

SYNOPSIS

THE FEDERAL INSPECTION STAMPS OF CANADA

Purpose: To show the development and use of the four Canadian federal inspection stamp issues with essays, proofs, specimens and varieties as well as the use of the stamps on inspection certificates.

Background: The inspection of weight and measuring devices for length, weight and volume was authorized by legislation passed in 1873. The Gas Inspection Act, passed at the same time, authorized the inspection of gas meters and measuring devices. Gas included substances such as natural gas and propane. It took several years to build the inspection organization with the first stamps issued in 1876. An act regulating the distribution and measurement of electricity was enacted in 1894 and became effective 01 April 1895. Stamps appeared the same year. Regulations governing the inspection of certain refined petroleum products (mostly for lighting purposes) were approved in 1868. The oil containers were marked in chalk or paint (and later with stamps) to indicate details of the inspection and the payment of required fees. Stamps did not come into use until 1885 and were discontinued in 1899.

Authorized inspectors issued certificates attesting to the accuracy of the scales, meters or measuring devices subject to inspection. Stamps certifying the payment of the inspection fees were affixed to the certificates. The stamps were not used on any other documents. The use of gas and electric stamps was discontinued on 30 June 1950, and for weights and measures 01 January 1952.

Mint examples of the early weight and measures, gas, and electric light inspection stamps are somewhat scarce as it was illegal for unauthorized persons to possess them. However, this regulation was removed in the late 1930s. Also, in 1960, the remainders of the unused stamps from the early 1950s were sold to a stamp dealer thus accounting for the many mint George V and some Victoria mint stamps seen today.

Petroleum revenue stamps are meager, even though millions were printed. Used stamps are usually faulty as they were required to be destroyed when the container they were affixed to became empty.

Research: Most of my research has been secondary. However, study of the 60¢ gas stamp shows that there were two panes sent to the field, not one as mentioned in Zaluski. Also, the 60¢ weights and measures stamp (1885 Royal Crown issue) extends the known serial numbers in Zaluski from 285100 to at least 288250.

Exhibit Plan: Each section begins with proofs, essays and/or specimens followed by the stamps and inspection certificates showing their use. Preproduction material for the petroleum stamps is not known.

Frame 1	Introduction and Weights & Measures
Frame 2	Weights & Measures and Gas Inspection
Frame 3	Gas Inspection**
Frame 4	Electric Light Inspection*
Frame 5	Electric Light Inspection*, Petroleum Inspection and Epilogue.

★ denotes items of significance

C denotes expertised stamp

* Includes Electricity and Gas Inspection series.

Bibliography (suggestions for jury members are in bold face):

Ryan, Christopher D., *A Selective History of the Inspection of Weights and Measures in Canada*, Canadian Revenue Newsletter, No. 8, September 1995, pages 3-12, No. 10, December 1995, pages 3-8. *

Ryan, Christopher D., *Canada's Inspection of Electricity Meters, 1895-1950s*, Canadian Revenue Newsletter, No. 67, December 2009, pages 4-10. *

Ryan, Christopher D., *The Discontinuation of the Weights and Measures Inspection Stamps*, Canadian Revenue Newsletter, No. 73, June 2011, pages 8-10. *

Ryan, Christopher D., *Refined Petroleum Products, Excise Duty and Inspection, 1868-1899*, Canadian Revenue Newsletter, No. 88, March 2016, pages 4-5 and 10. *

Van Dam, E. S. J., *The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue*, Bridgenorth, Ontario, 2017, pages 11 – 17, 41 and 42. It is the standard numbering system for these stamps. However, Zaluski provides substantially more information and data and is the preferred reference. It is well documented and very well illustrated showing major and minor varieties, proofs, essays and specimens. Zaluski on a DVD is available from the American Philatelic Research Library.

Walsh, John M., 2018 *British North America Stamp Catalogue*, 11th edition, Walsh's Philatelic Service, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, pages 1513 – 1532. (Petroleum stamps are not included).

Zaluski, Edward, *Canadian Revenues, Volume Two, Federal Inspection, Unemployment Insurance, Wildlife Habitat, Tidal Salmon, and AMERICA Duty Stamps, CD/DVD, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 2017*. Note: This disk also contains the section on Petroleum Labels in *Franks, Seals, Labels, Etc.*

* These articles can be viewed on the British North America Society's website www.BNAPS.org.

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