

THE CANADIAN TOKEN

A QUARTERLY NEWS-LETTER FOR

COLLECTORS OF CANADIAN TOKENS

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Volume 2 Number 1 January 1973

Issue Number 3

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We are pleased to report the acceptance of the applications of two new members, which brings our membership at year's end to 61. Both Ron Greene and Alan MacNab are well known in Canadian numismatic circles. Ron has written many fine articles on B.C. tokens, and Alan is Editor of the Canadian Paper Money Journal.

Membership dues for 1973 are now payable, and we request that they be forwarded to the Secretary, 10 Wesanford Place, Hamilton, Ontario, as we have cancelled our Tillsonburg address.

Material for the April issue should reach the Editor by March 15.

COBALT

SILVERTOWN - CANADA

by Bob Low

The silver has gone from our coinage, and more's the pity. One can impugn the decision but resignedly, face up to the realities of the economic necessity for its removal. In this galloping technological age wherein we seem to be more preoccupied with solving space problems than terrestrial ones, it was a foregone conclusion. Rising costs in every segment of the economy coupled with ever increasing demands for the white metal from industry have assured and hastened its elimination from the alloy of the tokens we call money. Such tokens of man's economic intercourse can be and have been made of many different materials - wood, beads, porcelain, bronze, leather and the like. It matters not what they are made of, just so long as they are mutually acceptable between men and nations.

But it was nice to have had them of silver for most of the past 2700 years. On the gaming table they clinked. In the pocket they jingled, and the more you had, the pleasanter sounded the clinking and jingling. Their lustre, mint fresh, was a joy to behold. They 'toned' beautifully, since the metal oxidizes in an atmosphere containing moisture. It is to the everlasting credit of the private collector and the museums of the world that through the ages they have managed to preserve from the rest of blundering and destructive mankind so many specimens and collections of the numismatic art.

Good old Argentum! Ancient Lydia 700 B.C. - Canada Mint 1968 AD. Silver is mined, and when a Canadian thinks of silver mining (especially the over 50 Canadian) the name of the most famous silver camp of them all stands out - COBALT! This hardrock town of our northern Pre-Cambrian Shield was, in its heyday, one of the most phenomenal silver producing communities in the world.

The town itself had its beginnings when the T. & N. O. Rlwy. (Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway) laid its twin ribbons of steel northwards in 1903, to open up the fabulous mining treasure house of the 'Shield' country. There are many and varied accounts of just how Cobalt was "discovered". One popular version has it that as the railroad steel snaked its way around one of the northern lakes, later to be known as Cobalt Lake, one of the construction blacksmiths, Fred LaRose, tossed a hammer at an errant fox slinking near his shack. The hammer, so the legend goes, missed the fox but knocked loose a piece of rock from a nearby outcrop, and the bright gleam of silver was exposed. And so Cobalt was born! It may be pure fantasy, as fables go, but more fantastic were the tremendously rich ore bodies later uncovered by the prospectors and developers who swarmed into the area when word got out. Silver! Solid veins of silver! You could dig it out of surface outcroppings with a prospector's pick. That was the beginning of the Cobalt saga. It started as most mining camps did in those days. First a cluster of tents sprang up, housing the men, the stores, the banks. Then the familiar timbered headframes of the mine shafts reared their spindly skeletons up against the backdrop of the rocky hills, the evergreens

and the birches. Shafts were sunk, and down into them went the drillers, powder men, muckers, mine captains and the 'samplers' - and they brought to the surface from the Cobalt 'Sill' more wealth than Croesus himself ever dreamed of. Dozens of mines came into production, some of the better known ones being the Nipissing, LaRose, Coniagas, Beaver, McKinley-Darragh, Crown Reserve, O'Brien, Tretheway, Temiskaming and Silver Cliff. The production figures were staggering and more phenomenal still the dividends paid by some of the properties. From the beginning of operations in the area to December 1909 a total of almost 30 million tons of ore was shipped for processing, and by the end of 1911 over thirty-one and a half million ounces of silver had been extracted from the rich veins below the camp. Today's investors may drool over the following statistics:

