5830 Cartier St. Vancouver, B.C.

V6M 3A7

THE R.P.O. NEWSLETTER

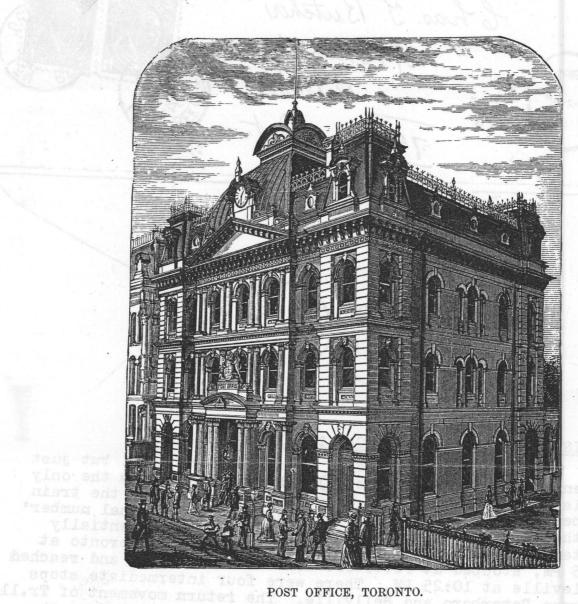
OF THE CANADIAN R.P.O. STUDY GROUP (B.N.A.P.S.)

VOLUME 17 - No.8

Whole No.80

SEPTEMBER 1989

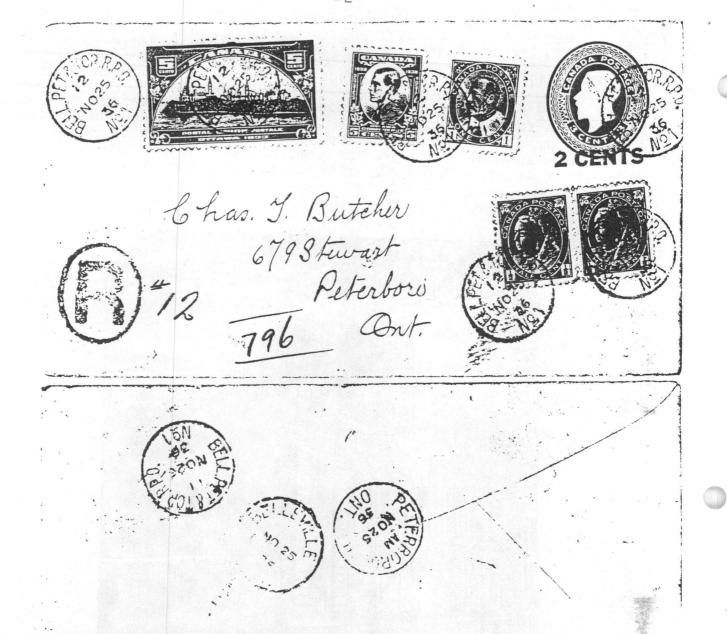
BNAPEX 1989 - Welcome to Hamilton. We hope you have all steeled yourselves for the experience! There should be the usual good fellowship, social events galore, a fine exhibition of B.N.A. material - and don't forget the seminars and annual meeting of this Study Group on Saturday afternoon, September 23.



a involved seven intermediate stops before the

This fine old steel engraving of the Toronto Post Office, circa 1880, was recently found in a junk lot. It is included as a tribute to the work of our Ontario members over the years. bns elliveiles and aliw thole .umstroked

o at 7:15 AM. As #11 left Bellv fle at



REGISTERED AT THE POSTAL CAR : (?)

Have had this philatelic cover for some time, but just recently realized that the (R) (followed by #12) was the only registry mark that an R.P.O. crew might have with the train number written directly to the right. The 'original number' is the manuscript 796 to the left of 'Ont.'. Essentially contemporary RMS schedules show that Tr.12 left Toronto at 5:15 PM, stopped at Peterboro for 8 min. at 8:07, and reached Belleville at 10:25 PM. There were four intermediate stops between Peterboro and Bellville. The return movement of Tr.11 from Bellville involved seven intermediate stops before the RPO reached Peterboro at 7:15 AM. As #11 left Bellville at 5 AM it would be more convenient for most people to mail on #12 and depend on return movement from Belleville on #11.

