

## Extracts from Victorian Papers.

### Age.

#### A SEVERE TEST.

LAUNCESTON, SUNDAY.—Three out of the four competitors in the yacht race from Port Phillip Heads to Low Head, which was won by the Thistle, have now arrived safely, and it is reported that the Ellida put into Burnie this afternoon.

The Thistle, although she got the worst of the start under sail, soon forged to the front. The Rambler found her plain sail unsuited to running, and the low glass predicting a change, stood out to the west. The boats lost sight of each other in the vicinity of the Schanck. The Thistle stood right on her course, but was compelled by the change of wind to reduce sail, heave-to and reef mainsail. She finally made Low Head at 5.15 p.m., and put into Lagoon Bay for the night. She came up the river to Launceston on Saturday. The Rambler was the next to arrive, at 9.30 p.m. on Saturday. She had a very trying time, but got through splendidly. After sighting the Tamar lighthouse about 4 p.m. on Friday, she was blown off by a strong south-east gale, and lay hove-to all night. She was still hove-to on Saturday morning at 6 o'clock, when passed by the Loongana about 25 miles out. She underwent the same experience in the afternoon, but rather than face another night she came in under her engine, and is now anchored off the west coast of the river. The Shamrock arrived at the Heads at 3.50 a.m. on Sunday, and anchored in the Cove at 5 a.m. She experienced very bad weather, being hove-to for four hours on Thursday night, nine hours on Friday, and again in the early part of Saturday evening. She lost her dinghy, which had been carried on her counter during Saturday morning's gale. The most unfortunate occurrence happened shortly after starting, when one of her crew was hit on the head by a block, and rendered insensible.


### Argus.

#### START FROM QUEENSLIFF.

QUEENSLIFF, THURSDAY.—Never before in the history of Queenscliff has such an array of yachts been seen at the local anchorage as assembled on Christmas Day to celebrate the ocean race of cruisers competing for possession of the "Rudder" Cup, presented by Mr. Day, proprietor of the "Rudder," a paper published in New York.

Mr. T. A. Dickson, commodore of the Geelong Yacht Club, had charge of the preliminary arrangements, but as he was a competitor, having entered his newly-designed cruiser, Shamrock, last Friday, he handed over the control of the contest to a committee composed of Messrs. H. P. Douglass, W. and E. Curnow, E. Brockman, V. Nosedá, and W. Smith, all of Geelong. The start took place this morning from an imaginary line stretching between the end of the new pier and the pilot steamer Alvina, anchored in the stream. The military authorities undertook to fire the necessary signals, and punctually at a quarter to 7 o'clock in the morning a preparatory gun was fired from the fort, followed by the "get ready" signal, 10 minutes later. Unfortunately, a slight fire among the grass on the face of the fort occurred, and the gun's crew had to put it out. This caused a delay of nearly a minute before the starting-gun went off. The skipper of the Shamrock was slightly delayed.





The starters were Mr. Dickson's Shamrock, Messrs. Poole and Cobb's Ellida, Mr. Newlands' Thistle, and Mr. W. Murphy's Rambler. They crossed the line in that order at uncertain intervals, six minutes separating the first and last boats. The Ellida and Shamrock, with a fresh northerly breeze blowing, shaped a course almost straight for Corsair Rock, having a fairly easy passage over the slight flood-tide running. The Thistle hugged the western shore, and pulled over into Lonsdale's Bight before running out, while the Rambler went away by herself almost in mid-channel. On clearing the Heads the first three continued close in shore, towards Cape Schanck, while the Rambler, after proceeding outside about five miles, jibed over, and appeared to take a direct course. The wind continued to freshen until just after 5 o'clock in the evening, when it attained the force of a gale. The crews of all the boats will have a most interesting time if the same weather conditions prevail in the Straits. Two ladies are aboard the competing vessels, Mrs. Murphy on Rambler, and Mrs. Newlands on Thistle. Shortly after 7 o'clock the wind veered round to the S.S.W., with heavy rain.

#### WON BY THISTLE.

LOW HEAD, FRIDAY.—Considerable interest was manifested here as to the result of the yacht race from Port Phillip Heads to Low Head between the yachts Thistle, Shamrock, Rambler, and Ellida for the "Rudder" Cup. The yachts started from Queenscliff at 6 a.m. yesterday, before a fair northerly breeze, and the first to arrive was Mr. Newlands' yacht, the Thistle, which crossed the winning line at 5.15 this evening. The wind at the time was blowing a hard gale from the south, in thick, rainy weather. When the Thistle arrived there was no sign of the others.