Mining Company	Percentage Paid During 1914	Amount of Dividends And Bonuses Paid During 1914	Total Amount Dividends and Bonuses paid to Dec. 31, 1914
Buffalo	28	\$280,000.00	\$2,787,000.00
Cobalt Townsite	20	199,953.34	966,726.31
Crown Reserve	24	424,515.36	5,960,894.18
Kerr Lake	20	600,000.00	5,520,000.00
McKinley-Darragh	21	472,015.32	4,437,028.22
Nipissing Mines (Holding Co.)	22.5	1,350,000.00	12,240,000.00
Seneca Superior	70	335,218.00	645,993.40

These are only a few of the mines, but the figures are representative of the wealth extracted from the ores of the camp. The average price of silver per ounce during 1914 was 55 cents on the New York market. In mining parlance the profit potential of a mine operation is based on the number of 'ounces per ton' of the metal extracted from the ores. If a mine operator in those days was recovering 30 or 40 ozs. per ton it would be a profitable operation indeed. Consider the following: In 1914 the Nipissing Mine high grade mill treated a total of 1885 tons, recovering a total of 4,454,180 ounces of silver. That is better than 2360 ounces per ton of ore. Over one ounce of silver per pound of ore! This of course is 'High Grade' ore, fabulously rich, the recovery being made from the high grade concentrates only. In 1914 the bullion shipments from Cobalt (20 mines) totalled 9,624,629.38 fine ounces for a value at the existing price of silver of \$5,254,096.64.

One of the financial aspects of mining operations in the Cobalt area not generally known concerns the mining royalties which were paid by some of the properties to the T. & N. O. Rlwy. The T. & N.O. was owned by the Ontario Government, which placed the railway management under a commission. Initially the railway was granted a right-of-way and certain parcels of land (or townsites) along the surveyed route of the location of the line. Some time later the Government also granted to the railway the right to the minerals underlying the right-of-way and town-site properties. In the environs of Cobalt of course these rights proved to be of immense value and millions of dollars in revenues accrued to the T. & N.O. line through these royalty payments.

There existed some misconceptions and a 'lack of appreciation' on the part of some people as to the reasons for the royalty payments. It was explained by the T. & N.O. railway commission that since the railway owned the mineral rights to the lands over which its right-of-way extended that instead of involving itself directly in mining operations, it would be a simpler expedient to lease such properties to mining companies. The terms were usually that the leasing company paid an initial cash bonus to the railway, and thereafter a royalty on ore shipments from the mine originally based on the value of the ore at the shaft head. This was later changed to a percentage of the profits, the percentage decreasing over the years as the mine's ore bodies became less profitable to work. Each lease started with a payment of a 25% royalty on the value of all shipments. This figure was successively reduced to 20, 17, 15, 12½, 10 and 7½ until Sept. 1915, when all royalties were set at 5% on mine profits. In presenting their case as fair and equitable for all concerned, the T. & N.O. railway cited one particular case where two mining properties existed adjacent to each other. These were known as the Silver Queen and the Cobalt Townsite properties. In 1906 the Silver Queen property belonged to the Hudson Bay Mining Company and the Cobalt Townsite property was held by the T. & N.O. Rlwy. Both had silver bearing veins exposed at the surface under similar geological conditions. The Silver Queen ore assayed at a higher value than that of the Cobalt Townsite vein, but the silver bearing formation was more extensive than the latter. The Silver Queen property was sold to the Silver Queen Mining Company for \$810,000.00 cash, which meant an outlay of nearly one million dollars to acquire the claims alone before a shaft had even been sunk and a processing mill built. The Cobalt Townsite property on the other hand was leased to the Cobalt Townsite Mining Company by the T. & N.O. for 999 years, the mining company being required to pay out only \$50,000.00 cash, plus royalty payments after the mine started producing. In one case therefore the purchaser had to lay out almost a million dollars before any chance of a return was possible, while in the other case only one-sixteenth of that amount of capital had to be expended, with further payments being made as the ore was extracted and the silver recovered. As a point of interest it is noted that up to October 1914, the royalties received by the T. & N.O. from mining leases in the Cobalt camp amounted to \$666,915.00 from five properties. Not a bad source of "Supplemental Income"!

