

Canada Meter Stamp Newsletter



No. 20

SUMMER 1988

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Well, we got Canadian Meter Stamp Newsletter launched again. The launching was certainly quiet. The editor's address above must have skipped your attention as reaction was less than enthusiastic. I did have a couple of nice letters. Taras Cheberiak of Regina stopped by for a couple of hours to chat about meters. Other than that it has been a quiet spring, just tossing covers into my "sort" box - it is getting full again.

I will proof read this issue and apologize for the many errors in the first issue. I always thought these computers spelled better than a typewriter but that is not right. I also promise to "WD-40" my ribbon to get a clearer print.

I am particularly interested in having members send clear photocopies of items that should be included in our "CSMG METER CATALOG. For example, the 1.2.1 "SAMPLE", does it exist? I have never seen one with the Type 1.2 dimensions. I personally doubt that it exists and the reference should be deleted. Same applies in the new listing in this issue?

In this issue I include more pages for our catalog. These include Types 1.3 and Type 2. Type 2 is rather brief because my collection is real thin. I might add, Legris illustrates meter 505 with what appears to be a rubber stamped SPECIMEN below. Since he conjured up so many incorrect items (like his 512 with wrong townmark) I really hesitate to include the item unless it is guaranteed correct.

I was delighted to have the major listing of Hasler meters from Jean Guy Dalpe. I was going to run it as a Type 25 regular catalog list but after looking at old newsletters and my own meagre collection. I think we should wait awhile. I have run it as a temporary listing with the idea that members input will bring more items to light. This still appears to be a developing series. Jean did a lot of study on this, merci.

I have also had some items on the Olympics from members. Just after these arrived there was a long article in Canada Stamp News. I may try to abstract the information.

Ross W. Irwin

PRELIMINARY LISTING OF HASLER POSTAGE METERS

Jean-Guy Dalpe

Editor's Preface to listing

Hasler meter introduced in Canada December 15, 1981

Dimensions: overall 65; rate frame 36 x 25; setting 2 meter 2000001 has a parcel size rate box

Townmark: there appear to be 2 types - 27 x 17.5; 27 x 19.

province appears to be abbreviated, the original is the old
style ONT SASK etc. with or without a period.

New style uses QC, ON, AB, etc. sometimes with periods
Townmark omitted, datemark only

Datemark: D.M.Y RN month no serifs. O.M.Y for bulk mailing

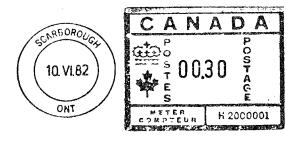
Serial number: starts at 2000001, highest number seen 2009131 starts with 2 mm high H and numerals seems to be medium and small numerals in use with the height of the H intermixed

Indicia: distance between P and P is 19 mm. Change in size of POSTES and POSTAGE occurred about 2000700 according to Whitehouse. POSTAGE to right of right leg of "A", and also below it

Value: 00.00, 0.00:, 0.00 These types are not in serial blocks but are intermixed. Fractional meters have 3.5 mm from 0 to "T", generally the distance is 2 mm.

Caution: The numbering system used in the listing is temporary until we are certain the important types are all listed.

25.1 Basic type. Rate frame 43 x 35 mm (H2000001), 72 overall, setting 2. Prov. abbr. no period. TM 27 x 17.5. Serial numerals 2 mm. Value 00.00.



25.2 Basic type. Rate frame 36×25 mm. 65 overall. setting 2. Prov. abbr. no period. TM 27 \times 17.5. Serial letter and numerals 2 mm. Large POSTES and POSTAGE. Value 00.00.



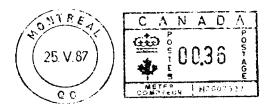
25.2.1 SPECIMEN ONLY in TM, serial blank



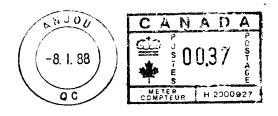
25.2.2 Serial number, tall H with small numerals



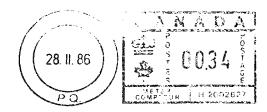
25.2.3 Serial number, small H with small numerals



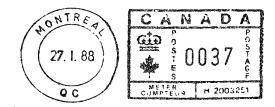
25.2.4 Serial number, medium sized letter and numerals



