OUR RAREST STAMP
(Toronto Philatelic Journal, March 1885)

New Brunswick has the honor of having produced the rarest stamp in the world, viz: The “Connell,” as it is universally called. Now, this stamp is not an essay in any sense of that much-abused word; the circumstances are as follows: In the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius and benevolence, was the Postmaster-General of the province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr. Connell discovered that the postage stamps of the province were susceptible of improvement, and to that end, employed the famous American Bank Note Company to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the labels hitherto used. Mr. Connell furnished the designs, the idea of which was certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day; for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed in point of elegance and neatness by any stamp in Christendom. Mr. Connell’s idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam-engine on the 1c., a head of Her Majesty of England on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12½c., a portrait of the possible future monarch of England on the 17c., and his own portrait on the 5c.

The stamps arrived and were issued to the public; but alas! unfortunate Mr. Connell had, in the eyes of Her Majesty’s lieges of New Brunswick, committed a frightful crime. That he, a mortal created man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, should dare to engrave his honest countenance on a similar piece of paper to that on which the majesty of that broad domain, on which the sun never sets, was depicted! A mass-meeting presided over by a political opponent of Connell was instantly called, and it was resolved to request Mr. Connell to resign, but Mr. Connell dashed the reins of the post-office department back in the face of the governor, and retired at once and forever, from the political arena.

The stamp was only used one day and a number having passed through the post-office, it therefore could not be an essay.