

Auckland Annual Regatta.

COMMITTEE.

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The sixty-third anniversary of the founding of the colony was celebrated in Auckland last Thursday as a close holiday, the chief event being the annual aquatic carnival. In years gone by greater enthusiasm was displayed in the regatta, but of late horse races and other forms of amusement have considerably interfered with the attendances. As far as the regatta itself is concerned, however, it is to be hoped it will ever remain a permanent institution. The interest taken in maritime recreation by young Aucklanders is too great, and is gaining ground so rapidly, to allow this healthful pastime to dwindle away in importance, and then again, in order to bring the sport into prominence, there must be set apart one day at least in every year when the local fleet can be seen to advantage in a general display, such as is witnessed in the regatta in progress to-day. The aquatic display in the harbour on the present occasion was a revelation to most Aucklanders. For miles the harbour was covered with the white sails of shapely vessels of divers types, sailing boats and mulling craft, and with the broad spread of canvas of the coasting trader. Unfortunately boats of the latter description were very few, and at the committee meeting last evening it was decided, owing to the lack of interest shown, to delete the scow race from the programme. One gratifying feature was evidenced to-day in that a remarkably large number of yachts have been added to our local fleet since last regatta, and as our population grows there is reason to believe that they will go on steadily increasing. The fact that yachtmen in the south of New Zealand, and even Australians, send to Auckland for their boats, shows that they recognise in this city the home of New Zealand, and one of the homes of Australasian yacht-building.

The committee are to be congratulated on their efforts to make the regatta a success. It is due to them and the public that such valuable prizes were offered. The programme included twenty-seven events. In most of the sailing races there were excellent entries. In the ocean handicap yacht race the entries were exceedingly good, the only regret being that Viking was not entered, as a contest between the two rivals, Volunteer and Viking, is always looked upon with interest. However, the seven yachts entered were among the best of Auckland's fleet, and gave promise of a great race. The rowing events were very successful. In the whale-boat race there were three entrants. Much amusement and interest was displayed in the man-of-war naval cutter race. Captain Boleston, of H.M.S. Archer, who is a keen yachtsman, had entered two boats in the race for yachts 26ft overall and under, one of which he sailed himself. It being his expressed wish that his boats should be allowed to compete with the local craft. In the race for ship's gigs two crews from the Lizard took part. The flagship was the Union Company's steamer Walthora. The steam-

er was late in arriving, and the first races had to be started from the Queen-street wharf.

A fresh breeze from the southwest was blowing, giving the yachts a lead on the run down the harbour, but coming up the harbour again they were compelled to beat for a considerable portion of the course.

All the vessels in port were decorated with bunting.

OPEN HANDICAP YACHTS.

Volunteer finished at 2h 51m 32s. Rainbow was next over at three minutes past three. Her time allowance was eight minutes, so that Volunteer had a substantial win. Ida finished third, 3h 16m 23s. Then followed Mona at some distance, and then Thetis.

FISHING BOATS.

Little Jim finished at 2hr 36m 32s. The Dolphin finished second, 2h 42m 25s. The Little Jim thus won by two minutes 53 seconds over time allowance.

ALL-COMERS' CRUISERS' HANDICAP.

Mahaki passed the flagship at 3h 4m 22s. Wairere was second, 3h 20m 32s, and then Peri, Coruna and Isarael in that order. Mahaki thus won.

HALF-DECKED CENTRE-BOARD YACHTS.

Dorie finished 3h 35m 51s, with Shamrock second, close up, 3h 35m 58s; Horo, 3h 36m 7s. Shamrock won on time allowance. Hetty carried away her mast.

YACHTS, 26FT LINEAR RATING.

Miro finished first, 3h 46m 55s; Speedwell second, 3h 48m 13s; and Matua, 3h 52m 22s, with Janet and Eulalie following in that order. Miro won.

FISHING BOATS, TUCK STERN, CENTRE-BOARD.

Annie finished 3h 48m 17s; Bell, 3h 50m 30s; Kiaora, 3h 51m 12s. The boats evidently mis-took the instructions as to where the race finished, as they went up the harbour for a second time. Annie was scratch. Belle had four minutes and Kiaora three minutes.

DECKED OR HALF-DECKED BOATS.

Welcome Jack finished 3h 16m 17s. Aoma was second, 3h 21m 40s. Welcome Jack thus winning. Waioma finished 3h 28m 44s, and Merlin 3h 43m 40s.