Fabulous veins of almost pure silver four and five inches wide; columns of figures and statistics showing tremendous profits and dividends - this was part of the Cobalt story, but not by any means the only one worth noting and remembering. Cobalt in its heyday boasted one of the earliest hockey teams in the early version of the N.H.L. and it was a good one. There was plenty of sports activity in other fields - skating, snow-shoeing, skiing, tobogganing, sleigh-riding and even a good women's hockey team. The town had a very good Y.M.C.A. with a fair quota of mens' and boys' clubs. There was an annual "around the lake" race in which boys from the "Y" jogged around Cobalt lake, some seven or eight miles. Some fine athletes came out of the Cobalt "Y", administered by "Sandy" Hall who at 60 could perform on the high bars in the gym better than many of us much less than a third his age. There were many public spirited men in town who took pains to assist some youngsters who had not been blessed

with the best opportunities in life. Many men from Cobalt have become prominent in the mining business throughout Canada and across the world. There are some of them today on Bay Street who have "made it big" in mining circles, but they served their apprenticeship the hard way in the Cobalt camp and at the Haileybury School of Mines, a few miles north of Cobalt. You'll find geologists and mining men from this area in almost every country in the world where mining is done, and their reputation is second to none.

In 1923 the town held a great "whoop-de-do", to celebrate the 20th. anniversary of its founding. In 1963 it held another to mark the 60th. It was a week long celebration, with parades, exhibitions of diamond drilling, and even hand drilling contests. This latter is something to watch, as two brawny types endeavour to sink a hole in solid granite, one holding the steel drill by hand, turning it bit by bit as his partner slams it with a six pound sledge hammer. The contest is started with a short steel bit and as the hole deepens the short steel is exchanged for a longer one, no time being lost between swings of the sledge. Each man spells the other off, alternately taking turns holding the steel and swinging the sledge. The end of a piece of drill steel an inch and a half across the top, being held by another, is not a very large target to hit square on. If you've never tried it, and you're over 25 - don't. Especially the holding bit.

Cobalt is well remembered in song and ballad. Robert Service, the "Bard of the Yukon" makes mention of it. Other less well known writers have sung its praises. There are a number of these in "Rhymes of The Miner", by E.L. Chicanot. One of them entitled 'Cobalt Summer Time' has an allusion to the blacksmith in the legend:

A man named LaRose, stubbed the end of his toes
On a rock he was blasting one day.
He said this is silver, I'll send it to Miller
And get him to take an assay,
When Miller received it, he scarcely believed it,
He cried "This is surely sublime".
So the mining commission got out an edition,
Describing Cobalt in its prime.

Chorus -

The good old summer time, the good old summer time,
Strolling up and down the hills, looking for a mine,
Searching for a calcite vein, or any other old sign,
And that's the way we spend our coin, in the good
Old summer time.

(there are three other verses)

By J. Ernest

The best known of all the songs or verses of Cobalt is the "Cobalt Song" itself and while space does not permit reproducing it here, the reader would no doubt learn it first hand were he to invite no more than three ex-Cobalters to any Saturday night bash. Dr. William Henry Drummond, who wrote 'The Voyageur', 'Johnny Courteau', 'The Habitant' and other French Canadian verses lived in Cobalt for

a period and died there in 1907. A part of the stone chimney and fireplace still stands on the site of his home, with a plaque affixed on which is recorded a portion of his poem "LeVieux Temps".