25.2.5 Prov. abbr., with period



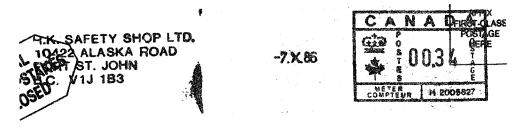
25.2.6 Prov. abbr., with 2 letter style



25.2.7 Datemark blank



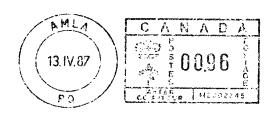
25.2.8 No TM, datemark only



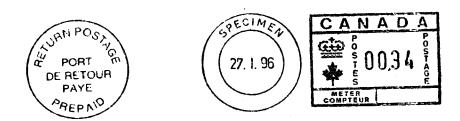
25.2.9 Month in letters



25.2.10 Error in TM: AMLA (ALMA)



25.2.11 RETURN POSTAGE/PORT/DE RETOUR/PAYE/PREPAID as a slogan



25.3 Basic type. As 25.2, except value 0.00:; decimal rate of 5 or 8 replaces the :.



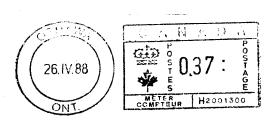
25.3.1 Serial number, tall H with small numerals



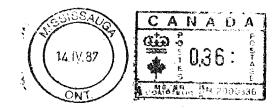
25.3.2 Serial number, medium size H and numerals



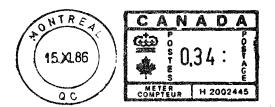
25.3.3 Serial number, small H and small numerals



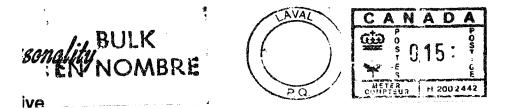
25.3.4 Prov. abbr., with period



25.3.5 Prov. abbr. with 2 letter style



25.3.6 Datemark blank



25.3.7 No TM, datemark only



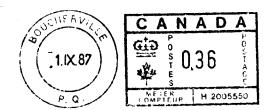
25.3.8 Month in letters



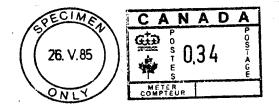
25.3.9 Value has inverted comma



25.4 Basic type. As 25.2, except value 0.00



25.4.1 SPECIMEN ONLY in TM, blank serial



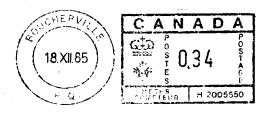
25.4.2 Serial number, large H and small numerals

See 25.4.7

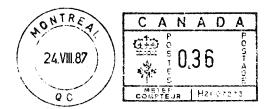
25.4.3 Serial number, medium letter and numerals

See 25.4.6

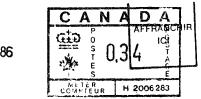
25.4.4 Prov. abbr., with periods



25.4.5 Prov. abbr. with 2 letter style



25.4.6 No TM, datemark only



11. VII.86

25.4.7 Value has inverted comma

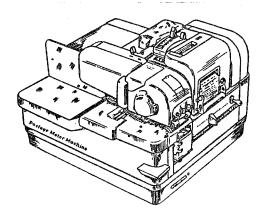


CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
1.3	DEC 14 1932 DEC 1	As Type 1.2, except license number omitted
1.3.1	SAMPLE	Not seen with Type 1.3 rate frame dimensions
1.3.2	JRMS POSITAGE 4 CANADA CANADA CANADA ALIZA METER A1123 COSTAGE COSTAGE A123 COSTAGE COSTAGE CONTAGE CONTAGE	RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID no date mark
1.3.3	JUL 16 1929 ONTARIO CANADA CANADA CANADA CANADA CANADA CANADA A 226 METER A 226 A	Province in full
1.3.4	FEB 14 1 CENT 1 METER 4192 AUGSTACE	Period after province
1.3.5	CANACA 1 CENT METER METER METER	Date mark blank

CMSG METER CATALOG

Туре	Indicia	Remarks
2.1	ED. 2	TM 15/16"x21/32", rate frame 1"x7/8", setting 1" overall 2-3/4",value 3/8" Prov. abbr., DMY month in RN with I, II, III with serifs 501, 502
2.1.1	20 VIII 26 CANADA CENT SOS	Prov in full
2.1.2	CANADA CENTS SO!	Error: 1 CENTS (Barfoot, S.D. and Simon, W. "The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue", E. T. Heron & Co. Ltd., London, page 17, 1953.)
2.1.3	N GROS TIMITER GROVERS CANADA 27 CENTS 512	TM 31/32"x5/8", setting 15/16". Larger TM letters (512, 513)



The Story of a Postage Meter Machine

these days. The printed legend which replaces postage stamps on business mail doesn't rate a second glance. At the turn of the century, however, such a marking would have caused some excitement. "Someone is trying to avoid paying postage!" would have been the cry as in 1900 a device to imprint postage on envelopes was undreamed of by all but a few people. One of these was Arthur Pitney of Chicago.

