSSC bless the usage by listing it. Robson Lowe mentions a few bisects but not these, either. So what's the deal here??? Collector-friendly post master?

In his May 17th auction, Robert A. Lee had three covers with bisects from 1921-1925 (lots #926-928). Two had bisected 2¢ Caribou's, and the third (from December 16, 1925) was similar to the first cover above, but from Placentia to St. John's. The other bisects were from Battle Harbour and Tacks Beach. Usage *suggests* a shortage existed of 1¢ stamps, but the last documented shortage of 1¢ stamps ended in September of 1920 with the arrival of a new shipment of low-valued Caribou stamps. The 1¢ Twin Hills stamps of the 1923-1924 Pictorial Issue came out in July of 1923. Lee did not comment on usage but did not put much of a value on the covers he listed, either - \$40-50 Cdn. I don't have the prices realized at this point.

Does anyone have a theory, other than that the two covers shown were patently philatelic creations?

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 – Horace Harrison

Page 32

MISSIONARY MAILS FROM LABRADOR

WRITTEN AT HOPEDALE, LABRADOR ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1893. HANDED TO THE POSTAL CLERK ON BOARD THE "LADY GLOVER", WHO STRUCK IT WITH THE LABRADOR NORTH HANDSTAMP, SEPTEMBER 13, 1893. AT BATTLE HARBOUR, LABRADOR THE MAILS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE COASTAL NORTH STEAMSHIP, WHERE THE COASTAL T.P.O.N. HANDSTAMP DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 1893 WAS APPLIED. BACKSTAMPED AT ST. JOHN'S, NEWF'D, AM, SP 25, 93.

