

**MOTOR BOAT RACES IN IRELAND FOR THE HARMSWORTH CUP.**

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN IRELAND.

The first International Motor Boat Race for the Harmsworth cup took place in Queenstown Harbor on Saturday, July 11.

The trophy is offered by Mr. Alfred Harmsworth, proprietor of the London Daily Mail, for any type of motor boat not exceeding 40 feet over all, fitted with any form of power and with no limit as to the amount thereof; it is essential that the man who steers the boat shall be a member of a recognized club, just as in the contest for the Gordon Bennett cup.

The more important conditions imposed by Mr. Harmsworth are the following:

The cup shall be for international competition, and the trustees of the same shall be the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland.

The cup shall be competed for annually under the racing rules for the time being of the Marine Motor Association of the United Kingdom.

There shall be not more than three vessels representing each country.

Each competing vessel shall be constructed wholly and in every particular in the country which it represents.

No limitation shall be placed on the form or description of motive power, provided that the motive power is wholly mechanical.

Each vessel shall carry not less and not more than two hands, of whom the helmsman shall be a member of the competing club, and both hands shall be natives or naturalized subjects of the country which they represent. The entries were:

1. Mr. S. F. Edge's launch, 40 feet in length, driven by a 75 horse power, four-cylinder, Napier gasoline motor attached to a two-bladed propeller. The size of the cylinders of the motor used are 6½ inches bore by 7½ inches stroke; its normal speed is 800 R. P. M.; and jump spark ignition is employed.

2. Mr. F. Beadle's launch, 30 feet in length, constructed of cedar wood and driven by a 50 horse power, eight-cylinder, gasoline motor, with two two-bladed propellers on the same shaft.

3. Mr. J. E. Thornycroft's launch, 30 feet long, driven by a 20 horse power, four-cylinder, Thornycroft gasoline motor connected to one 18-inch three-bladed propeller.

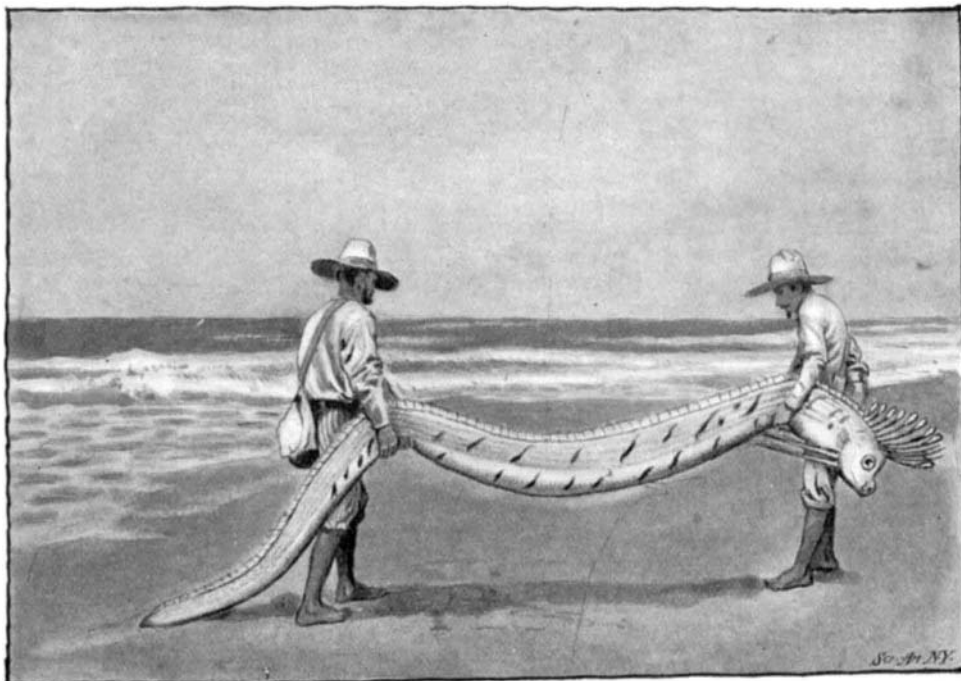
The first winner was Mr. S. F. Edge's Napier racing launch, a photograph of which is here shown.

