

Yachting and Motor Boats of the Dominion.

News and Comment.

(By "Weather-Eye.")

Messrs. Silver Bros., of Karaka Bay, are at present engaged in the construction of a most interesting little vessel from their own design. She has several features which entitle her to more than passing interest, and she should prove the forerunner of an excellent class of full-powered auxiliary sailing craft for this port. She is 27ft. over all, 8ft. beam, and 3ft. 9in. draught, with a least freeboard of 2ft. 8in. There is 5ft. 3in. headroom under a low coach house, and her accommodation is enormous for a boat of this length. From the companion way aft you enter the engine-room, which contains the 12 h.p. Forth engine, seats for engineer and lockers for tools, etc.; on the port side, and slightly forward, is built in the lavatory and all appliances; forward again is the comfortable main cabin, with sleeping accommodation for four men, and all accessories for comfortable cruising. Right forward is a fore peak for stowing anchors, lines and spare sails. She is to be yawl rigged, with sufficient sail area to make her fairly fast in anything over a fresh breeze. The workmanship displayed in the construction of the hull is excellent, and she looks very fair to the eye and powerful as she lies on the stocks in her owners' shed.

In my opinion she is fit to go round New Zealand, and could stay at sea in almost any weather if carefully handled. We hope to be able to reproduce her lines and cabin plan in next month's issue.

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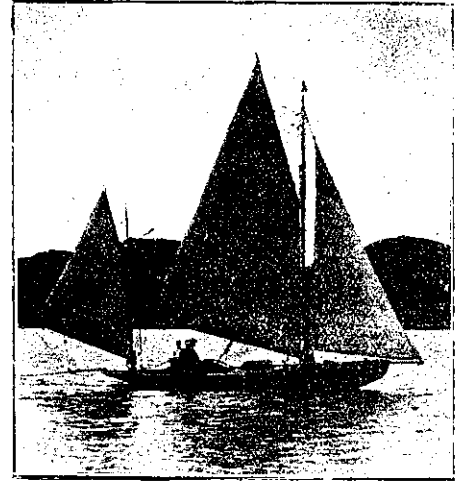
Mr. Pratt, of Kilbirnie, has built a powerful looking 25-footer from a design which appeared in the "Rudder." She has about 8ft. beam and 4ft. 6in. draught. The construction is on the two-skin principle, and she is very strongly put together. She is at present on the foreshore at Kilbirnie, awaiting the moulding of her lead keel. Her accommodation below is fair for a boat of her size, there being ample sleeping room for four persons. She has a handsome appearance, and should show up well in class racing.

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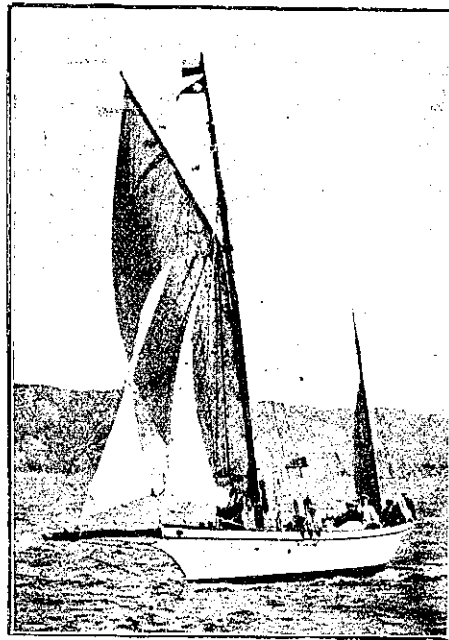
Commodore C. J. Ward, of the P.N.Y.C., has reason to be proud of his smart little 22-footer "Lizzie." During the two seasons since she was built, by Bailey, at Martin's Bay, she has never been beaten from scratch in her class, and she has, with one exception, been the first boat home in every race in which she has started. Nevertheless Mr. Ward has, like many another, outgrown his boat, and next season will probably see him sailing a new first-class ocean racer.

