

## MINNESOTA NOTES

by Dr. Jon M. Wilson



As a collector of Minnesota precancels as well as Perins I note a good deal of information that crosses the line between these two types of cancellations. For example, many users of dated precancels are unidentified. (It was required after July 1, 1938, that precancel users put their initials, the month and the year on each stamp above 6¢ denomination) By cross reference with the Perfin catalog, some of the users have been identified. Companies sophisticated enough to use Perfins also used dated precancels.

The Perfins of Minnesota seem to be ratherd scarce and The breakdown by Cain ratings

is as follows: Lar

ent Ac 4; Be 10; I Cw 54; D 32; E 25; None 1.
ent I do recall seeing a breakdown for all
the Perfins in the rating list in a back
issue of the <u>Bulletin</u>, but I have been unable to locate it.

Missabe & Iron Range Rwy., Duluth, Minn.)
does not deserve its "C" rating. In the last
Perfins Club auction, for instance, I picked
up all the copies I bid on-one of them at
ten cents in Iethink the device was used more
actively after 1954, as most of the copies
appears on other Liberty series. When were

the Cain ratings taken?

ed A recent disting in the Perfins Bulletin showed K-26 (KD) to be found postmarked "New Prague, Minn." A letter to the Chamber of Commerce in New Prague brought a courteous reply: "The initials 'KD' could be for Katolicky Delnik.' These are the Czech words for 'Catholic Workman, 'a fraternal life insurance association which still maintains an office in New Prague." A letter to this association brought a nice reply from Mr. S. F. Wagner, Supreme Sec-retary since 1939: "I recall having been told that more than 50 years ago, when the organization was still very small, the treasurer was responsible for purchasing postage stamps for all of the officers. For identi-fication of the postage which was to be used for Association correspondence, the perforation handstamp had been used. That prac-That practice had been discontinued in the late teens or early 20 s. Where this so-called relic I do not know."

Needless to say, Mr. Wagner did not bstart too long after use of the perforator was discontinued, as my only copy of K+26wisson ac2¢ Washington Bicentennial

astampoissued in 1932!

rour check for \$60