

Correspondence.

ENGLISH LETTER.

The chief event of the month has been the philatelic auction in aid of the war fund and those who were present all pronounced themselves well pleased with the afternoon's entertainment, the catalogue for which the modest sum of 1s. was asked, was handsomely printed in gold with a photo of Queen Victoria. No less than 250 different people contributed to the catalogue amongst whom may be mentioned, The Duke of York, M.P. Castle, Baron de Worms and many other well-known philatelists, one name was specially noticeable viz. A. W. Batchelder of the New England Stamp Co'y. showing the sympathy our American friends extend to us in times of trouble.

Some very fine stamps were sold, the gem of the sale being a 3 lire Tuscany unused which realised the prodigious sum of £93, a similar stamp realised at auction one month before £62 although in this case there was less margin, the catalogue also contained an unused pair of the 1d. black V.R., two £5 Great Britain used and a third unused and two 5s. St. Vincent with star, there was also a set of Trinidad 1891 ½, 1, 2½, 3, 4, 6d. and 1s., all surcharged 9d. issued in commemoration of the visit to the island of the Duke of York, there are only three other sets in existence these being in the possession of his Royal Highness. The total amount realised by the sale was over £1000. A leading photographer took a photo of the assembly during the sale by flash-light and copies were for sale at 3s. 6d. part of which sum goes to the fund.

A 10d. black Canada 1851 laid paper realised £51 at auction last month.

Kipling's 'Absent minded beggar' was of course sung and a collection made, which on being examined was found to contain a 10 penny piece kindly dropped in by some German gentleman, this was at once put up to auction realising 5s. whereupon someone suggested that all who had bid for it should pay and so the humble penny became 15s. A Kruger sovereign realised £2.

The well-known German firm of Senf. Bros. have introduced a great novelty into their monthly journal by reproducing all the illustrations in colors and as there are 100 it gives the paper quite a gorgeous appearance and considering the difficulty this entails the illustrations

are remarkably well executed although of course they cannot always get the exact shades required; the English authorities unfortunately will not allow any illustrations in colors.

Gibbons' new catalogue is now on sale and although it is by no means perfect in its pricing yet it is gradually becoming nearer the mark, and it would be impossible to allow a 50% discount on some of the better class stamps. They have now left out of their catalogue all printers proofs and stamps that should be perforated but have by some means found their way to the public in an imperforate condition, this means that some very highly priced stamps are not excluded from the catalogue, no doubt to the disgust of their various owners as they will now be more difficult of sale.

In 1887 Garabia stamps embossed head which were to be had a few months ago for a very small percentage over face value are rising very rapidly and cannot now be had for less than 80 per cent over face so there is still good profit to be made by those who keep themselves well posted up in stamp matters. A complete sheet of these stamps every value recently realised over 70 per cent at auction, and I heard of a private sale last week at 110 per cent over face value.

W. F. Dick.

London, W.C., Apr.
4th 1900.

MONTREAL NOTES.

In glancing over the Era I was kind of surprised to see Mr. Stone more or less criticize me about the exclusion of sound news in my last notes and as I was guilty I loudly call "mea culpa" and apologize to the readers of the "Jubilee."

As I have been away from Montreal for some time it is quite a difficult task to give you the latest news. The fact is that these notes are penned in Smith's Falls so I beg the indulgence of the readers and of Mr. Stone.

The Mount Royal stamp club has been re-organized and is better than ever. On the 4th a member brought a graphophone and the evening was a pleasant one. On the 11th a debate was to take place but as one of the speakers was out of town I believe it was replaced by some interesting event.

The Canadian Philatelic club has now 16 paid up members. Not too bad for a start.

At the last election of the Montreal Philatelic Association Mr. McGill was placed on the executive committee.

Mr. Pioneer seems to be totally opposed to "nom de plume" kids, and his hits are well directed regarding the Berlin party and we trust that "Giller" will take his advice. But Mr. B— why don't you give up your "nom de plume" I believe you would meet with great favor if you did.

"Can Montreal support two philatelic magazines?" As publisher I will say that I believe so.

Our philatelic stores here don't seem to be doing much business. Cycling, lacrosse, baseball, etc. seems to have kept all the boys away from the shops.

The "Mount Royal Stamp News" has at last appeared. Will it succeed? ask some. Let every inquirer subscribe and its success is assured.

Mr. J. A. Denis is a new philatelic writer from Montreal and as he is a "green hand" he expects criticism from a certain party in the U.S.

C. E. A. HOLMES.

Boys, Oh Boys!

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|--|--------|
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| Canada entire post cards, first issue up to date, 6 var..... | 10c |
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| 15 var Sor'on rev'es cat \$2.00..... | 20c |
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