

One great comfort to all collectors of British Columbian stamps is the absence of any good or even fair counterfeits, all that do exist being poorly printed and on unwater-marked paper. Anyone who has ever seen a genuine copy is hardly likely to be deceived by these counterfeits.

The De Coppet Sale.

The J. W. Scott Company, Limited, have issued its auction catalogue of the De Coppet collection of postage stamps.

It forms a most formidable looking volume, consisting as it does of 200 pages. M. de Coppet was a specialist as he only appears to have collected the Western Hemisphere and he seems to have made a thorough study of the stamps of its varied countries, for whatever you refer to will be found to be about complete in general issues and at the same time to include in most instances any and all other varieties, watermarks, papers, shades and errors, unique or otherwise that are known. The sale is divided into 2804 lots and takes place at New York City, April 3rd, 4th, 5th, 13th, 14th, 24th, 25th, and 26th.

The catalogue (illustrated with cuts of many of the stamps), is most interesting, and it could not very well be otherwise in the very able hands of Mr. J. W. Scott, who has, descriptive of condition, etc., enlarged upon the merits of some of the desirable stamps.

For an instance we quote "British Guiana, 1850 issue 2 cents circular on rose paper, cut round but neatly mounted on a piece of the same colored paper, cut square, used: and, in our opinion this is the rarest stamp of any regular government issue in existence, there being only six specimens known and only three in hands of private collectors. The three specimens of the Tapling collection being now in the British Museum. The fourth specimen is owned in France and the fifth in England. * * * It was originally in the Caillebotte collection purchased by Pemberton, Wilson & Co., sold by them immediately to the present owner. It is unquestionably the gem of the collection and will be the gem of any collection

which may boast of containing it in the future. Reserve \$600.00."

Abounding as it does in information such as this, makes the catalogue of value as a future reference, we would recommend our readers to secure one of the "edition de lux" with marked prices of the result of the sale, believing that it will be found to be a veritable vade mecum. A wise precaution we think has been taken of placing a reserve price on some of the choice varieties, which, being well worth the amount of the issues would be a misfortune to M. de Coppet should they realize less, having cost him large sums in obtaining same.

In Bolivia, the lots offered are mentioned as comprising a portion of his exhibit at the exhibition in London, 1890, for which M. de Coppet was awarded a silver medal, a number of whole reconstructed sheets are among them, the same with 1862 issue of British Guiana. Of this latter country in first issues, some otherwise practically unobtainable stamps are noticeable, U. S. of Columbia consists alone of 332 lots inclusive of registration, labels, etc.

A very fine collection of British North America is offered, among which we would mention the 12 pence and several 6 pence perforated Canada. Unperforated 2 1/2 pence pink, first issue British Columbia, and a number shillings (among which are split provisionals) New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, also fine copies of the vermilion and orange first issue Newfoundland.

Want of space forbids us from further reference at present, but we trust to be able to give to our readers in due course the result of the sale, which we venture to say will as a total exceed that of any heretofore held.

We learn that buyers will be present from Great Britain and that several of our Toronto philatelists will also make it convenient to be present.

It took \$11,201 worth of ink to cancel the U. S. postage stamps of 1883.

A Canada 1868, 1c. laid paper recently sold at auction in England for \$8.25. Scott prices this stamp at \$15.00.