The strikes of 0-17 No.1, five for Tr.12 and one for Tr.11 as a backstamp, along with the Belleville and Peterboro strikes just about cinch the interpretation. It is a pity the sender overpaid the postage by one cent.

J.M.McCrea

STEAMER ABERDEEN: Here is one of the few examples known of this marking, S-201. Aberdeen carried passengers, freight and mail between Okanagan Landing at the north end of Okanagan Lake and Penticton at the south end from 1893 to 1916.



Courtesy of Ken Ellison

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Charles Purdon reports that he has now moved to the beautiful Gulf Islands of B.C., and his address is now Box 33, Mayne Island, B.C. VON 2JO.

NEW MEMBER: we welcome <u>Donald B.Kaye</u>, well-known dealer in postal history and postcards. <u>Don's</u> address is Box 4201, Station "D", Hamilton, ON L8V 4L6.

The London & Port Stanley Railway

London,





Mr. Chas. Chapman,
Manager: C. B. Chapman & Co.,
91 Dundas Street,
C I T Y.

THE LONDON & PORT STANLEY RAILWAY CO. - Lew Ludlow showed some early covers of this railway at PIPEX in Edmonton, and commented that it had become part of the Grand Trunk and eventually of the C.N.R. That isn't the full story - or else this handsome illustrated cover wouldn't exist. In 1874 the Great Western Railway agreed to repair the line and operate it for 20 years, and in 1882 it amalgamated with the Grand Trunk Railway Co. of Canada. In 1893 the L.& P.S.Ry. was leased to the Cleveland, Port Stanley & London Transportation & Ry.Co.for 20 years. In 1913 the City of London, Ontario, leased the Railway for 99 years and operated it by a civic Commission. In 1966 the Railway was acquired by the C.N.R. in return for land conveyed to the City of London.

(Reference: A Statutory History of Railways in Canada, 1836 to 1986, by Dorman and Stoltz.)

The London & Port Stanley Railway London Ontario



coived by the Post Office Department each month by fur the greatest number ask for the story of Owney, the Postal Dog, Originally this was veritten by Rath Thompson for the Modern School Readers Book Four on injornancian supplied by the Department, Owney neve i: mounted and on display in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.)

A DOC, homeless and hungry and shivering from cold, one day crept into the Post Office at Albany, New York. The clerks were very busy and did not notice him, so he huddled on a pile of mail bags and fell as leep.

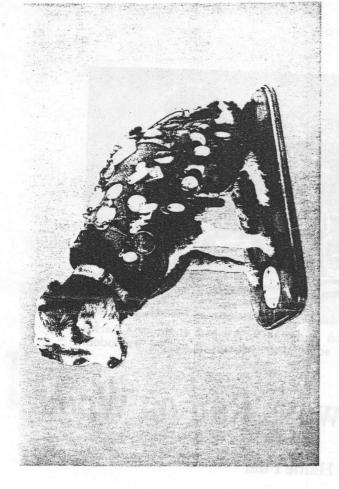
The next day the mail clerks found him. They felt sorry for the dog and did not have the heart to drive him out into the cold again, for he had such a wistful look in his eyes and such a pleading wag to his tail. So when lunch time came, the clerks shared their hunches with him and it may have been that which started the dog's love for the men in the Post Office,

and in fact, for all men who handled the mail for Uncle Sam.

As the weeks passed, the little visitor made the post office his home. As he did not seem to belong to anyone, he was an adopted son. The men named him "Owney".

If you have ever owned a dog you know how intelligent a dog sometimes is. Owney was a very intelligent animal. He watched the mail bags come and go and seemed to regard them as his friends. Perhaps it was his curiosity that led him to make a trip with the mail bags. It is certain that he felt safe any place the bags went and with the men who handled them. He was often gone on a trip for several weeks and then he would return to the Albany post office.

L HE mail clerks were afraid Owney would get lost. They bought him a collar and on it they placed his name and address. Then they fastened a card to the collar asking postal clerks to attach the name of any place that Owney visited.