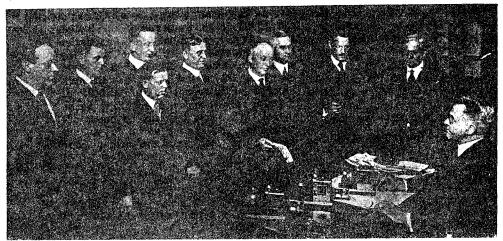
A robbery of postage stamps from the city's Post Office in 1901 encouraged him to bring his postage machine to the attention of the Chicago Postmaster once again. It was a new and improved model of his invention which was designed to imprint postage on envelopes and could be set at a certain total amount of postage to be used. For the first time the Postmaster was impressed and paused to consider the

possibilities of the new machine which obviated the use of postage stamps on business mail.

It was twenty long and disappointing years, however, before the invention went into production. A number of successful official experiments were conducted with it at the United States Post Office H.Q. and in business establishments. Something intervened each time. Once the Post Office was convinced of its usefulness, approval was delayed by the lack of the necessary legislation. World War I distracted the minds of all from the postal machines and the permit mailing system seemed to render machines unnecessary.

A clerk in a wallpaper store, Pitney was intrigued by all the new machines which were speeding up a variety of processes in the early 1900s. He studied the patent regulations and after applying for a patent for his postage machine, received it in

FIRST SETTING OF POSTAGE METERS IN CANADA — Postal officials and officials of the T. Eaton Company gather for the inauguration of postage meters in September 1923. (Photo Pringle and Booth, Toronto)





AT WINNIPEG, MAN. — First official meter setting by Postmaster T.T. Bower at Winnipeg.

1902. Trips to Washington and appearances before Post Office Committees took place from time to time in the decades of waiting. The Pitney Postal Machine Company, which the inventor formed, was not in business.

A Partner Introduced

In the meantime the future partner, Walter Bowes, had purchased the Universal Stamping Machine Company. This organization produced a better stamp cancelling machine and received an order for fifty from the United States Post Office. During the negotiations which preceded the deal, postal officials, recognizing the capabilities of Bowes and the inventiveness of Pitney, suggested to Bowes that he get in touch with Pitney. This was done and the two men combined their skills to give the Company they later formed its initial impetus.

By 1920 Pitney decided on a new form of meter with registering mechanisms in a separate housing from the printing die; but an integral unit which could be taken to Post Offices and set. Two registers were introduced one ascending and totalling all postage, accessible only to the manufacturer, and the descending register, which the Post Office set for a limited amount of postage. The partners Pitney and Bowes set to work to build this new type machine. When in 1920 enabling legislation was passed to permit the use of

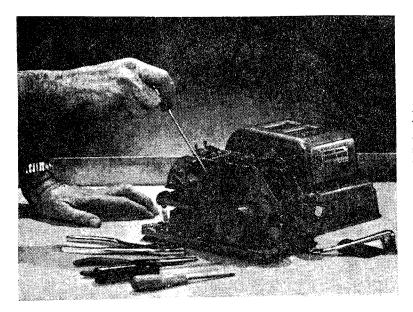
a meter, the rush was on to complete a smoothly operating machine. The model "A" was the result and it was successfully tested in Washington.

Pitney-Bowes itself was the first customer and made the first official mailing under the new law. Their initial mailing was a combined first day cover and an advertising venture, as the Company had a message printed on the envelopes indicating that the acceptance of such a marking as postage was an epoch in the Post Office Department.

In 1921 Canada approved the use of meters and the Company set up a Canadian subsidiary. The first listing of cash payments for metered mail was in the 1923-24 Report of the Postmaster General. About \$20,000 worth of such mail was handled that year in Canada. In the decade which followed, this form of revenue had grown to almost \$3 million.

