

Revenue Review

Birdsville Beauty

I have mentioned 'Store Notes' [figure 1] in the past as being rare to find, rarer if revenue stamped. Figure 1 from Status International auctions was up for grabs in one of their last sales. The note carries a 'ONE PENNY' embossed cancel, and is from 'Whitman & Sons' Storekeepers of Birdsville Queensland. The coat of arms gives it a date prior to 1908, making this a rather nice piece of revenue stamped paper. Unfortunately it never made its way back to Queensland!

Tasmania Parroting Problem

It has long been claimed by early students, that the Tasmanian Government Railways introduced parcel stamps in 1902 as a result of the ban by the Federal Government on the delivery of mail to Tattersall's lotteries. At this time the use of stamps for parcels

traffic was well established, and while carrying Tattersall's mail by rail as parcels circumvented the prohibition. The stamps were not introduced expressly for this purpose.

A circular issued by the TGR Accountant on 20 May 1886 notified railway staff of their introduction:

"A supply of the above which are of two values viz. 3d and 6d [figures 2 & 3] in sheets containing 12 can be obtained upon application to the undersigned. Parcel tickets are not to be accepted unless they bear the stamp of this office. Stamps are to be obliterated by dating immediately on receipt of parcels by the Booking Clerk. W H Lovett, Accountant"

Initially these stamps were only available for stations between Launceston and Formby (later renamed Devonport). This limited availability was still shown in the 1890 rates book, even

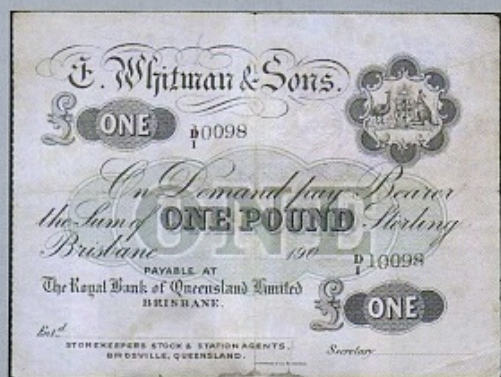


Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

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though they had been available on the Launceston-Scottsdale line in 1889. In the Rates Manual issued in 1891, following the Government takeover of the Main Line between Hobart and Launceston in October 1890, their use was extended to all stations.

In light of this new research, one has to ask why the heck has the 1902 issue date just been moved from catalogue to catalogue without anybody checking. More surprisingly Owen Ingles a well known Tasmanian rail buff and writer of THE Tasmanian Railway book of it's time back in 1979, never checked the 1902 date but chose to just parrot someone's incorrect research. Very sad, when 'so called specialists' and exhibitors in their subject miss out by 16 years. This now puts all research done by Ingles under a cloud. If you intend to collect, write up or exhibit Tasmania rails forget Ingles work. Either do your own research or work

off my free on line catalogue and judging papers.

Back to Tas

Back to Tasmania for figure 4, which is one of those tiny embossed promise note revenues that rarely show up. Very collectable if this area of revenues excites you. I for one have a good size revenue stamped folder with many of these issues. For some reason figure 4 had escaped my notice. Lucky for me one came up on eBay and it winged it's way from Tasmania to Queensland one balmy weekend to take up its rightful place in the said folder.

Milk & Cream Empties

Staying with Tasmania figures 5 & 6 the 1d value has led collectors to speculate as to its use. Usage



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6

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of this rare 1d has now finally been identified. The 1d value was said to be issued for use on homing pigeon boxes sent by rail, released at the destination with a 1d charge to return the empty box. No mention of a 1d to send it! Anyway it turns out the 1d value was specifically issued for use by the Tasmanian Dairy Association for the payment on the return of empty milk and cream cans. It can be dated by an entry in the 1892 Accountant's Office circular. This 1d value had a very short life indeed as a search in Trove turned up that in 1895 it was augmented in Parliament ".....and as an example of the anomalies empty beer barrels were carried on the railways for nothing, empty milk cans were charged 1d." 'Were' being the operative word. Two copies of the 1d have survived to date one perf 11.8 the standard Hobart perf and the other perf 12.5 a Melbourne perf but wait, Melbourne also had a perf 12 machine so could

both these known 1d survivors have been perfed in Melbourne? Studies continue. Please check my on line catalogue for new and updated info on Tasmania Rails.

Impressive

Ian Culshaw has shared some impressive material from his collection with me. He asks if figure 7 is a true 'proof'. It came with a notation that it was manuscript 'CANCELLED' by non Government Printer 'Walby'. Can any reader add to this, as Trove has not turned up anything.

More of Ian's collection is shown in figures 8 & 9. Impressive mass usage of the £100 in figure 8 and a very rare usage of the £500. Any value over the £100 is exceedingly hard to find and if you are offered any by a dealer, bite his arm off to get it!

The last of Ian's sending's [and not to be out



Fig 7



Fig 8

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done by figure 11 from the August Stamp News which showed a floating swan] is Ian's £10 [figure 10] showing a dramatic sinking shift of the swan. Does any reader have a copy showing the swan actually half off the stamp? If so please share it here.

Perfin Corner

Some tasty prices for railway Perfins have been popping up in auctions of late. Figure 12 is no exception achieving \$170.00 finding its way into a UK collection. The large 'L' tells us this is from Lowood Creamery. The Lowood Creamery Company had its head office in Adelaide Street Brisbane, ['Handbook of Australian Private Perfins' incorrectly list this Perfin] with numerous factories and depots spread throughout Queensland. The cream was carried to Lowood for manufacture, and

it was from this address the company derived its name. The company's country butter factories were established at Willowburn, Tiaro, Boonah, Lowood, and Beaudesert with cheese factories situated at Elbow Valley, Grey Mare, Tangan in the Warwick District, and also at Bringabilly near Pittsworth. The business was large and this required an extensive refrigerating plant as well as cold stores and offices, which were all located at the Adelaide Street site. The company went into liquidation on 11 Sept 1912. This 'L' in a 6d value it is rated R3.

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Fig 9



Fig 11



Fig 10