In 1963 a silver medallion was struck and issued to mark the 60th. anniversary. It is a large one, measuring 1½ inches in diameter and contains one and a half ounces of pure silver. The Obverse depicts the headframe of a mine shaft, a man standing with hammer in hand, crossed pick and shovel, and that legendary fox, an allusion to the Fred LaRose legend. The lettering reads 60th. ANNIVERSARY COBALT, CANADA/ 60/ 1903/1963 KEY TO THE NORTH. The reverse reads: STRUCK FROM/.999 PURE SILVER/MINED & REFINED IN/ COBALT,CANADA/RICHEST SILVER CAMP IN/THE WORLD OVER FIVE/HUNDRED MILLION OZS./PRODUCED TO DATE. The medallion was executed and struck by the Wellings mint, Toronto. There are two varieties, differing only in the size of the lettering on the reverse.

There are tokens of Cobalt which date back much earlier than the silver medallion. One is a transportation token of the Nipissing Central Railway (actually a street car line) which ran from Cobalt to Haileybury, Lew Liskeard and Giroux Lake. These tokens are listed in Atwood's catalogue as "Ont. 575", and are bifacial, holed in center, 16 mm. in diameter, and inscribed as follows:
"N.C. Ry. Co./5¢ fare"

A few bakery tokens from Cobalt are known. They are as follows:

CROWN/BAKERY/COBALT	
GOOD FOR/ONE LOAF/BREAD	A-OC-29
FROM THE/CROWN BAKERY	
GOOD FOR ONE/QUART/POWASSAN MILK	A-RE-33X20
L.ZANIN/COBALT	
GOOD FOR/1/ LOAF OF BREAD	A-RE-33X20
Other known Cobalt tokens are described as follows:	
JAS. CATTARELLO/COBALT,ONT.	
GOOD FOR 5¢/IN TRADE	B-R-21-C.H.
C. POLONI/COBALT,ONT.	
GOOD FOR 5¢/IN TRADE	B-R-21-C.H.
GREEN & TRUDEL/COBALT,Ont.	
GOOD FOR 5¢/IN TRADE	B-R-21-C.H.

NOTES ON MILK TOKENS OF THE ROYAL DAIRIES LTD. (WINNIPEG)

by Ed. Parker

In Donald M. Stewart's "Trade and Advertising Tokens of Manitoba" and subsequent supplementary listings, there are listed a number of Royal Dairies' tokens. For greater certainty and easy reference, the complete listing is shown below in condensed form:

6440 (a)	ROYAL/DAIRIES/LTD., WPG	
	GOOD FOR/1QUART/MILK	PL-g-R-28
(b)	ROYAL/DAIRIES/LTD./WPG.	
	WINNIPEG'S/FINEST/SINCE/1902	PL-w-T-33X21
(c)	LES./BOWER	
	GOOD FOR/ONE QUART/MILK/ROYAL DAIRIES/WPG.	PL-g-R-31
(d)	ROYAL/DAIRIES/LTD.,WPG/-/MADE IN USA	
	GOOD FOR/1 QUART/MILK	PL-g-R-23

- (e) ROYAL/DAIRY/WPG/-/MADE IN USA
GOOD FOR/1 QUART/MILK
- (f) LIKE (e): but narrow letters
- (g) SAME:But
- (h) LIKE (a): but

PL-g-R-23
 PL-g-R-23
 PL-k-R-23
 PL-g-R-25

After various visits to the office and discussions with employees, it is possible to arrive at a probable order of issue, and to note one token not listed. Of course, after a lapse of time, memories become blurred and the following is not definitive, but most likely is reasonably accurate.

The earliest tokens used were (e), (f) and (g), with (g) probably the first, followed by (e) and (f). These tokens were taken out of use "about 1958". They were able to find only one of this series on the premises, an (e), which was found in the President's Desk!

I was told that it was about this time that the company had in use a "coffee cream" token. None were found and none have turned up for listing purposes, so it may be assumed that the entire supply has been destroyed.

The next token used was probably (h) followed closely by (a). You will note that (h) is slightly smaller than (a) and only one, in good condition, was found. There were one or two others on hand but they were badly cracked and chipped. The (a) and (h) tokens were mixed and it was only by chance that the (h) was discovered. The company still has a fair supply of (a) on hand.

