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THE BOAT RACE.

BATTLE OF THE BLUES.

I've just fought my way through the tremendous crowd which assembled to see Cambridge beat Oxford for the twelfth year in succession. The start at Putney was undistinguished. Cambridge too the Surrey side but the water was very bumpy and both crews suffered badly from a nasty head wind; and both crews bucketted a fair amount. Oxford, seeming to be over anxious, was easily best at the bucketting game. For the boat race, the idea of "take more water with it" was not so good. A few yards after the-

-----start, Cambridge drew half a length ahead and by the time Beverley Brook was reached, they had slightly increased their lead and Oxford's president, Mr Moseley, and his hard-working crew began to show signs of worry. Cambridge kept increasing the---

----lead and by the time Barnes Bridge began to loom in the ~~distance~~ distance Cambridge appeared to have about four length in hand, and were still going strong.

---Cambridge shot Barnes Bridge, ~~thru~~ leading the Oxford boat by fully five lengths. The dark Blue style had not improved They were not----

----showing the precision of their Light Blue rivals, and as they-----

-----pass under the bridge, they seemed certainly pulling with more desperation than unity. The wind, which was now blowing spitefully across the boats made things even more difficult. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Nearing the finish, Oxford made a very heroic-

---sprint, reducing the lead to----

----some four and a half lengths, and Cambridge passed the post with just ~~that~~ that much in hand, although for the last mile I doubt if they had tried very hard to increased the lead. They finished up comparatively fresh; the Oxford crew were obviously much more exhausted-----

----after fighting to make the licking as honourable as possible The official time was nineteen minutes----

---forty eight seconds. Excellent going for such conditions----

----I doubt if even Oxford's most ardent upporters can say----

-----anything more than that the Light Blues were definitely the best crew. Anyway, you may see for yourself that there is little-

-----sign of distress among them. Still, boatrace night in town is only an hour or two off-----

-----and that will probably prove the more strenuous test for really discovering the best stayers.