In 1922 England had approved the use of Pitney-Bowes meters and already an imposing list of customers was established in the United States. More and more firms changed to the new method of prepayment of postage.

There were setbacks throughout the years which followed, such as changes in legislation and competition between metered mail and "permit mail" which had been established in the United States in 1904.



EXAMINING A METER for mechanical operation, in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Division. (Photo Post Office Info. & P.R.)

The permit or postage paid in cash business increased 22% in this country in the year ending March 31, 1965, over the previous year. Revenue from this source on third class matter alone was about \$13½ million. In addition, there was a revenue of about \$180,000 from fourth class matter.

In 1924 Mr. Pitney astounded the board of directors of the Company, founded four years previously, by tendering his resignation. During the next nine years which preceded his death, he worked on other inventions. His resignation did not end the family connection with the Company. By 1955 Robert C. Pitney, son of the inventor, was Manager for Research in the Pitney-Bowes Company.

Meter Improvements

There were some 3,600 meters in service by 1928 and it was the only system, other than the use of postage stamps, permitted for the prepayment of first class mixed mail. The following year the Company introduced the multi-denominational Model "H" meter. It printed five separate impressions, 1c, 1½c, 2c, 3c and 4c. In 1930 a further innovation was introduced with the attachment for printing the stamp on gummed paper. This led to the use of meter postage on parcel post and another extensive field was opened to the meter business.

Business continued to improve and Pitney-Bowes bought out several other companies engaged in producing similar products. Among the matters to be settled was the question whether the machines should be sold or leased—it was decided in favour of leasing them.

The use of meters for handling social security and tax stamp business was explored. It proved fruitful in 1932 when Canada introduced the first meter to imprint excise tax on cheques.

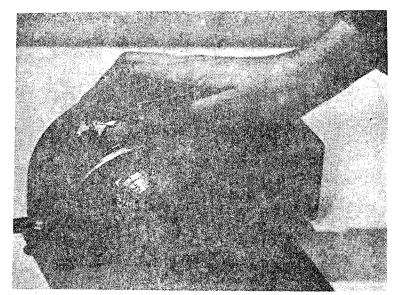
A quarter century after Pitney first caught the interest of the Chicago Postmaster, 1,156 million pieces of mail were handled by some 9,620 meters in the United States annually.

Up until this point each machine was made by one man. Specialization was becoming the accepted method of production in industry and soon the Pitney-Bowes machines were built in assembly line fashion. A group of men were charged with the production of a part or series of parts; while another section worked on a different part; and so on, until all machines were the joint efforts of many workers.

In 1940 omni-denominational meters were installed in thirty of the larger Post Offices in the United States. These printed a meter impression on tape, a portion of which was affixed to parcels or packages.

War Halts Meter Production

World War II resulted in the conversion to war production of 95% of the Pitney-Bowes operation. Items such as sub-



OPERATING a hand model postage meter machine.

assemblies for guns and aeroplanes, instruments and electrical accessories were made. Postage meter production halted, but in a small shop near the plant experiments continued with a view to improving the meter.

The end of hostilities marked the return to the manufacture of postal and mailing equipment. Inserting machines, folding machines, collating equipment, letter openers all were introduced.

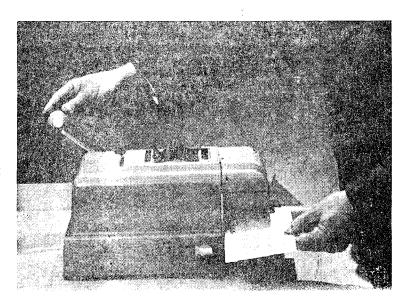
The number of meters in use had doubled by the end of 1947 and by the following year the Company was doing a \$16 million business.

. A new field of endeavour was entered in 1949 with the introduction of the small light-weight and low-cost desk model meter. This was designed for the small business man, little shops and offices, where a regular machine would not be justified. The desk model was well received and the Company embarked on a national advertising campaign directed at potential purchasers.

In 1957 Walter Bowes died, about a quarter century after his partner Arthur Pitney. Advanced policies of employee participation in the affairs of the Company had produced a well-knit organization which had withstood various difficulties throughout the years. The stepson of Mr. Bowes, Walter Wheeler, Jr. had been with the Company for years and in 1938 had become President. He held this position for twenty years and in 1960 relinquished it to become Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer.