The (c) token was, of course, ordered by Les Bower, who at the time, was a driver for Royal Dairies. Unlike R. DeGrave (see last issue), who also issued his own tokens, Bower included the company name on his tokens and they are therefore listed under Royal Dairies.

The token currently in use, and used by all drivers is (d); and the (b) token is kept as a reserve should no regular tokens be available when required.

Should further information come to light it will be published as soon as possible.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, YORKTON, SASK.

by Ron Greene

Of interest to collectors of Hudson's Bay Company material is the appearance of a small hoard of that company's tokens from its Yorkton store. In the latest edition of Cec Tannahill's "Trade Tokens, Paper and Wooden Money of Saskatchewan" the tokens listed are:

7680	Hudson's/Bay Co./Yorkton		
d	Good for/\$1.00/in merchandise	R 9	2 known
e	50¢	R10	1 known
f	25¢	R10	1 known
h	5¢	R10	1 known

The series strongly suggests a 10¢ denomination and Mr. Tannahill left room in his numbering system for it. His foresight has been proven with appearance of the hoard. All in all, the hoard contained the following:

31 only \$1.00 tokens
21 only 50¢ tokens
52 only 25¢ tokens
51 only 10¢ tokens
55 only 5¢ tokens

The find was made in Victoria, long a noted retirement home for ex-prairie-ites. The gentleman who brought the tokens into the Victoria dealer said that he had been an employee in the Yorkton store and that these tokens were all that he had. In addition the lot contained a Poulter & Dunlop 5¢ token, another scarce Yorkton piece. The lot has stirred up great interest because it contained Hudson's Bay Company material and has rapidly been dispersed.

UNUSUAL CANADIAN TOKENS

Part III of a Series

by Ken Palmer

THE HALF CENT TOKENS OF BORDENS AND SILVERWOODS - The Borden Co. Ltd. established a branch in Hamilton, Ont. in the late 1930's by the purchase of the large dairy plant of the Pure Milk Co. Ltd. located at 181 John St. N.

Silverwoods, based in London, Ont., arrived on the Hamilton scene in the late 1920's. They joined forces with the Burke Company manufacturers of "Uneda" ice-cream and established a dairy and cold storage business called Silverwood-Burke Dairy Ltd. The Burke interests were acquired in the late 1930's and the name was changed to Silverwood Dairies Ltd.,

Salesmen of both the above mentioned dairies enjoyed privileges of entering the large industrial plants of Hamilton to make direct milk sales to the employees. The advent of World War II brought about an increase in industrial employment in Hamilton, as elsewhere, and factory milk sales became an important part of a dairy's business. Every morning salesmen would trundle their carts loaded with bottles of milk to the benches and machines where the factory workers could purchase a refreshing pint of ice-cold milk with a minimum of lost production time. Coffee breaks, canteens, lunch rooms were unheard of at that time.

The price of standard milk in the Hamilton area in the early war years was 12¢ per quart and 6½¢ per pint. All commodity prices in Canada were strictly controlled by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Although the dairies were granted a 2¢ per quart rise in price, the government subsidized them by this amount, which left the net price to the consumer the same as before.

The odd ½¢ in the price of the pint bottle presented no difficulty as far as home sales were concerned. The volume of pint sales was not great, and in any event, most housewives used tickets or tokens purchased periodically from their dairy salesmen. However, factory sales were mostly of pints and were cash transactions. In order to facilitate these 6½¢ sales both Bordens and Silverwoods

issued tokens "Good for 1/2¢" so that, for 7¢ the customer would receive his pint of milk and a token worth 1/2¢ which he could use to even out his next purchase.

These most unusual tokens, the use of which spanned a brief period in the early 1940's, are described as follows:

1. BORDENS/HAMILTON
GOOD FOR 1/2¢/IN EXCHANGE/OF DAIRY/PRODUCTS/
FACTORIES ONLY ; B-R-22
2. SILVERWOODS/HAMILTON
(The reverse is the same as above) ; B-R-22

BARNARD SOLD TO U.S.A. FIRM

Hamilton, Ont.

