

unanimous in favor of the auction department.

Although the auction sale is a "good thing" it is not, however, to be supposed that the vendors of stamps simply employ this method as a means to give away stamps at a small fraction of current prices. A would-be purchaser who expects to be able to purchase stamps at an auction sale at about one-fifth of catalogue prices, will speedily be dispelled of this bright illusion. About as "nervy" a young man as ever came beneath my notice was a bright youth of Chicago, who at an auction sale held recently by a Toronto gentleman, sent in bids on about 60 lots of British North American stamps at prices ranging anywhere from one-tenth to one-fifth of catalogue. Needless to say the dealer did not sell him all he had listed for auction and then enquire if he could not dispose of all the remainder of his stock of good old Canadas at these prices.

J. E. WELDON.

Canada Counterfeits.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

As in many other counterfeits these are printed on thick, smooth paper, which does not admit of good perforation, and by the use of too much ink they appear somewhat blurred. With the aid of a magnifying glass many differences can be detected in the individual stamp. In the 2½d. 1861 a gouge is noticed just below the hair, the eye is imperfect, the eyelid solid, the background is uneven and there is no separation between the upper line of the hair and the background. In the word *British* the letter *t* is lower than *Bri* and *ish*. The perforation on the sides comes nearer to the impression than it does on the top and bottom.

In the issue of 1865 the lips, eye and crown of the Queen's head are imperfect and there are blotches at the bottom of oval and at extreme right. In the word

Vancouver *e* is contracted and *n* expanded, and in the word *Island*, the letters *an* are expanded and *d* resembles an *o*. In the word *five* the spaces between the letters are of unequal length.

The 1868-9 issue consists of different values surcharged on the three-pence type of 1834 which was printed in various colors. In the counterfeits, the block is heavily worked, and the design faint. The ornamental work in the corners is defective, the letters are imperfect and in the crown there are four jewels on the right and six on the left. In the surcharge the spacing in the word *cents* is unequal. Cancellations, not post-marks, are always found on these counterfeits. The 1831 issue is generally heavily obliterated by the cancellation to conceal the defects. Maximilian Mantret, who was recently arrested in New York for having counterfeit Haytian stamps, is reported to have had a large quantity of forged British Columbia stamps. It would be interesting to examine them, as they would differ from the above counterfeits.

J. B. SIMPSON

Stanley Gibbons Catalogue

A REVIEW.

Next to his stamps, the dearest object to a collector is his catalogue, both from a useful as well as a monetary point of view. It is a pleasure to a collector beyond the embryo stage to scan the list of new prices and see his "luck," or, as is mostly the case, to see the advance in lines he could have bought for "nothing" — or next to it.

Stanley Gibbon's 1895 catalogue comes to hand, and whether it will fill the niche its publishers hope, remains to be seen. Collectors accustomed to Scott's will, in our estimation, prefer the latter's arrangement and illustrating. Canada is the only country we propose to notice, and it will be of value to note a few advances.