

The " Ben Goodfellow" stamp collection

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J. Boos realizes the difficulties of educating our children here but he suggests that Saturday morning courses be organized for them.

Mrs. Staehelin is quite convinced that the Swiss ladies here could be more interested in current Swiss events and even in Swiss politics. She would like to hear some lectures about the Swiss political parties. Why shouldn't some party bosses lecture themselves?

H. Andrea appeals to the Swiss parents to teach their children the home-tongue even if it takes some pains.

Dr. G. G. Kullmann reminds the audience of the central and permanent problem of the Swiss citizenship. We are not only attached to our homeland by sentimental recollections but by belonging to a country having achieved a certain way of political and communal life. The lectures envisaged should therefore be centred on these themes: what does our democracy mean, what are its roots, why is it that we have no minorities, why is it that we have become a federal country despite the fact that parts of Switzerland were dominated by others? When living abroad we have a better chance to think of Switzerland as a whole. Therefore, prior to engaging in internal politics we should in these lectures present the central aspects of our country, its living achievements as a particular and unique federal democracy.

Ferrari suggests that while abstaining from competing with the social entertainments of the Swiss societies we could perform a useful function in co-ordinating and encouraging their social activities.

Mrs. Egli would like to see a start being made in the educational field by opening Saturday morning courses in Central London.

Renou heartily agrees with the programme already outlined: we need a Swiss centre not only for the Swiss but also to introduce English friends and to get them better acquainted with our way of life. He hopes to see soon dramatic groups performing sketches, debating groups discussing our problems here and what is happening at home.

Dr. Egli, summarizing the suggestions made he asks for the approval of first: discussing the Swiss Centre at the next meeting; second: to investigate the problem of the children; third: preparing lectures for adults for civic instruction and political intelligence; fourth: organizing a discussion on the military tax and the old age pension scheme; fifth: looking for suitable reading material, such as the booklets on Switzerland published by the Office du tourisme, and the *Auslandsschweizerecho*, it being understood that the "Swiss Observer" should be aided and supported in every way.

The meeting formally agrees to these points and asks the Council to take the necessary measures. The discussion closed at 9 p.m.

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THE "BEN GOODFELLOW" STAMP COLLECTION.

The magnificent 200 volume Stamp Collection formed over a period of many years by the late Benjamin Goodfellow, Esq., Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, is to be offered for sale at Auction or by Private Treaty by Messrs. H. R. Harmer, the Bond Street Philatelic Auctioneers, in the coming spring.

Benjamin Goodfellow, a well-known Manchester lawyer, was born at Hyde, Cheshire, in 1864. His stamp collecting days date back to the "seventies" when his uncle presented him with a letter flown by Balloon from beleaguered Paris during the Franco-Prussian War. His trained legal mind soon discovered there was much more in Philately than the mere amassing of stamps and whenever New Zealand and Norway are mentioned in Philatelic Circles, his research and publications are inevitably called to mind. He received a number of high awards in International Stamp Exhibitions for these two collections, each the world's most important in their respective classes, and might well have won many more but for the fact that he was frequently a judge and therefore exhibited "*hors concours*."

He was the first to make a B.B.C. Broadcast on Philately in 1934. During the 1914-18 war he, like many others in that and the recent conflict, found distraction in his hobby and as a thank-offering for the safe return of his aviator son — also a philatelist, appropriately specialising in Air stamps — he inaugurated a fund which led to the acquisition of 41, Devonshire Place as the permanent home of the Royal Philatelic Society.

Probably the desire to know "how and why" caused him to form an incomparable collection of "Re-entries" included in which are many very rare varieties which do not come into the market once in 20 years. It is expected that this collection will cause something of a philatelic sensation when offered at Auction along with a number of specialised and semi-specialised collections of various Foreign countries, notably Iran.

This auction will be followed by the sale of the British Empire Collection on March 10th and 11th, and New Zealand (30 volumes) on April 21st, 22nd and 23rd, unless this country is sold by Private Treaty in the meantime, (it is offered at £25,000). Each, in its class is a "World's best" collection. A few sections, notably Great Britain and British issues used abroad, Greece, Palestine and Transjordan, British Solomon Isles and Tasmania, have already been sold.

The sales are certain to attract wide international competition and are likely to be the most interesting of London's Philatelic Auction Season.

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