Talking of ocean racers reminds me that Mr. Miles Hamill, who was one of the "White Heather's" crew in the last ocean race, is at present negotiating for the purchase of a first-class boat in Auckland. Everything going well, it is his intention to sail her down from there some time in May. Truly yachting is going ahead in this port.

A very successful picnic and sports meeting was held at Somes Island on Easter Monday, and attracted quite a crowd of people. The catering was excellent, the prizes worth competing for, and there wasn't a dull moment from start to finish. In spite of the number of boats away at Port Underwood and elsewhere, there was a very respectable fleet at anchor under the Island. Of the sailing craft I noticed—"Siren," "Viking," "Windward," "Ethel," "Lizzie," "Rawene," "Nancy Stair," "Muritai," "Makahi," "Ruhi," "Warehou," and smaller craft, including the Heretaunga Club's fleet. Amongst the power craft there were—"Scotia," "Veronica," "Puriri," "Nina," and Mr. Palmer's flyer. Social gatherings such as these tend to popularise the sport, and the club's policy this year has been



"KOTIRI." Winner of W.C.C. Ocean Race.



"NGAIRA."

a wise one; no doubt the four picnics that have been held, together with the ocean race, have done much to raise it to the high position in the public esteem that it now holds.

Wellington Cruiser Club's Ocean Race.

Wellington to Port Underwood.

There were four entries for this event, but one of the competitors, "White Heather," was unable to be launched in time for the start of the race across to Port Underwood. She, however, went over later and came second in the race home, putting up the fastest time. The handicapping was better than in the P.N.Y.C. race, the Cruiser Club having the benefit of their experience in the first race. "Rona" was scratch, "White Heather" (did not start) 20min., "Kotiri" 25min., and "Ngaira" 110min. "Kotiri" and "Ngaira" took 30min. of their handicap at the start of the race, leaving at 1.30 on Good Friday morning with single reefs in their mainsails. "Rona" left at 2 a.m.

with double reefed mainsail. The glass was steady, but the weather outlook was bad. A heavy bank of clouds took up the greater part of the western sky, from which great masses of cumulus were continually being torn and hurried with great rapidity across the sky, while continual squalls, some of which could not have fallen short of 35 miles an hour velocity, were cutting up the water and raising a nasty sea, particularly in the Terawhiti Rip. The "Kotiri," with a lead of about a mile from "Ngaira," passed Sinclair Head at 3 a.m., and the "Rona" passed the same place at 3.15, having picked up a quarter of an hour on her rivals. It blew very hard off here about this time, and knocked up a nasty rip. The glass fell 1-10th of an inch. "Kotiri" left "Ngaira" still further behind in the rip, but after passing Tongue Point the wind slackened away and "Ngaira" gradually pulled up on the leader, until at day-break (5.45 a.m.), when the wind fell to a calm for a few minutes, the two boats were abreast, with the "Rona" about five miles astern. The calm was only of short duration, however, and the breeze coming in fresh from the westward, "Kotiri" passed "Ngaira" again and established a lead of two miles, while "Rona" was rapidly closing up the gap. At 5.45 a.m. "Kotiri" was distant eight miles E.N.E. from Robertson Point, so that she had averaged better than 9 miles an hour from Wellington. "Rona" was now sailing away very fast under full sail, having shaken out her reefs at daylight. She overhauled and passed "Ngaira" off Fighting Bay, and, beating up the entrance to Port Underwood, she cut off and passed "Kotiri" on her second board, crossing the line at Kakapo Bay 2 mins. ahead. As "Rona" was allowing "Kotiri" 55 min. she was well out of it so far as the latter was concerned, and it only remained for the "Ngaira" to finish, which she did 23min. later, beating both of the leaders. The finishing times were: "Rona," 8.55; "Kotiri," 8.58; and "Ngaira," 9.21.

Later in the day the "Waitangi," "Mahina," and "Patronus" arrived from Wellington, and a most enjoyable time