PATRIKS.

Rambler was the first past the flagship at 3h 47m 41s; Tana was next, 3h 48m 15s, and Wareho third, 4 10m 52s. Tana won on time allowance.

MAIDEN GIGS. Open. Clinker outriggers, distance, 1 1/2 miles.

Entries—West End R.C., No. 2—E. Thompson (stroke); Mr. Cossar, 3; R. Bigelow, 2; W. Wright, 1. St. George's R.C.—J. O'Sullivan, stroke; E. Innes, 3; McWilliams, 2; P. Steele, 1. Waitemata R.C., No. 2—E. Brewin, stroke; A. S. Allen, 3; H. E. Allen, 2; C. Short, bow; W. Brewin, cox.

The weather was very rough for this race, and there was some talk of abandoning it. Soon after starting the Auckland boat filled with water, and gave up the race. The West End No. 2 boat obtained a good lead, but swamped within a few lengths of the winning point. The others then finished as follows: Waitemata No. 1, first; Waitemata No. 2, second; West End No. 1, third.

MAIDEN WHALEBOAT RACE.

Entries.—1, 2 and 3 Hauiri R.C.; Waitemata B. C.—G. Huddleston (stroke), D. Bell (4), W. Stevens (3), E. Smith (2), H. E. Allen (1), J. Bailey (cox).

Three crews started. Waitemata got away with a good lead, maintaining it right through, winning by about two lengths.

NAVAL CUTTER RACE.

In this race the Devonport Navals, Auckland Navals, and H.M.S. Lizard's boat competed. The course was about three miles. Devonport quickly assumed the lead, and kept it all the way, finishing nearly two minutes ahead of the Auckland men, the Lizard's crew some distance away.

MEN-OF-WAR RACE (WHALERS).

Five boats, two from the Archer, two from the Penguin, and one from the

Lizard, started. The Penguin's boats were heavier than the others, and had little chance. The Lizard's crew gained a lead early and won, with the Archer's crews second and third.

SHIPS' OR MEN-O-WAR GIGS.

A crew from the Lutterworth won this, a crew from the s. e ship coming second. Three other boats started.

OIL AND STEAM YACHTS. ENTRIES.

Naomi II., M. A. Jenny, scratch.. 1
Petrel, W. Ceell Leys, 2m 10s..... 2
Union, W. A. Ryan and Co., 3m.. 3
Stanley, C. Bockart, 7m.
Te Aute, Ryan, 7m.
Tokatea, 2m 10s.
Whaleboat, 7m.

The course was from the Queen-street Wharf down the harbour and back to the flagship. Naomi II. got the lead from the start, and drew away from the Petrel on the run down. Petrel gained a bit on the run

SIDE SHOWS.

The side shows were held on the scow Progress, moored near the flagship, but some of them had to be abandoned owing to the boisterous weather. Mr L. Lewis was in charge of the events.

Greasy Boom Jig.—This event created a great amount of amusement, and was finally won by Gittos, with Sands second.

Corfu Dive.—This was won by Sands, with Payne second.

Swimming Race.—Five competitors started in this event, the course being from the Progress to the flagship and back. The event was won by Bell.

Greasy Boom.—Out of a number of competitors Gittos won this event, with Sands second.

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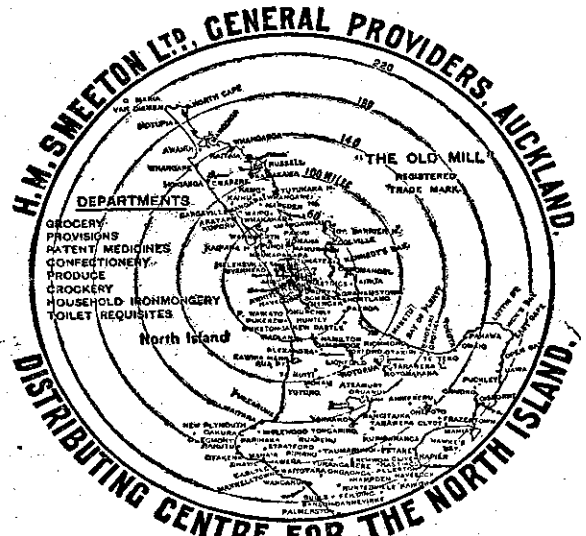
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