

Victorian Canada—Part 5—The Dominion Issue

By Ed Richardson (From the Stamp Specialist Volume 12, The Maroon Book)

The Large Cents or First Dominion Issue

On July 1st, 1867 the Provinces of Canada, together with the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, were united under the terms of the British North America Act as the Dominion of Canada. The remaining portion of present day Canada, consisting of British Columbia (including Vancouver Island), Prince Edward Island, Ruperts Land and the North-West Territories, were admitted later.



FIG. 17

Left: The Deep Brown, first printing (March 1868), with a very early dated cancellation.
Right: The vertical line in the right numeral "6" is apparently a constant variety, as it has been found on three copies, by the author.

In March 1868 the first "Dominion" issue made its appearance,—the beautiful Large Cents series. These early printings were made on thin hard, semi-transparent paper. Fine, fresh copies of this series, especially in the early deep shades, are generally considered to be some of the finest stamps of Canada. Early, dated copies (Fig. 17), and covers showing the combination use of the Provincial issue of '59 and early printings of the Large Cents issue, (Fig. 16), are especially desirable items.



FIG. 18

The chocolate brown with a vertical "stitch" watermark. The diagram shows the relative size of the watermark.

One reason for the tremendous popularity of this issue with Canadian specialists is the numerous shade varieties found with each denomination, but more particularly with the 15c which was in use until 1897, late enough to become one of Canada's earliest precancels, (Fig. 20). The issue also abounds in paper varieties, Jarrett listing four main types of wove papers. The 1/2c and 15c are both found perforated 11½ by 12, in addition to the regular 12. Many minor plate varieties exist on all values, one being illustrated in Fig. 17. Unauthorized bisects exist. Stitch watermarks, (Fig. 18); are found on several values, including the 3c, 6c, 12½c and 15c.



FIG. 19

Two examples of the 2-ring numeral cancellation on the Large Cents issues. "3" is Quebec, and "7" is St. John, N. B.



FIG. 20

An early Canadian precancel.

E. & G. BOTHWELL
CLUTHA MILLS



1868, 2¢ green, watermarked (24a), horizontal pair with computer enhanced "...A MIL..." [in reverse] of "...CLUTHA MILLS" watermark.

FIG. 21

A drawing, to scale, of the complete double-lined capital letter, paper-maker's watermark, found on some printings of the 1868 issue.

Recent years have seen a steady growth in the popularity of Large Cents cancellation collections, and among those most sought after are the "two-ring numerals," (Fig. 19). Each number designated a definite town or city, and the numbers were assigned according to the importance of the post-office, e.g. Montreal was #1.

The 1c, 2c and 3c values are found on laid paper, and are listed by Scott's as a separate, distinctive issue. The 2c on laid paper is the *rarest of all Canadian stamps*, only one copy being known.

The color change which took place with the 1c value in January 1869, first appeared as a deep orange, the scarcest shade, later as orange, pale orange-yellow and orange-yellow. The 5c, originally intended as a part of this issue, did not appear until 1875, when the die was pressed into emergency use until a new Small Cents die could be prepared. These two values are the scarcest of the Large Cents series, and are particularly desirable on cover, or in fine mint condition.

The most unusual feature of this issue is the papermaker's watermark, (Fig. 21), found on all values of the original series. It is most frequently found on the 2c and 3c values, and watermarked copies of the 1/2c and 6c values are rarities. Normally all papers supplied the printer were without any watermark, but in error a small quantity bearing this paper-maker's watermark was delivered and used between April - July 1868. A second use must have occurred in December 1874, as Jarrett lists the 15c gray-violet. A rare, script letter watermark also exists on the 15c purple of May 1868.