In 1960, the fortieth anniversary of the Company, 42% of United States mail was metered; the Company had \$35.1 million in-

(Continued on page 30)



OPERATING a desk model postage meter.

vested capital and almost 5,000 employees. There were 284,000 postage meters in operation in the United States.

Canadians also adopted the meter system. There are now some 41,000 postage meters in use in this country and the revenue from this source for the fiscal year ending 31st March 1965 was \$106,-111,000.

In addition to Pitney-Bowes other Companies have received the Canada Post Office's approval and their meters are in use. These include Roneo-Neopost Meters, Postalia Meters and Commercial Control Meters. Friden Meters have also been approved by the Department.

Thus, in less than a century, the idea of a Chicago wallpaper clerk has revolutionized the mail handling practices of millions of North Americans.



"He got it for Christmas!"

FIRST "METERED MAIL" DESPATCHED IN CANADA

The No. 10 cover illustrated is in the collection of the National Postal Museum, Ottawa. Note that the first cover was mailed by Robert Hill, agent for The Postage Meter Company to Hon. Charles Murphy, Postmaster General of Canada on August 7, 1923. The letter enclosed in the cover is also shown. So, no disputing this date!

Earlier dates are advertising pieces which probably did not go through the mail. The first commercial use was by The T. Eaton Company. (See article in this issue) Robert Hill joined the Post Office Department shortly after and was largely responsible for the testing and introduction of postage meters.

THE FIRST " METERED MAIL " DESPATCHED IN CANADA.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF CHARLES MURPHY, K.C.

POSTMASTER GENERAL OF CANADA.

THE POSTAGE METER COMPANY CANADIAN AGENCY OTTAWA, CANADA, P.O. BOX 603





Honourable Charles Murphy K.C., M.P., Postanaler General of Canada, Ottawa, Calaria.

THE POSTAGE METER COMPANY

(A CORFORATION)

HOME OFFICE STAMFORD, CONN, PHONE, STAMFORD 3880

6

THE PITNEY-BOWES POSTAGE METER

ROBERT HILL, CANADIAN AGENCY 186 QUEEN ST., P. O. BOX 603 PHONE QUEEN 8484

OTTAWA, CANADA

August 7, 1923.

Honourable Charles Murphy, K.C., M.P. Postmaster General of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir:-

The writer takes both the liberty and the pleasure of addressing to yourself the first "Metered Mail" letter despatched in Canada.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for the consideration you have given the subject of "Metered Mail" as a progressive step both in postal development and in making possible it's introduction into this country.

On behalf of the "Metered Mail" system, the writer places the full service of the organization at your disposal and looks forward to the general adoption of the system by business houses throughout the country and the consequent benefit to the Post Office Department in increasing the efficiency of it's mailing operations.