Barnard Stamp and Stencil Ltd. of Hamilton, one of Canada's oldest existing manufacturer of tokens, has been sold to a subsidiary of James H. Mathews and Co. of Pittsburg, Pa.

The firm has been in business in Hamilton for over 60 years. Although principally engaged in the manufacture of industrial marking devices, the Barnard Co. is well known to Canadian collectors for the wide variety of tokens which it has designed and struck over the years.

President Richard Freeman stated that a shortage of working capital was the reason for the merger. He said the deal should produce sufficient financing to boost the capacity of the Hamilton plant by 25%..

NEW MEMBERS

The following membership applications have been received and accepted:

- #60 Ronald A. Greene, (Palmer)
Box 1351,
Victoria, B.C.
(B.C. primarily: Canadian secondary)
- #61 Alan Macnab, (Palmer)
249 Hall St.,
Ingersoll, Ont.
(Tokens of Oxford County, Ont.)

TOKENS AVAILABLE

Usual rules apply. Selling price is 25¢ each, plus postage. Orders of \$1.00 or over, post-paid. Please add 25¢ (bank service charge) on U.S.A. cheques.

Brantford, Ont.	:	MacNicoll's Dairy Ltd. - Good for 1 qt.	(AL-BH)
" "	:	" " " - 1 Qt. Guernsey	(AL-CH)
Canada, General	:	W.W.II Meat Ration Token	(FL-R-Blue)
Formosa, Ont.	:	Dentinger & Beingessner - 50¢ in Merch.	(AL-OC)
" "	:	" " - 25¢ in Merch.	(AL-OC)
Hamilton, Ont.	:	Dairyland - Good for 2 qts. 2% milk	(PL-R-Blue)
" "	:	M. Raspberry Farm Dairy - 1 Qt. Milk	(AL-OC)
Neustadt, Ont.	:	J. Derbecker (c/s Alf) - 10¢ in Trade	(BR-R)
Port Rowan, Ont.	:	C.H. Pierce & Co. - 50¢ in trade	(AL-R)
Winnipeg, Man.	:	City Bread Co. - Good for 1 loaf	(AL-R)

Write to: Ken Palmer, 10 Wesanford Pl., Hamilton, Ontario

Atikokan, Ont.	:	Atikokan Bakery - Good for one Loaf	(Alum)
Harrow, Ont.	:	John Stocker - Good for 5¢ in Trade	(Alum)

Write to: Roy Stewart, P.O. Box 4481, Sta. "C", London, Ont.

Bruno, Sask.	:	A.J. Swinghamer - \$5.00 in Merchandise	(AL-RE)
Delisle, "	:	S. Moulton - 1¢, 5¢, 10¢ in Merchandise	(AL-RD)
Girvin, "	:	S. Moulton - \$1.00 " "	(AL-RD)
Hague, "	:	J.A. Friesen - 50¢ " "	(AL-OV)
" "	:	A.D. Schellenberg - 25¢ in Trade	(AL-RD)
Herbert, "	:	Western Canada Supply Co. Ltd. - 5¢ Trade	(AL-RD)
Regina, "	:	Wa Wa Guardsmen - 1 Zem Zem (2-Diff.)	(PL)
" "	:	Maple Leaf Bakery - 1 loaf (3-Diff.)	(AL)
" "	:	W.W.C. (Wascana Winter Club) - one Token	(AL-OC)

Write to C.C. Tannahill, 302-4545 Rae St., Regina, Sask. S4S 3B2

Winnipeg, Man.	:	City Bread Co. - Good for 1 Loaf	(AL-R)
" "	:	Workingmen's Union Bakery - 2 Loaves	(AL-R)
" "	:	" " " - Two Loaves	(AL-R)

Write to: Norm Williams, Box 310, New Westminster, B.C.