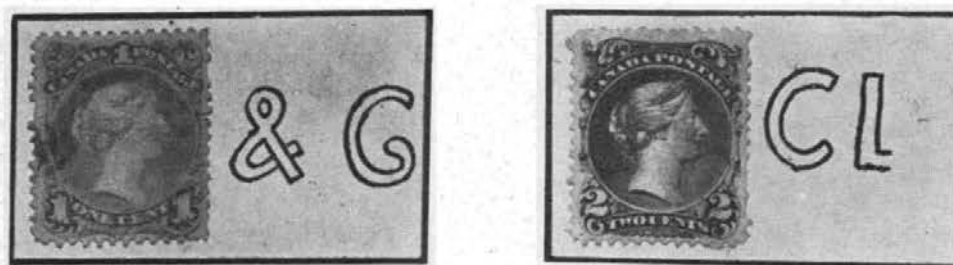


FIG. 22

Two examples of papermaker's watermarks found on the 1868 issue. Only a small portion, usually one or two letters, of the watermark appears on a single stamp.

Because of the size of the watermark, a single stamp will show only parts of one or two letters, (Fig. 22). An interesting project would be the completion of the entire watermark.

The Dominion (Large) Cents Issue: The Stamps



1868 1/2¢ British American Bank Note Company Imprint block of 14



Left to right, Sc. 21-25



Left to right, Sc. 26-28, 29 15¢ gray violet, 30 15¢ gray (see also, page 23)



Left to right, Sc. 31-33; Sc. 32, 2¢ green rarity, one of three known, all used

The Dominion (Large) Cents Issue: The Stamps

CANADA - LARGE QUEENS
1868-1897

Fifteen cents
Shades

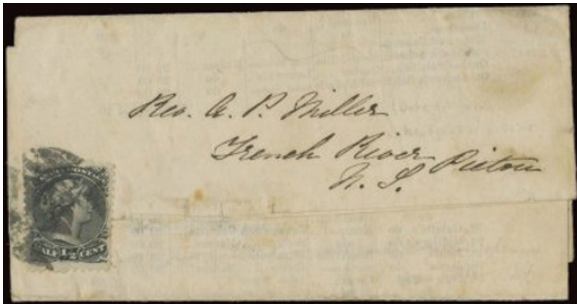
Canada Scott 29-30

From the purple brown of 1868 to the blues of the 1890s

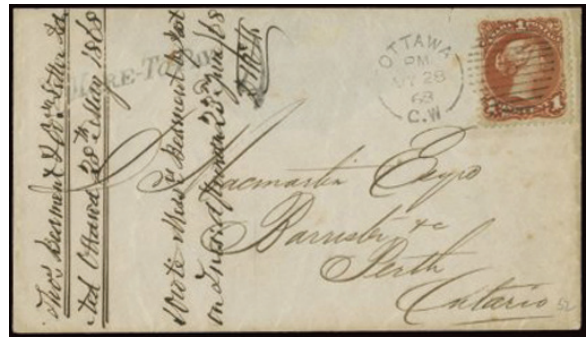


The Dominion (Large) Cents Issue: The Covers

These images are from our Classic Canada multi-year series. JFD.



Sc. 21, 1 1/2¢ paying the newspaper usage to Pictou, Nova Scotia.



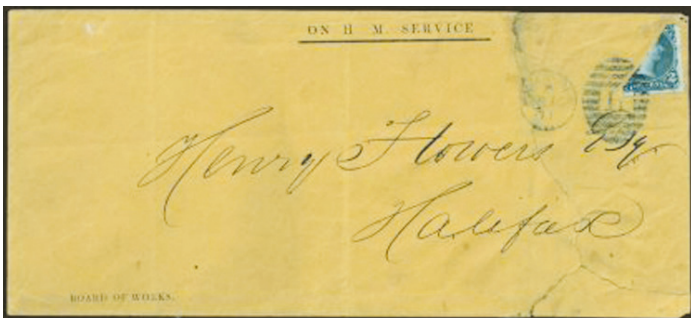
1¢ red brown on thin paper (22b) tied by Ottawa 28 MY '68 Berri duplex to envelope to Perth, received 29 MY, envelope was sealed shut and should have been sent by the 3¢ first class letter rate, so it was stamped with a straightline MORE-TO-PAY 4 (light straight line, upper left), for the 2¢ deficiency plus a 2¢ penalty,



1¢ deep orange, Sc. 23a—actually, the first printing of this stamp—in a single franking tied by a grid cancel to a Drop Letter cover from Hamilton 29 JU 1869 to adjacent post office Cayuga (with same day despatch and receiver markings on the back). This is the second earliest date of use.



