

- (c) Resolution by the Society of Stamp Collectors (moved by Mr. PERCY C. BISHOP):—

“That in the opinion of this Congress, it is desirable to establish in London a central rendezvous for Philatelists, to be supported eventually by all the Philatelic Societies adhering to the Congress, but at first to be organized and supported by the London Philatelic Societies; that the Committees of all Philatelic Societies represented at the present Congress be requested to consider the matter at the earliest opportunity, and that a Committee to sit in London be now appointed to examine into the details and possibilities of the scheme, such Committee to consist of one representative of each of the London Societies and one representative of the Permanent Congress Committee.”

8.30 p.m. In the Queen's Hall.

Special Lantern Evening by the President of the Isle of Thanet Society and Mr. F. MELVILLE.

FRIDAY, MAY 3.

10.30 a.m. Third Business Session.

- (a) Resolution by the City of London Philatelic Society. Proposer: E. R. WOODWARD. Seconder: J. A. LEON, M.A. “That in the opinion of this Congress it is desirable to form a National Philatelic Association, to consist of all Philatelic Societies and Exchange Clubs in the United Kingdom which desire to be affiliated to a central controlling body, whose main purpose shall be the elimination of fraudulent collectors from the membership lists of affiliated Societies or Clubs, and to generally assist in all matters connected with the advancement of the science of Philately; such Association to be governed by a Council elected by representatives from each Society or Club.”
- (b) Resolution by the Northampton Philatelic Society, moved by Mr. W. NICHOLS.
- (c) Resolution by the North London Philatelic Society, moved by Mr. A. J. SÉFI.
- Closing Address by Major E. B. EVANS, R.A.

2 p.m. Motor Excursion to Canterbury, via Westgate-on-Sea, Birchington, and Sturry.

On Saturday the Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society will hold a special Afternoon Meeting with Displays, and a Cinderella Dance will be given in the evening.

SALE OF LORD CRAWFORD'S COLLECTION OF STAMPS.

IT will be seen that Mr. W. H. Peckitt has become the fortunate possessor of all the stamps of the Earl of Crawford, except the two very important collections of the United States and Great Britain. This

vast transaction redounds greatly to the credit of Mr. Peckitt, who thereby becomes the holder of an unrivalled stock of stamps. Lord Crawford's manner of collecting *en grand seigneur* is well known; it may therefore be imagined what the contents of the scores of volumes may reveal to the fortunate beholder. Like Aaron's rod, Lord Crawford's philatelic acquisitions have swallowed up many other collections, and not only are practically all the countries of the world represented, but in numerous cases the several collections are highly specialized and of vast extent and importance. This may especially be said in the instances of the Italian States, South Australia, New South Wales, St. Vincent, India and others, and it is therefore impossible to do more than glance at some of the most noticeable things contained in this remarkable series of collections. Among the most prominent countries we may cite—

British Bechuanaland: A strong lot of all issues.

British Central and East Africa: Both very fine, including a pair of the former with inverted centres.

British Guiana: The 1856 4 c., blue, on "sugar paper," and the like surfaced paper on original; in the 1860-63 issues are included some large blocks and sheets.

Cape of Good Hope: This includes a grand lot of woodblocks with both the errors, one of the 4d., red, being a superlative specimen and the retouched corner unused.

India: A remarkably strong collection, probably only surpassed by that of Mr. Hausburg. Of the first issue there are twelve entire uncut sheets of the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 anna, denoting the different transfers and dates of printing; of the 2 annas there are three entire sheets and a unique complete uncut sheet of the rare $\frac{1}{2}$ annas, red, with $9\frac{1}{2}$ arches; of the 4 annas with wavy blue lines a strip of the bottom of an unused sheet, blocks of other printings and the inverted head variety. The collection is also very strong in inverted and double surcharges, including complete sheets of the small Service Stamp, and is throughout remarkably rich.

Mafeking: A superb lot, including all varieties unused even in blocks and on entires, many of these stamps being of the greatest rarity unused.

New South Wales: The strongest feature here is that of the superb reconstructed plates of the Sydney Views, which are all composed of picked specimens and are probably unsurpassed by any existing remade plates. The whole collection is very fine.

Orange Free State and Colony: A very large and important collection.

Saint Lucia: Large blocks of all issues, notably of the first in mint condition.

St. Helena: Very strong, including large blocks of the 1d. imperf. in different settings and varieties of all the double surcharges, the one shilling with and without surcharge, including that value on yellow-green in a part sheet about forty specimens of which have the double surcharge. (In portions of one row some stamps have only one surcharge, and it seems a mystery how this can have occurred.)

St. Vincent: This well-known collection is superb, the condition being brilliant. The rare one shilling, lilac-rose, is represented by two pairs and a single unused, the same value slate, perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ all round (recently re-

discovered), is in a block of six, and the surcharged varieties are superlative, including a strip of three of the 4d. on one shilling in mint condition.

South Australia: This is a vast and comprehensive collection highly specialized, notably with regard to the Departmentals, and may be said to be the finest and most complete collection of these Official issues ever got together. Some of these varieties are of the greatest rarity in unused condition, and Lord Crawford had special opportunities of acquisition. Among the ordinary issues may be mentioned the 2d., Type I, perforated and rouletted both unused and used.

Straits Settlements includes the top part of the sheet in mint blocks of all the first issue and the only known copy of the 32 c. without overprint (S.G. 87) in used condition.

Transvaal: This is an exceptionally strong country, including practically all the rarities, most of the *tête-bêche* varieties, and the inverted surcharges. The Queen's Head issue has a complete sheet of the 1d. with black surcharge, and one partially reconstructed with the red surcharge.

Western Australia: The first issue includes many large blocks and an entire uncut sheet of 240 of the 4d. showing the various errors of transfer; the 4d. with inverted centre is also included, and many other rarities.

ITALY.

This remarkable collection is of such vast extent as to require twenty large volumes, and includes all the defunct Italian States represented in an extraordinary richness in varieties unused, used, and on entires. The stamps of Naples are very strongly represented, and include unused copies of both Arms and Cross and numbers of the latter used on letters. Tuscany includes the 2 soldi and 60 crazie unused and used, with many pairs and strips on and off entires; of the three lire one unused and five used, and also one on original envelope—which must be almost unique thus: a superb lot of all issues. Sicily: this is one of the existing *great* collections of this now fashionable country, and includes, amidst an extraordinary wealth of specimens, entire uncut sheets of all values. Parma, Modena, and all other States are extremely rich and strong.

Mexico: A large and valuable unused collection.

Peru: Also very strong.

Zanzibar: A rich collection embracing all the rarest varieties of surcharge, as "Zanzidar," "Zanibar," "Zapzibar," etc.

PROOFS AND ESSAYS.

The now accepted inclusion of these interesting forerunners of the issued stamp is largely due to Lord Crawford's initiative, and it can therefore be readily imagined that his own collection was strong there. In almost every country there will be found die-plate and colour proofs, including even original drawings and partly completed designs, the collection of these being as a whole of remarkable interest and variety.

There are, of course, many other points of interest and importance in this series of collections, and we can but congratulate Mr. W. H. Peckitt upon his successful enterprise in having acquired the splendid assemblage of rarities that are contained in Lord Crawford's remarkable collections.