Owney very soon started out on visits all over the United States. He carried so many tags that they were too heavy for him. The postmaster felt sorry to see him with such a load. So he had a harness made and Owney could then take his tags with him very comfortably.

The time came when Owney went around the world. He was in the city of Tacoma, Washington, when the mail bags were being loaded for Japan and China. When the post office men saw that Owney surely meant to go abroad too, they gave him a letter of introduction to the postal people in many parts of the world. Then Owney was the guest of the captain of the ship. He had a glorious trip. With his harness carrying his tags and medals, he was a very important passenger on board. Owney was well received and properly treated in foreign countries.

When he arrived in Japan, the Mikado gave him a passport which bore the seal of the empire. In China the emperor made him welcome and Owney saw many of the leading merchants. Everywhere that Owney

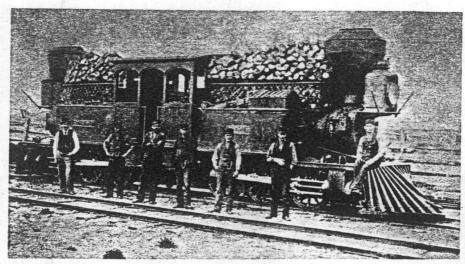
went he was an object of great interest. He was such a friendly and intelligent dog that he made many friends,

Owney landed in New York from his trip abroad. Erom there he crossed the country to Tacoma, his starting point. He had been gone just 1.32 days on his trip.

WNEY was the greatest dog traveler in the world. He had no home except the mail sacks on steamers and mail trains. His dearest friends were always the postal clerks. The men with whom Owney chose to ride were always regarded as the lucky ones. It was said that Owney carried good luck with him, for no accident ever happened on a train on which Owney was traveling. It always flattered and pleased the men when Owney chose to travel with them.

When Owney's journeys were over, it was found that he had about 200 checks, medals and certificates. The United States Post Office Department has kept the tags and a picture of Owney.

from the U.S. Postal Service NEWS, April, 195



The Shedden, in a photo taken June, 1879. All but engineer Charles Clark (third from left) died soon after when the engine exploded.

When the Railways Ran on Wood

By Hattie Finn

"No poetry in Railways!
Foolish thought of a dull brain . . ."

HAT'S how Charles Mackay began his poem on railways in 1846, but it was 1852 before a steam locomotive was seen in Toronto. Imported from the United States by the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron line for use in railway construction work, this wood-burner was named Lady Elgin, after the wife of the then governorgeneral of Canada.

Early the next spring the Toronto, the first Canadian-built locomotive, appeared on the scene. Constructed at James Good's foundry on Queen Street, the Toronto was completed on April 16, 1853, and prodded forward with crowbars to Front Street on temporary tracks, to the accompaniment of cheers from hundreds of onlookers.

To this wood-burner also went the distinction of making the first scheduled trip out of Toronto when she hauled a train of four cars to Machell's Corners (now Aurora) on May 16, 1853. A plaque commemorating this event has been placed on a column in front of the station.

In those days, it was the custom to give names to all locomotives. Probably the most colorful of the old-timers in Ontario was the Shedden, owned by the Toronto and Nipissing lines and named after John Shedden, first president of that railway. Built in the early 1870's by the Avonside Engine Company of Bristol, England, the Shedden, equipped with two boilers joined by one firebox, was the first such engine seen locally.

It is recorded that the population turned out all along the line to gape at the two-headed, fire-eating freak as she puffed and snorted through forest and clearing at the hazardous speed of about 30 miles an hour, both huge smokestacks pouring forth clouds of smoke laced with wood sparks. Depots were crowded with citizens who arrived on foot or in horse-drawn vehicles. Village streets were decorated with flags and bunting, bands blared and guns were fired, while terrified horses leaped and plunged at the approach of the thundering engine.

But disaster stalked the mighty Shedden. On May 16, 1873, she hauled a northbound train conveying John Shedden and a group of officials to a land sale. On the return trip, Mr. Shedden stepped off the train at Cannington station and, in attempting to get aboard again after the train had started, he slipped and was crushed to death between the car and the platform.

