

BUILDER OF SHIPS

Old Port Adelaide Identity

Many sailing craft, ranging from yachts to schooners, have been built on the shore of the Port River by Mr. Thomas Beauchamp, who now at the age of 83 lives in retirement at Findon road, Woodville.

Mr. Beauchamp was born on the Channel Island of Jersey on August 10, 1843. He was apprenticed to a ship's carpenter on the Isle of Guernsey, and while there came in contact with Victor Hugo, the French author, who was then exiled from France. Mr. Beauchamp recalls that he went on fishing excursions with Hugo and engaged in spirited conversations with the famous writer. Mr. Beau-

champ returned to Jersey 10 years later at the age of 19.

After several voyages to China, he sailed to Melbourne from California, and joined the collier Wallaroo, which ran from Newcastle to Wallaroo. On March 1, 1867, he arrived at Port Adelaide, and since then has lived near the seaport. In 1867 Mr. Beauchamp, with the late Mr. George Deslands, built the ketch Maxie (formerly the Morning Star), which was wrecked at Glenelg in 1923. In 1869 he joined the Government Service as a carpenter, and worked on the construction of the yacht Edith for Governor Sir James Fergusson. With Messrs. J. Michelmores and J. McAllen he built the ketch Napperby, which is still running in the gulf trade. Among other craft Mr. Beauchamp built the yacht Hygeia for the late Sir William Milne, the motor launch Anne E. Price for the Government, and a ferry boat for the Port Adelaide Corporation.

Mr. Beauchamp is a lover of music, and was an ardent worker in the choir of the Birkenhead Methodist Church for 20 years. He was connected with the Semaphore Church for several years.



MR. T. BEAUCHAMP
builder of many ships at Port Adelaide.