

3-8PPC21

(9). TITLE:- THAMES BARGES.

Picture:- Sailing barges, red winged and spruce with fresh paint, jockey for places at the start of their very own race at Gravesend.

With all sails set the starting gun gives them their freedom to --

--run on a flowing tide before a following breeze to the Mouse Light and back, a distance of sixty miles, averaging a speed of 10 knots per hour.

Owners, wives and sweethearts of the crews watch --

--their fancy as the boats crowd on canvas and increase their speed.

Lazy spinnakers seem to add to the size of the vessels, as they cleave the water and leave behind their white ribbons--

--of foam. Now we are at the Mouse Light, and from the Crested Eagle, the boat on which we are taking this picture, the barges make a beautiful addition to the seascape. They make--

--a wealthy one too, representing, as they do, many thousands of pounds of shipping money. Since the race was revived three years ago, after a lapse of 28 years, there has been great rivalry between --

--the crews. At the turn "Reminder" already with two champion flags to her credit, jumps into the lead. On the --

--home run, fine seamanship is shown, and as they round the mark close hauled the "Fortis" sails ahead --

--and by a bowsprit, wins the Champion Flag, the "Blue Ribbon" of the Thames Barges.

AND SO, FOR THE PRESENT, WE LEAVE YOU !