

YACHTING.

(By "Topsail.")

With last Saturday's opening demonstration by the Royals and the Glenelg Dinghy and Aquatic Club's little fleet at the seaside resort the South Australian yachting season has now begun in earnest. The Port Adelaide Sailing Club, which celebrated the opening of the season on October 13, were to have held a race on the Port Adelaide River on October 27 for "all boats," but in deference to the Royals it was deferred. As regards the Royals' demonstration had the wind, instead of blowing from the north-west blown from the south-west, it would have suited the sailing craft better, but the wind is a power which yachtsmen do not rule, and as they cannot order precisely the kind of wind which would suit them no good can be gained in finding fault. It was much better aloft than ashore, and everyone apparently enjoyed the outing, except, perhaps, the helmsman on board of Mr. H. B. Holthouse's *La Mascotte*. The *La Mascotte*, it is alleged, collided with the dinghy of Mr. H. J. D. Munton's *Alfreda*. Her bow virtually cut the dinghy in two. A hole was knocked into the *La Mascotte* just athwart the bow, which had to be speedily patched to save the *La Mascotte* from foundering. The accident is said to have happened whilst the yachts were cruising above McLaren wharf just prior to forming into procession order and sailing down the river.

It was pleasing to once more see Messrs. Russell and Waid's *Magie* in commission. She had a good yachting party on board, who seemed to enjoy their sail. Mr. L. W. Walter's new yacht *Norallie* attracted attention. She seems to be a trifle too high out of the water. A feature of the demonstration was the large number of motor launches which could be observed gliding hither and thither. The commodore's launch *Daralie* looked as neat and shapely as ever. Provided with a more powerful engine the *Daralie* with her fine lines would be a flier. The *Geisha* with a motor is a speedy craft. She is a steadier vessel now that she has a motor engine.

Mr. H. Dutton's new steam yacht *Adele* was launched in Scotland on October 18. It is anticipated that she will sail for Port Adelaide about the middle of December.

The Prince Alfred Yacht Club of Sydney held their fortieth annual club demonstration on October 30, when one of the largest fleets of yachts and motor-boats ever seen in Sydney Harbor turned out to do the club honor.

On November 10 the first practical opening of the Victorian yachting season is expected to take place. Several yacht owners will take advantage of the Monday holiday to have a three days cruise. Mornington is to be the general objective.

Mr. G. S. Brock and Mr. J. S. Brunton, of New South Wales, have arranged a race between their auxiliary cruising yachts *Dolphin* and *Beacon* in a go-as-you-please contest—that is, they can sail, or motor, or use both combined. The course will be from the R.S.Y.S. Clubhouse, round the Manly buoy, and back to the starting. The date fixed is the 8th of December, on which day the R.S.Y.S. have a club afternoon. The prize is a silk flag and a dinner at the clubhouse to the crews.

The opening ceremony of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, held in the club grounds, Carabella, Kirribilli Point, on October 27, was a great success. The weather was most genial, the sun's rays being tempered by a soft, balmy north-east breeze, which was just sufficient to make the sunshine enjoyable, yet not too strong for the dainty toilets of the

ladies. Never have the grounds been seen to better advantage. The lawns, in perfect condition and beautifully trimmed, were set off to great advantage by a background of luxuriant foliage in its spring garb. The panoramic view from the grounds called forth many an exclamation on account of its loveliness. The water was the bluest of the blue, and the trimly-kept flag-bedecked yachts of the club fleet rode gracefully at anchor, floating like swans on the water, with innumerable skiffs, dingies, and motor boats darting hither and thither, making a picture that the "Royals" may well be proud of. The visitors spent the afternoon strolling about, or comfortably ensconced on the lawn, listening to the delightful music of the band, in watching the races of the skiff club, the man-o'-war cutter races, and innumerable other items of interest that are ever present on these occasions.

There was a large and fashionable attendance, the assembly including his Excellency the Admiral (Sir Wilmot Fawkes), who was accompanied by Lady Fawkes. The vice-commodore (Mr. Walter Reeks) received the distinguished guests. The officers of the Prince Alfred Yacht Club and representatives of the Motor Boat Club were also present. Mr. McLaren (secretary) and the committee were assiduous in their attentions to the guests. Afternoon tea and refreshments were served on the lawns and in the clubhouse, the billiard-room being set apart for the men folk, and advantage being taken of an adjournment thereto by Mr. S. M. Dempster (commodore of the P.A.Y.C.) to give the toast of the "Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron," coupled with the name of Mr. Walter Reeks, in the absence of Sir James Fairfax (commodore). Mr. Reeks replied briefly and to the point. Amongst the yachts noticed at anchor from the lawns were:—*Wahine*, W. Reeks; *Electra*, T. H. Kelly; *Aetaca*, G. Lloyd-Jones; *Mavis*, —; *Lever*, Athene; *D. Carment*; *Scotia*, T. W. Bremner; *Violet*, F. J. Jackson; *Nanoya*, T. Marshall; *Conwalla*, W. M. Marks; *Magie*, A. C. Saxton; *Beacon*, J. S. Brunton; *Bona*, H. Binnie; *Dolphin*, G. S. Brock; *Tartan*, G. Hamerford and H. Henty; *Miranda*, Dr. C. MacLaurin and G. H. Leibius; *Doreen*, P. Trebeck; *Meteor*, —; *Rabett*; *Doris*, —; *Boomerang*, W. Plunkett; *Firefly*, F. Empson; *Thistle*, Dr. J. Robertson; and *Lara*, J. Thompson.