1 1/2¢ black (24) Strip of four tied by Hamilton 3 SP 1868 duplexes to a two cent Soldier's Letter Rate cover addressed to a private in the 3rd Batt'l'n, 60 Rifles at Madras, India, with red London 16 SP transit on front and 20 OC receiver on back, re-directed to Bangalore and received next day. In November, the envelope was marked DEAD, the cover then being back-stamped at Bangalore and its Dead Letter Office on November 11, and returned to sender. The addressee was, in fact, still alive at the time the cover was returned, so the family found the cover amusing and retained it.



2¢ green Diagonal Bisect (24c) tied by Halifax 16 DE '71 "H" grid duplex to oversized 1¢ Drop Letter Rate OHMS "Board of Words" printed envelope (there were no weight restrictions on drop-letters), extremely rare non-philatelic Bisect usage.

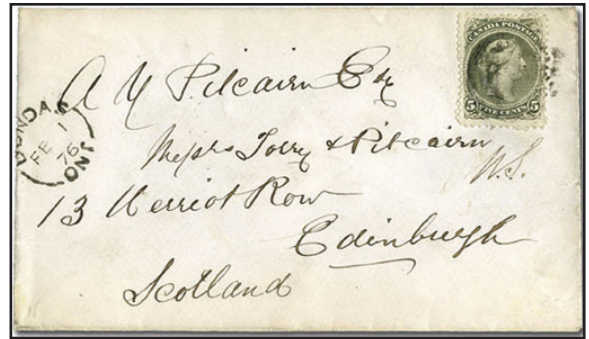


3¢ orange red (Sc. 25b) on thin crisp paper (first printing) tied by mute grid to mourning cover from Windsor, N.S. 2 APRIL 1868 to Halifax, clearly dated despatch cds on back along with 4 AP receiver, a Second Day of Use cover.

The Dominion (Large) Cents Issue: Covers, Cont.



1875 5¢ olive green, perf 11-1/2 (26), tied by Hamilton "5" duplex, "Mr 7, 76", on mourning envelope to Glasgow, Scotland, manuscript "via New York" backstamped Mar 22.



Canada, 1875 Large Queen 5¢ olive green, perf 12 (26a) tied by light cancel (probably a 2-ring "46") on cover from Dundas Ont. (Feb 1, 1876) to Edinburgh, Scotland; backstamped Hamilton (Feb 1) and Edinburgh (Feb 16).



The 6¢ dark brown, Sc. 27 tied by a cork killer to a 6¢ rate cover from Ottawa 30 MY '71 to British Columbia (a rate in effect July 1, 1870-August 14, 1871) via San Francisco 21 JU with violet transit on front), one of only three known covers showing this rate.



12-1/2¢ blue, Sc. 28, on Bothwell paper, tied by Montreal 19 MR '69 Berri duplex to trans-Atlantic cover to England, with London 31 MR receiver on back



15¢ red lilac on thin paper, first printing, Sc. 29e, tied by large grid to cover from Kingston 11 AP '68 to England, via the Cunard ship "Australasian", which left New York April 15, reaching Queenston on April 24, with Stroud 25 receiver on front



1889 15¢ Large Queen (30b) cover from Guelph FEB.27.1889 to Auckland, New Zealand (MAR.30 receiver) through Windsor Ont (FEB.28) and San Francisco (MAR.7), franked with a 15¢ blue grey Large Queen, overpaying, as the rate had been recently (JAN.1.1889) reduced to 12¢



1868 1¢ Brown red on laid paper (31) tied to a cover from West Montrose to St. Jacob, cover additionally franked with 1868 2¢ Green, both stamps tied by dark blue barred grid cancel, with matching "West Montrose, C.W/DE 15 69" c.d.s., St. Jacobs backstamp.

Scott 32 does not exist on cover



1868 3¢ Large Queen on Laid Paper (33) from Galt (OCT.14.1868 duplex) to Derenham, with Ingersoll (OCT.14) and Tilsonburg (OCT.15) transits on back.

To Be Continued