

YACHTING.

(By "Topsail.")

The weather which ruled on December 15 for the Royals two yacht races on the Port Adelaide River was disappointing. It was that kind of weather which even the patient Job would find fault with—a calm almost the whole while, with a moist heat which was most depressing. The racing yachts drifted with the tide. Now and then a light air would assist them a little on their course, and at one period it blew for about ten minutes vigorously. Had the wind kept up the yachts in both events would have been enabled to finish the race within the specified time provided by the rules. As things were, only the length class boats got home within the specified time. The rating class yachts exceeded the time allowance by two minutes only. The race may have to be resailed. It will be a question for the committee to decide.

The yacht *Iduna*, which Mr. F. E. Snow recently purchased from Mr. Cameron, of Sydney, arrived at Port Adelaide on Tuesday morning. She was sailed round from Lavender Bay, where she had been lying out of commission for some time, by Captain A. G. Baker and a crew of two. The *Iduna* took longer to sail round than was expected. Rough weather interfered with her progress. Captain Baker stated that the vessel got under way at noon on November 29 under ordinary sail. For two days good progress was made. Heavy squalls from the south-west, with thunder, lightning, and rain set in on December 1, and he therefore sought shelter in Twofold Bay. On December 2 the *Iduna* again got under way, and had sailed as far as Gabo Island when the weather again became so bad as to compel the vessel to again run into Twofold Bay for shelter. Whilst there the mainsail was taken off and the storm trysail bent. As soon as the weather had moderated the *Iduna* again put to sea. On December 9 she was abreast of Wilson's Promontory. Bad weather was encountered on the night of that day, and continued well into the next day. The *Iduna* continually hurled herself in the high seas. On December 11 she rounded Cape Otway. After passing Julia Percy Island calms and light variable weather ruled. Cape Willoughby was sighted on December 17. Between 9 and 10 p.m. she sailed through the Backstairs Passage with the aid of a strong southwest wind. At 12.30 a.m. on Tuesday she was off Cape Jervis, and was abreast of the Semaphore at 8 a.m. Captain Baker remarked that the *Iduna* had proved herself to be a splendid sea boat. The reputation she gained as a racing craft supplied proof that she has a good turn of speed.

When the *Iduna* has been thoroughly overhauled and clothed in new paint she will look a smart and trim craft. She will be a decided acquisition to the fleet of the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron. The *Iduna* was designed by Mr. Walter Reeks, and was built of kauri and teak in 1888 by Ellis, of Sydney. She is 56 ft. in length over all, and 49 ft. 5 in. between perpendiculars. Her beam is 12 ft. 1 in.; depth, 8 ft. 4 in.; draught, 9 ft. 6 in. She has 17 tons of lead in her keel. Her racing sails were made by Ratsey & Lapthorne, of England. She is well found, and has the most modern appliances. Her cabins are nice and roomy, with 6 ft. 6 in. of head room. She has three cabins. Mr. Snow intends to use her for cruising purposes. He hopes to start on his first cruise in her to Kangaroo Island on Boxing Day.

The ocean race of the Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Sydney, was contested on December 15, and proved the most interesting event of the kind since the *Sayonara-Bona* match some years ago. The course was from Port Denison to the mouth of the Hawkesbury River and back, a distance of 41 knots, and the race consisted of a thrash down and a run home. The *Rawhiti* (C. T. Brockhoff) was scratch, the *Heather* (N. H. Murray) had 48 min. start, the *Culmulla* (W. M. Marks) 45 min., and the *Scotia* (T. W. Bremner and A. R. Marks) 60 min. These were the finishing boats, but there were five other competitors. The *Rawhiti*, which was sailed by her owner, won with 1 min. 57 sec.

were five other competitors. The *Rawhiti*, which was sailed by her owner, won with 1 min. 57 sec. in hand from the *Heather*, with the *Culmulla* and the *Scotia* next. The winner's time was 3 hours 45 min. 30 sec.

The prizes in connection with the inter-State Dinghy Racing, to be carried out about the end of January in Sydney Harbor, have been fixed as follows:—14-ft. Championship, £30, £3, and £2; 10-ft. Championship, £10, £2, and £1; 14-ft. Handicap, £5, 2/, and £1; 10-ft. Handicap, £3, £2, and £1.

Mr. Buesnel, the owner of the *Tickler*, has returned to Port Adelaide, after an absence of three years, and has rejoined the Port Adelaide Sailing Club.

Like the members of the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron, some of the boat-owners of the Port Adelaide Sailing Club intend, during the Christmas holidays, to take a cruise. Mr. Fechner will go to Ports Wakefield, Price, and Vincent in the *Athene*, and the *Britannia*, with Mr. T. Boyce, will go to Port Wakefield.

The Port Adelaide Sailing Club will hold a race on the Port Adelaide River this afternoon for "all boats." The prize is a medal, presented by Mr. J. H. West. The boats which have been entered for the contest, and their handicaps, are as follows:—Mr. T. Boyce's *Britannia*, scr.; Mr. McKinley's *Alva*, 20 sec.; Mr. Bowie's *Heather*, 6 min. 25 sec.; Mr. Pickhaver's *Patriotic*, 7 min. 45 sec.; Mr. Fechner's *Athene*, 8 min. 50 sec.; Mr. Whitehead's *Valentine*, 12 min. 20 sec.; Mr. Searle's *Purmenta*, 12 min. 25 sec.; Mr. West's *Charlie*, 15 min. 25 sec.; and Mr. Taber's *Rover*, 17 min. 50 sec. Mr. R. Weir will officiate as captain of the day, Mr. R. Playfair starter, and Mr. J. Dunbar as timekeeper.