I am Sir.,

Respectfully yours

CODE: V = value, C = color, F = in full, F. = infull with dot, T = time COLOR: Red, Green, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Black, Violet tall 15 BLANK Can Gen Elec 15 1.2 TORONTO 4033 1 R small 15 JAN21/T/1932 Can Gen Elec F. 4033 1 R 15 1.2 TORONTO JUL20/1936 OCT18/1939 F Babson Report 4033 1 R **332 1.2 TORONTO** BLANK F Crown Life O 1.3 TORONTO 4033 1 R 1925 MAY18/T/1926 ONT. Toronto Star 6 1.2 TORONTO 4034 3 JAN13/T/1924 DEC19/T/1933WALKERVIL ONT. Ford 1 1.2 WINDSOR 4034 3 R OCT4/T/1934 Canada Life F 4034 3 R 82 1.2 TORONTO DEC31/1935 Prudential Trust F. 4034 3 G 315 1.2 TORONTO Bell Tel Co 3 1.2 MONTREAL 4035 3 SEP15/T/1931 MAN. Winnipeg Electric 2 1.2 WINNIPEG 4035 3 R ONT. Prudential Trust SEP30/1936 4035 3 6 315 1.2 TORONTO F.W. Woolworth APR16/T/1937 F 14 1.2 TORONTO 4035 3 R Saskatchewan Pool Elev 2 1.2 RE5INA 4036 3 4036 3 R 1 1.2 ? 1936 Manitoba Pool Elev 0 1.3 WINNIPES 4036 3 R DEC16/1931 Savt of B.C. 1 1.2 VICTORIA 4036 3 6 MAR2/T/1926 JUL18/T/1930 ONT. Bell Tel Co 4037 2 6 1 1.2 LONDON OCT28/T/1932 ONT. Bell Tel Co APR4/T/1927 4038 2 6 7 1.2 TORONTO 1926 Govt of Alberta 1 1.2 EDMONTON 4039 2 1938/MAR11 AUG25/1936 Bell Tel Co 4039 2 R 476 1.2 TORONTO BLANK (1932) ONT. Bell Tel Co 4040 1 Y 7 1.2 TORONTO BLANK Goodyear 3 1.2 NTM 4040 1 R BLANK **Goodyear** 3 1.2 NTM 4040 1 Y BLANK SASK. Sask Pool Elev 1 1.2 REGINA 4041 1 Y Mowat & McGillivray 4 1.2 OTTAWA 4041 1 Bell Tel Co BLANK 168 1.2 TORONTO 4041 1 R **BLANK** 327 1.2 TORONTO 4041 1 1932 Manitoba Wheat Pool 4041 1 WINNIPEG NNT. Bell Tel Co 1 1.2 LONDON 4042 1 P.Q. Sovt of Quebec BLANK O 1.3 QUEBEC 4042 1 6 BLANK **Goodyear** 3 1.2 NTM 4042 1 Y MAR4/1936 ONT. Crown Life BLANK 253 1.2 TORONTO 4042 1 R ONT. Crown Life BLANK 0 1.3 TORONTO 4042 1 R Sask Pool Elev 1 1.2 REGINA 4043 3 1932 MAN. Traders Finance 4043 3 R 8 1.2 WINNIPEG NOV9/T/1934 MAR16/1938/T MAN. T. Eaton Co 4043 3 R 1 1.2 WINNIPEG MAR14/T/1935 JAN10/1939/T MAN. 8 1.2 WINNIPEG 4043 3 R NOV4/T/1931 FEB14/T/1933HOUSE OF Sovt of Ont. ONT. 16 1.2 TORONTO 4044 3 6 DEC3/1936/T Govt of Alberta F 4044 3 R 1 1.2 EDMONTON MAY27/T/1926 ALTA, Govt of Alberta 4044 3 R 1 1.2 EDMONTON 1936 Alberta Wheat Pool 1 1.2 CALSARY 4044 3 R AUG31/T/1925 ,AY31/T/1926 Bell Tel Co ONT. 1 1.2 LONDON 4045 3 R T/FEB16/1932 MAN. Man Tel System 0 1.3 WINNIPEG 4045 3 6 JUN21/1938 JUN12/1936 Greenshields-Hodgins 0 1.3 MONTREAL F 4045 3 R MAY1/T/1926 ONT. Bell Tel Co 7 1.2 TORONTO 4046 3 R APR7/1935/T Sask Pool Elev F 2 1.2 REGINA 4046 3 R AU624/1939 Govt of B.C. ¢ 4046 3 V 1 1.2 VICTORIA NOV8/1938 APR12/1937 Sovt of B.C. 1 1.2 VICTORIA 4046 3 R SEP15/T/1931 P.Q. Wesbitt, Thompson 0 1.3 MONTREAL 4046 3 R P.Q. Wesbitt, Thompson JAN31/1933 45 1.2 MONTREAL 4046 3 R 6.M.A.C. T/NOV12/1936 F 4046 3 R 5 1.2 TORONTO SEP21/1930 Traders Finance 18 1.2 TORONTO F. 4047 2 6 Can Gen Elec 12 1.2 TORONTO 4047 2 6 OCT18/T/1935 ONT. Consumers Gas 4047 2 6 75 1.2 TORONTO ONT. Simpsins MAR20/T/1926 JAN8/T/1931 4048 2 5 8 1.2 TORONTO MAR2/T/1931 OCT20/T/1932 ONT. Simpsons 4048 2 R 8 1.2 TORONTO

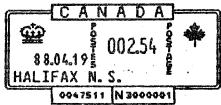
List of Members

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31, Ron Kitchen, 1387 Pearl St., Ottawa ON, K1T 1C6

Alan Draves, PD Box 2009, Cridersville, OH, 45806, still has metered town lists for Canada at \$1.00 (US). He has offered to supply updates if I print them. Seems as if this is a good idea since most collectors keep an eye out for new items.

32, W.H. Rawlings, 835 Wildwood Pl., West Vancouver BC, V7S 1P2



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