Two days later the following letter appeared in the Globe:

Dear Sir.

I was on the platform of the Nipissing Railway when the accident occurred which terminated in the death of Mr. Shedden. To meet the wishes of his friends, I consented to commence the inquest at once and proceeded to my office

in the village to obtain the necessary forms, etc.

On my return, I found the train had left, taking with it the body of the deceased, thus stifling all enquiry.

Such high-handed proceedings I consider to be injurious to my office and detrimental to all public interests. I hope that by bringing this matter before the public such indecent violation of the law will not be repeated.

Cannington, May 18th, 1873 Alfred Wyatt, Coroner

This was not the end of the misfortune that dogged the ill-starred Shedden. A few years later she blew up, on the way to Coboconk, killing her entire crew.

One of the chief hazards of early railroading was snow. In the depth of winter, tracks on open cuts often were blocked by towering drifts and as the only snow-fighting equipment consisted of crews of men wielding shovels it was not unusual for a train to remain stalled for prolonged period. These locomotives devoured enormous quantities of wood, and a train snowbound in a remote region in freezing temperature faced disaster if the fuel supply ran out.

When this did happen, rail fences were cut up and axes were handed out to the passengers, who joined in chopping down trees for use in stoking the boiler and the stoves that warmed the coaches.

Fuel for the Iron Horse

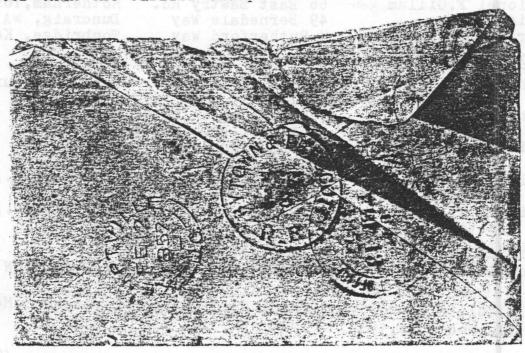
It didn't take the backwoods settlers long to discover that in their heavily-timbered land they possessed a profitable commodity — fuel for the iron horse. They felled and split birch, maple and beech and piled the cordwood along the route, to be picked up by wood-trains and hauled to depots where it was cut into lengths suitable for the locomotive fire-boxes. This not only provided gainful employment for the settlers but aided in clearing land needed for cultivation in a country over-supplied with wood.

Old railroaders maintain that no two steam whistles ever were exactly alike in tone and volume, and many residents claimed that all steam whistles had a special timbre when wet weather was brewing. Descendants of these pioneer families will recall the hollow echo of the signal from a passing train that brought forth the prediction: "We'll have rain before the day is over."

Within a short time the only steam locomotives to be seen will be relics, probably preserved as museum pieces. Not only has the efficient diesel replaced the doughty old steamer, but a well-known authority recently predicted a future when freight trains will haul their cargo across the country with no crew aboard.

No more songs will be written of Casey Jones or the Little Red Caboose. Tomorrow's generation would scarcely comprehend what they stood for.

A RARE COVER DISCOVERED: The third reported example of 0-52, BYTOWN & PRESCOTT / R.R. was recently found by P.H.S.C.Journal Editor, Eric Manchee. It is dated February 13,1857, a year later than the earlier examples. The other marking is Q-104.



