

CROMWELL CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND BRING \$60,000

The second portion of the 20th century British Commonwealth section of the Caroline Prentice collection was sold in February by **H. R. Harmer Inc.**, 6 West 48th St., New York, for a total of \$60,821.25.

Only Canada and Newfoundland were offered at this sale, the balance of the British Commonwealth having been sold last November for \$67,045.

Many of the rare Canadian items were proofs, imperforates or similar items beyond normal catalogue listing but the interest was none the less very heavy. The 1908 Quebec Tercentenary set in un gummed horizontal pairs, cataloguing £128 by Gibbons brought \$210 (L. A. Davenport); 1912-25 die proofs sold between \$37.50 and \$52.50. In the imperforate section two booklet panes of six of the 2c teche-beche went to K. Bileski at \$320 and normal imperforate block of four sold from \$70 to \$110, cataloguing \$80 or \$100.

The 1914 unissued MacDonald-Cartier commemorative set of seven die essays brought \$805 (Davenport), and a set of 10 die proofs of the 1928-29 pictorials went to the same buyer for \$400.

Other Canadian prices included:

1930-31 imperf. 10c to \$1 in o.g. blocks of 4, \$280 (J. Sissons); 1932 Medallion 5c block of 4, imperf. vertically (cat. \$250), \$170, and a second block with plate No. 1, \$230; imperf. 1c to 13c set in o.g. pairs, \$210 (Empire Stamp Corp.); 1935 Jubilee set of 6 die proofs, \$630 (Davenport); imperf. set in o.g. pairs, \$220; 1935 'secret date' imperf. set in o.g. pairs, \$210 (Davenport); 1939 Royal Visit 1c die proof, \$140; imperf. set of 3 in o.g. pairs, \$100; 1942-43 imperf. set in o.g. pairs, \$240 (Empire Stamp Corp.); air post 1928 5c large die proof, \$140; 1932 Conference, essay of 6c on 5c surcharge, \$130.

NEWFOUNDLAND PORTION

The top price material in the auction was the air post issues of Newfoundland but the postage issues included some interesting realizations.

The 1910 Guy lithographed set in imperf. blocks of 4, the 6c type II, brought \$450, going to England; three unique 1919 Caribou essays also crossed the Atlantic at \$140 each. A set of six progressive die proofs of the 1929-31 1c went overseas at \$220 and a set of four of the 3c made \$160; a set of five of the 1937 Long Coronation similar proofs of the 15c brought \$220.

The real excitement of the auction was however the air post issues of Newfoundland, special issues for the many pioneer trans-Atlantic flights that started from St. John's.

Two o.g. copies of the 1919 'Hawker' 3c brought \$1900 and \$1100, the latter centered somewhat to top right; an attractive flown cover made \$1300. An 'Alcock-Brown' flown cover, carried on what was the first successful trans-Atlantic crossing, brought \$170.

In 1919 essays were prepared by Whitehead, Morris & Co. Ltd. for stamps for a proposed St. John's-Montreal service. A paste-up photographic and hand-painted example of a 5c value brought \$575, and a somewhat similar essay of a 10c value with an extra vignette went to the same buyer at \$615. Inverted overprint copies of the 1921 'Halifax' 35c sold at \$350 (to England) and with narrow spacing \$390.

Excitement hit the peak, however, when the rare 'Pinedos' of 1927 were offered. A single o.g. copy, perfectly centered and with the lightest gum wrinkle, sold at \$3300. The next item was lot 366—the famous 'Cromwell' block of 4, the finer of the two existing blocks of the Pinedo.

The block was commenced by the auctioneer, Bernard Harmer, at \$14,500, and progressed in \$500 raises, A. L. Michael of Wingfield & Co., London, competing against the auctioneer, with Mr. Michael finally succeeding at \$17,000.



'Pinedo' block reached \$17,000

The realization of \$17,000 was the highest figure ever for a 'straight' (non-error) 20th century item, exceeding the previous high of \$16,500 also obtained for a Pinedo block one year ago.

The next lot, a Pinedo cover, went to Italy for \$410. Of the 1930 'Columbia' 50c on 36c, an o.g. copy made \$520, a block (sheet) of four was reasonable at \$2100, and a flown cover from the 'Harbour Grace Mail' group cost \$675.

Original India ink rough sketches of the 1931 permanent issue of three values sold at the exceptional figure of \$750 each.

The remaining rarities were a single and a block of four of the 1932 'DO-X' \$1.50 on \$1 with inverted surcharges. The single went at \$900 (against \$650 catalogue) and the block of 4 sold for \$3400. It is believed that the block of four was the first ever to have been offered 'under the hammer.'