

Yachting Season Prospects.

RACING CRAFT IN AND AROUND HOME WATERS.

(By Francis B. Cooke, in "London Express.")

Since the days of the peerless Britannia, no yachting season has opened with brighter prospects of success than that which is now upon us, for the three important classes that comprise the touring fleet will all be strongly represented. This fleet journeys from port to port, racing at all the big regattas round the coast from Harwich to the Clyde, and the rivalry between the various yachts in their respective classes bids fair to be unusually keen.

LARGE CUTTERS.

The feature of the coming season will be the racing of the 23 metre class, which will comprise the following vessels:—

Yacht.	Owner	Built.
Shamrock	.. Sir Thomas Lipton	1908
White Heather	Mr. Myles B. Kennedy	.. 1907
Brynild	.. Sir James Pender	1907
Nyria	.. Mr. Robert W. N. Young	.. 1906

A good many years have elapsed since a fleet of four big cutters went the round



ON THE LAWN AT GOODWOOD.

greater, and the sail plan larger and more lofty; but no sacrifice has been made in the way of comforts below decks. The yacht's internal accommodation is, indeed, positively luxurious, and in striking contrast to that of any of the former Shamrocks, which were racing shells pure and simple.

LAST YEAR'S CHAMPION.

In view of the advent of the new Fife clipper, last year's champion (White Heather) has received a special preparation. Some modifications have been effected to her keel, and her boom lengthened to enable her to carry more sail. To remove any roughness that may have appeared on her planking as the result of a first season's racing, the copper has been stripped off and the plane run over her skin.

Brynild has also received a good deal of attention at the hands of her builders, and will make her reappearance in very different trim from that of last year. During the past winter the Nicholson cutter has had further modifications effected in her keel, a longer bowsprit shipped, and her masthead gear lightened, and in the hands of Captain Steven Barbrook she may yet trouble Shamrock and White Heather. Mr. Young has given Nyria a new suit of sails this year, and although now in her third season, she may still have a sporting chance



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE LAWN AT GOODWOOD.

of the regattas, and the revival of first-class racing must be attributed to the improvement effected in the conditions by the recently formed International Yacht Racing Union. Built to a measurement formula that encourages a wholesome type of yacht, the racing craft of to-day is as roomy and comfortable below decks as most cruising vessels of similar tonnage, while the new scantling restrictions ensure to her a long lease of life.

The new Shamrock, which has been designed and built at Fairlie by Mr. Fife, is a notable addition to the class, and Sir Thomas Lipton a welcome recruit to home racing. Hitherto Sir Thomas' yacht racing has been confined to his fruitless efforts to win back the America Cup, but now that he has for the time being abandoned his quest of the unattainable, it is hoped that his colours will be seen regularly in home waters.

The lines of the new Shamrock are said to be based upon the design prepared by Mr. Fife for Sir Thomas Lipton's would-be Cup challenger, and she is certainly of more extreme racer type than White Heather, which came from the same yard last year. Her overhangs are more attenuated, the draught is



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