The course extended from the quarters of the Royal Cork Yacht Club, Queenstown, up the River Lee to Cork, a distance of 8½ miles. In the draw, Thornycroft's boat got a bye. Edge, who covered the distance in 24 min., 44 sec., beat Beadle, who took 27 min., 44 2-5 sec. Thornycroft was then pitted against Edge, the boats returning to Queenstown so as to travel to Cork over the same course. Edge was an easy victor, beating Thornycroft by 5 min., 8 3-5 sec. The winner's time was 26 min., 6 sec. A handicap race for the Yachtsman's cup (given by the proprietor of a yachting newspaper) was next contested, the entrants being the same as in the previous race. Edge was scratch, Beadle had a handicap of 6 min., 55 sec., and Thornycroft 11 min., 50 sec. The last-named won in 33 min., 51 1-5 sec., Beadle's time being 33:12 3-5, and Edge's 27:9 1-5.

The 40-foot Napier launch entered for the race

was designed by Mr. Linton Hope and built by Mr. S. F. Edge.

The hull is built of 20 B. W. G. steel, and the frames and floors of light angle and plate, while two longitudinal girders run fore and aft to carry the



THE RIBBON FISH, OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE MYTHICAL "SEA SERPENT."

motor and separate thrust bearings. There is no deck to the craft, but merely a covering of canvas stretched tightly over the hull. She has a beam of 5 feet, molded depth of 2 feet, and an over-all length of 40 feet; her total displacement is 1½ tons.

H. Stassano has collected measurements of as many lines as possible which have been observed by various physicists, and compared them with Liveing and Dewar's measurements of the spectrum of the most volatile gases of the atmosphere. He has also done the same for the chromospheric and prominence spectra of the sun. He comes to the conclusion that the aurora consists of helium, hydrogen, neon, and argon. Many of Liveing's and Dewar's lines he selects are yet unassigned.

**THE RIBBON FISH AND THE SEA SERPENT.**

BY CHARLES F. HOLDER.