The time occupied in the voyage by the Thistle was 35½ hours, and, as the distance from heads to heads as the crow flies is about 190 miles, her average speed was over five miles an hour.

#### ALL BOATS SAFE

LAUNCESTON, SUNDAY.—The yacht Thistle, which won the "Rudder" Cup for the race across the Strait, arrived in Launceston on Saturday night. Her log shows some delay at the start owing to not hearing the gun boat at 7.15. The Thistle had overhauled the Shamrock and the Ellida at Cape Schanck, which was abeam at 8.15, and after a good run across, the Table Cape light was sighted at 5 a.m. Next day the run round to Tamar Heads was made in a hard gale with blinding rain and very cold. All on board speak highly of the yacht. The Thistle leaves here for Devonport on Tuesday for the Mersey regatta, and after a fortnight's cruise amongst the Strait Islands, she returns to Melbourne.

The Rambler arrived in the river at 7.29 p.m. on Saturday, and the Shamrock arrived this afternoon. The latter had a very rough experience, at times running under bare poles. An accident happened to one of the crew of the Shamrock. While reefing early on the trip he was struck by a block, and remained in an unconscious state in a bunk. He was brought up to the hospital to-day.

It is reported that the Rambler was off the Tamar Heads before the Thistle, but was blown away, and as fears of a similar experience were entertained on again approaching the Heads yesterday, the owner decided to break the seal and entered the Heads with his engine.



## THE YACHT ELLIDA.

### FEARS FOR HER SAFETY.

Anxiety has been occasioned by the absence of news concerning the yacht Ellida, one of the four competitors in the ocean yacht race from Port Phillip Heads to Low Head, Tasmania. The safe arrival of the Thistle, the Rambler, and the Shamrock was announced in "The Argus" of yesterday. It was reported that the Ellida put into Burnie on Sunday afternoon, but a telegram from Launceston late last night stated that it was believed that she had put back to Westernport. In view of the severe weather which prevailed in Bass Straits while the race was being contested, the relatives of the gentlemen on board the vessel feel some misgiving.

The Ellida is a 12-ton yawl, owned by Messrs. Poole and Cobb, of St. Kilda. The members of her crew are :—

C. B. POOLE (master), commercial traveller for Messrs. J. Service and Co., residing Barkly-street, St. Kilda.

H. RYAN, Spencer-street, St. Kilda, commercial traveller for Messrs. J. Cooper and Sons, ironmongers.

Rev. T. J. REDHEAD, Holy Advent Church, Malvern.

HAMISH RUSSELL, teacher of elocution and dancing, Green-street, Windsor.

W. M. TIMMS, agent, St. Kilda.

### ARRIVAL AT QUEENSCLIFF.

Anxiety as to the whereabouts of the yacht Ellida was set at rest by the news of her arrival at Queenscliff shortly before 8 o'clock yesterday evening, all the members of her crew being safe.

When the vessel was boarded, it was found that every member of the crew had had enough of Cup trips for the present, but in spite of their trying experience they seem quite fit to make the attempt again. The master (Mr. C. B. Poole) states that the yacht crossed the Heads well ahead of the other boats, and at once set a straight course for Low Head. Everything went well the first day, the boat travelling fairly fast on the day they lost sight of the three other contesting yachts. The crew felt confident of winning, but the wind coming strongly they were forced to heave to. These weather conditions continued, and seeing no chance of arriving at Tamar Heads they decided to return to Port Phillip. The Ellida is now lying close to the new pier. Besides Mr. Poole, those on board were the Rev. T. J. Redhead, Messrs. H. Ryan, H. Russell, and W. M. Timms.

In view of the fact that the Ellida's absence had extended over five days, measures were taken yesterday to institute a search for her. Telegrams were sent by the Ports and Harbours department to the various lighthouse-keepers and wharf managers along the south-eastern coast of Victoria, asking them to keep a look-out for the yacht. A telegram was also forwarded to Devonport, Tasmania, requesting Captain Creswell to allow a torpedo-boat to be despatched in search of the Ellida. The owner of the racing yacht Rambler, which is equipped with an oil engine, and was in port at Launceston, was asked to visit the Hummocks and Hunter Islands, where it was thought that the Ellida might be sheltering. At San Remo, which is situated on Westernport, the rocket crew had arranged to make an organised search.