WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

Newfoundland

Status: British Crown Colony Area: 155,364 sq. miles Population: 353,526 (1951 est.) Currency: 100 cents = 1 dollar,

1 Newfoundland dollar = 1 Canadian dollar (in 1949)

s the eastern-most extension of the North American continent, Newfoundland has been an important stepping stone for transatlantic communications for five centuries. It is not clear when Europeans first discovered Newfoundland. Its fisheries were well known to sailors even before John Cabot made his famous voyage in 1497 for the English king. Cabot played a prime role in promoting the island and by 1583, when

Sir Humphrey Gilbert formally annexed Newfoundland for England, a number of English fishing settlements were already well established. Despite continuing conflicts with France and others, settlement continued. But much of its population was seasonal, with many returning to Europe each fall at the end of the cod-fishing season. Fishing was Newfoundland's economic mainstay well into the 20th century despite attempts to diversify the economy.

The island's economy collapsed during the Great Depression. In 1933, a Royal
Commission was highly critical of the country's political leadership and recommended the temporary suspension of responsible government. Newfoundland, a self-governing dominion since 1855, reverted to a Crown Colony. Following World War II, no longer able to count on British subsidies, the government held a referendum on its future government. In late 1948, Newfoundlanders voted narrowly to join the Canadian confederation. On March 31, 1949, it became Canada's 10th province.

The vast territory of Labrador was disputed by Canada and Newfoundland. The issue was appealed to the King's Privy Council, which in 1927, upheld Newfoundland's claim, officially adding an area almost three times larger than the island itself.

Early correspondence was transported by shipmasters and typically received no

distinctive markings. In 1805, the London General Post Office recognized Si-

mon Solomon as the postmaster in St. John's. Solomon, a jeweler by trade, engraved a handstamp, which was placed in use in 1810. After 1840, the London GPO supplied handstamps. The Postal Act of 1852 provided for the use of postage stamps, but no action was taken to implement this until after self-government was achieved. The first stamps were produced in London by Perkins Bacon and placed on sale on January 1, 1857. Over the next 92 years, Newfoundland issued about 300 stamps.

Under the confederation agreement, responsibility for the postal services was transferred to Ottawa, though Newfoundland stamps remained valid.



A 6-penny rose of 1860, Scott 20.



A ½-cent black Newfoundland Dog of 1894, Scott 58.



A 1931 Newfoundland airmail (Scott C6) overprinted "L. & S. Post," Scott 211. L. & S. stands for land and sea.



A 15-cent Harp Seal Pup stamp with an inset portrait of King George VI, Scott 239.

A cover postmarked August 21, 1953 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island franked with stamps from Canada (Scott C8) and Newfoundland (Scott 191, 270).





A 2-cent green Codfish of 1865-94, Scott 24.



The 2-cent rose carmine Map of 1908, Scott 86.







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