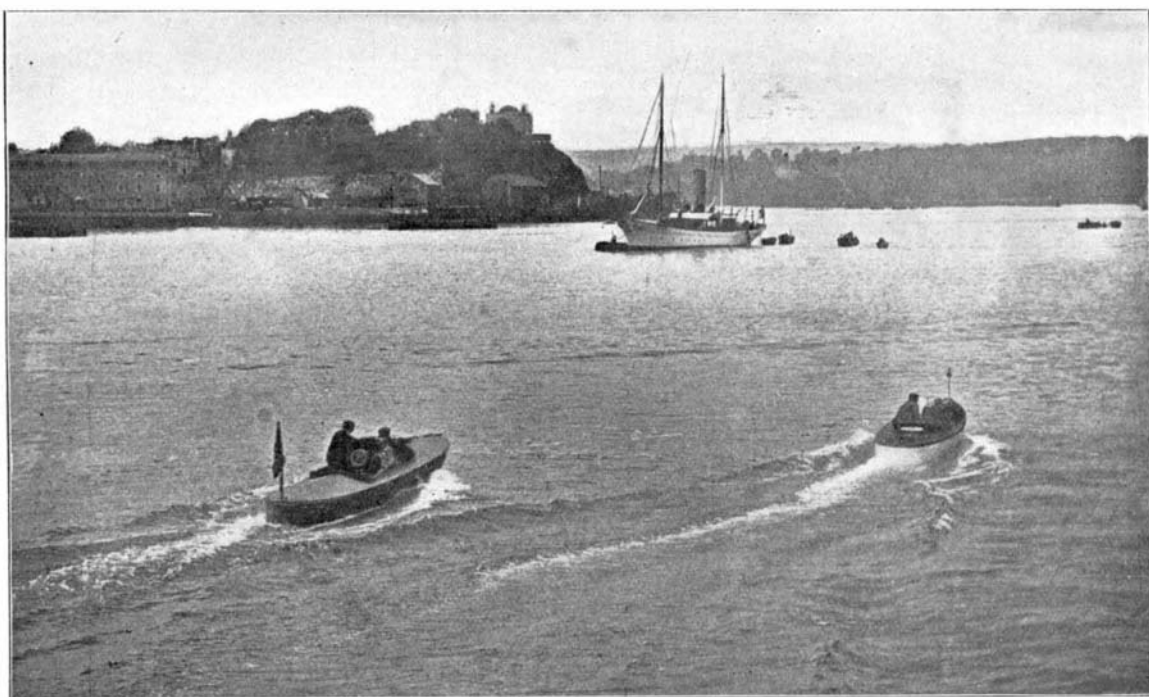
One of the most interesting questions relating to the sea and its inhabitants, and appealing strongly to popular fancy, is that of the sea serpent, which, literally, will never down. Hardly a month passes but some strange creature is seen by the men who go down to the sea in ships; everything that is seen is reported as a sea serpent. It is inconceivable that these people are always mistaken, or that a large percentage are plain prevaricators, or that a still larger percentage are practical jokers. In a word, something is observed out of the common, reported as a "sea serpent." Some see a giant squid, fifty, perhaps seventy feet in length, darting along the surface, tail first, the latter out of water at times. I have seen a wounded squid, two feet in length, moving in this way, occasionally projecting its tail a few inches out of the water; its tentacles forming small "undulations" behind, and from a distance of thirty feet presenting a marvelous resemblance to a snake or serpent. A large squid could easily simulate a sea serpent. Some observers see lines of porpoises; others, whales in a line or seaweed, or birds, and the unskilled observer firmly believes he sees something strange and uncanny, which he assumes to be the sea serpent.

That there is a literal sea serpent is not believed by scientists, but that there may be some large and unknown, or uncaught fish, long, slender, and serpent-like, inhabiting the ocean, attaining a large size, is not beyond possibility. An animal that doubtless has figured as a sea serpent is shown in the accompanying photograph. Specimens sixty feet in length have been observed, and if this fish should attain a length of seventy or eighty feet and be seen rushing along at the surface, one could hardly picture a more remarkable "sea serpent." The subject of the illustration is an oar or ribbon fish (*Regalicus*), and was, possibly, the largest ever taken in American waters. It came inshore at Newport, on the Santa Catalina Channel, opposite the island of that name. An

Indian was riding up the beach when he observed a large fish in the surf, and after considerable difficulty hauled out what he supposed to be a sea serpent high on the sands. Not being aware of the value of the specimen, he stripped off some of its beautiful "plumes," or dorsal fins, and carried them to the town. Crowds soon went to the shore to see the monster, which was duly reported in the daily papers as thirty feet in length and weighing one thousand pounds. When the excitement had subsided, Mr. Horatio J. Forgy an attorney of Santa Aña, measured the strange fish. The length was found to be twenty-one feet; its weight was estimated at between five and six hundred pounds, but judging by the photograph, and an "angler's guess," three hundred pounds would seem ample, though the writer has no desire to trim the wonders of this remarkable fish. The creature was, fortunately, photographed by Mr. G. T. Peabody, and probably this is the only photograph extant of a large specimen of *Regalicus*. From this photograph the accompanying illustration was made. Unfortunately, no one present realized the importance to science of saving the fish. It is estimated that hundreds of persons saw the remains, and none recognized it as a ribbon fish.



THE NAPIER LAUNCH OF S. F. EDGE, ESQ.



THE FIRST RACE FOR THE HARMSWORTH CUP IN QUEENSTOWN HARBOR. Mr. Edge's Boat Appears on the Left; Mr. Beadle's on the Right.