U.S.A.			
Charles D. Blair	162 Franklin Road	Longmeadow, MA	01106
Lawrence B. Scott Roland B. Seymour Clarence A. Stillions Charles L. Towle Alexander M. Unwin Frank Waite William C. Walton John W. White	Box 1737 14 Temi Road Buck 12599 Coach Lane 126 Crosswick Lane Box 472777 Box 56371 6543 Beach Drive SW 304 W.Lincoln St. 1802 Indian Head Rd. Rte.1 2310 South 61st Ave. 2918 Cheshire Road 5001 - 102 Lane NE Box 172 5 Meadowcrest 26 South Onota St. 4542 E.Camino de Oro 1910 Laurel Rd. 18 East Rosemont Ave. 351 S.Deer Run Rd. 9950 S.Richeon Ave. 5031 Eskridge Ter.NW 4621 E.Don Jose Dr. Box 1686 110 E.McMillan St. RD#1, Box 454	Boulder, CO Holliston, MA Hill Falls, PA South Lyon, MI Lancaster, PA Garland, TX Little Rock, AR Seattle, WA Bloomington, IL Ruxton, MD Billings, MO Cicero, IL Wilmington, DE Kirkland, WA Monroeville, PA Parkersburg, WV Pittsfield, MA Tucson, AZ Gainesville, TX Alexandria, VA Carson City, NV Downey, CA Washington, DC Tucson, AZ Belleview, WA Newberry, MI Califon, NJ	60650 19810 98033 15146 26101 01201 85718 76240-5118 22301-2325 89701 90240 20016 85718 98009 49869 07830 97030
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Thomas Hillman (Govt. Archives Div.	. National Archives of	f Canada)	K1A ON3
Cimon Morin	365 Laurier Ave.W., Postal Archives of (Ottawa, ON	K1A ON3
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(Joined at PIPEX 198 W.M.Collie	22 Hill Rd, Claughton	Birkenhead, Mersey	1 L43 8 m.
(Joined July, 1989)			

Page 2 CANADA John D. Aitken Box 2021 Lambeth, ON MOL 1SO Box 6449, Stn A Toronto, UN Mike Anderman M5W 1X3 2926 Kutarna Cres. Regina, SK S4V OT3 William Barry Ronald Battersby 2184 Lafayette St. Victoria, BC V8S 2P1 Douglas Birchill 40 Rollingwood Dr. Willowdale, ON M2H 2M5 Box 206 James Brown Fairmont HotSp.BC VOB 1LO Ottawa, CN Paul Burega Box 15765, StnF K2C 3S7 N2H 2H8 Alex. D. Campbell 165 Queen St. North Kitchener, ON Earle L. Covert Box 1070 Hay River, NT XOE ORO Toronto, ON M5W 1A2 Wayne R. Curtis Box 74, Stn. A Boucherville, PQ J4B 108 Jean-Guy Dalpe Peter Eggett 352 Roy-Audy 207 Lafferty Ave. N9J 1K2 Windsor, ON Kenneth V. Ellison R.R.#1 Oyama, BC VOH 1WO Jean-Pierre Forest 4014 des Cedres, CP, 5275, Cap Rouge, PQ G1Y 3M6 Winnipeg, MB Donald Fraser 1183 Warsaw Ave. R3M 1C5 Ross D. Gray Paul H. Grimm Lindsay, ON Berwick, NS Box 174 K9V 4S1 Box 157 BOP 1EO 342 St. Clair Ave. E. Toronto, ON M4T 1P4 Clifford R. Guile V1Y 4B2 Kelowna, BC #23-1950 Burtch Rd. J. Douglas Hannan David E.P. Harding V8R 2B5 #101-1595 Bay St. Victoria, BC L4K 2L3 180 Southview Drive Concord, ON Alan H. Hewitt 56 Highland Park Blvd. Thornhill, ON John Hornsby L3T 1B3 T2B 2C7 Box 6118, Stn. D Jon C. Johnson Calgary, AB James S.Karr T2S 1G5 536 - 49th Ave.SW Calgary, AB L6J 2Z7 #604 - 155 Navy St. Oakville, ON Melville C.Kertcher K1T 1C6 1387 Pearl St. Ottawa, ON Ronald Kitchen L4Y 3W5 Eugene M. Labiuk Box 1193, Stn. B Mississauga, ON V1Y 5Y2 #203-1139 Sutherland Kelowna, BC Robert A.Lee Little Current, ON POP 1KO Box 123 Harry Machum ЈОВ 2НО Peter J.McCarthy Box 688 Richmond, PQ B2G 1A4 Antigonish, NS 58 Hawthorne St. John J. MacDonald P3A 4R8 D.McInnis Box 2063 Sudbury, ON H3X 3R9 David Mayerovitch 5205 Beaconsfield Montreal, PQ Jean-Claude Michaud Box 5176 B3L 4M7 Armdale, NS Lennoxville, PQ J1M 1S2 R.B.Miess 19 Speid St. Kamloops, BC Box 3005 MPP 216 Armit Ave. V2C 6B7 James Miller Fort Frances, ON P9A 2G9 Carleton Place, ON K7C 3 Richard Moulton R.F.Narbonne Iain Neighbour 216 Mailey Drive 659 Cowan St. Kamloops, BC V2C 3G3 Calgary, AB T2V 2B1 Samuel C. Nickle 1208 Belavista Cr. Etobicoke, ON M9C 1L9 Brian Noble 11 Trailsmoke Cr. E2H 1M1 Alfred N. Peatman 22-2nd St., Renforth Saint John, NB H.Alex.Price V6P 2C6 Vancouver, BC 1907 West 61st Ave. Charles Purdon Mayne Island, BC VON 2JO Box 33 T2J ON2 Michael Reid 964 Canaveral Cr.SW Calgary, AB Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3A7 William G.Robinson 5830 Cartier St. Irvine N. Rosborough 708 Victoria Ave. W Winnipeg, MB R2C 1T5 K7G 1A7 George F. Smalley 298 John St. Gananoque, ON Carleton Smith L8V 2M6 261 Thorner Drive Hamilton, ON TOM 1TO Box 1143 Rocky Mtn. House, AB Joseph Smith J. Malcolm Smith London, ON N6G 1Y8 11 Abbey Rise B3J 3C8 Halifax, NS Robert B. Soper Box 2311 Thomas Southey 34456 Ascott Ave. Abbotsford, BC V2S 4V5 #1910-45 Dunfield Ave. Toronto, ON M4S 2H3 Allan L. Steinhart A. Hedley Stokes 396 Main St. Toronto, ON M4C 4X8 Margaret Toms 321 Crawford St. Orillia, ON L3V 2M6 V6P 5K2 William E. Topping 7430 Angus Drive Vancouver, BC V1Y 7N5 Kelowna, BC H. Geoff. Walburn Box 279 Rev, Lawrence Walker 8844 Notre Dame E. Montreal, PC #802 -670 Dallas Rd. Victoria, BC H1L 3M4 V8V 1B7 ack M. Wallace Vay E A #705-225 Belleville 11 Elm Place Victoria, BC St. John's, NF Gerald E. Wellburn J. Don Wilson ./10



BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY LTD.

WILLIAM G. ROBINSON, Secretary/Treasurer & Editor, R.P.O. Study Group 5830 CARTIER STREET VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6M 3A7

	Report for year 1988-89	August	31,1989
INCOME:	1988-89 Dues & Foreign Exchange 1989-90 Dues in advance (Note 3) Donations (Note 2) BNAPS Subsidy (Note 5)	743.18 90.00 36.00 32.50	
	TOTAL \$	901.68	_
EXPENSE	S: Vol.17No.1 - printing, postage	101.90 108.78 104.80 107.15 109.89 109.89 108.50 113.75	
	TOTAL \$	864.66	
	Balance on Hand \$ Balance from 87-88		
	Total on hand \$	47.54	

All accounts in Canadian Funds.
 Donations from Campbell, Curtis, Aitken, Kitchen,

Miller, Neighbour, Carl. Smith.

3. 1989-90 dues paid by Brown, Carr, Frampton, Kalabza, Gartland, Gillam, Kitchen, Machum, MacDonald, Michaud, Moulton, Neighbour, Parama, Soper.

4. Printing costs subsidized by Eaton & Sons.

5. \$5.00 each (U.S.) received for copies sent to BNAPS President, Librarian, Editor, Study Group Coordinator, Topis Columnist.

6. Present Membership - U.S.A. 31 Paid 2 Free Overseas 63 Canada

> Total 99 Paid 5 Free

Last year total of 98 included 91 paid and 7 free. The free Newsletters are distributed to - Editor, "Topics", BNAPS Library, Map Stamp Study Group Editor, National Philatelic Library, National Archives of Canada.

> Wm.G.Robinson Secretary-Treasurer

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS YEAR !

W.G. Pobinson 5830 Cartier St. Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3A7