

DEPARTURES.

Oct. 2.—Mahinapua, s., 455 tons, J. Parry master, for Strahan. Cargo—General.

Coppee, s., entered Queenscliff at 10.15 yesterday morning with passengers and cargo from Launceston. She is due back here to-morrow.

Fleet for Coal Cargoes. A fine fleet of steamers is bound to Sydney, to the agency of Messrs. W. Scott Fell and Co., to load coal for the East, California, or the West Coast of South America, under the auspices of the Commonwealth line. The fleet includes the Waddon, 2921 tons; Boliviana, 4373 tons; Jessie Burns, 2445 tons; Siberia, 3137 tons; Hutuener Marie, and Hercules. In addition to several other steamers which have been chartered to load, the following sailing vessels have been fixed by Messrs. W. Scott Fell and Co. for coal cargoes:—Adderley, Marconi, Wilhelmine, Nordsee, and British Yeoman.

Helen, bq., is on her way from Port Pirie to Hobart with a cargo of wheat, and upon arrival and discharge at the capital will proceed to Port Huon to load timber for Port Pirie.

Kakapo, s., left Burnie for Devonport at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and arrived there at 5.15. At that port she loads produce for Sydney.

Mahinapua, s., laden with general cargo, took her departure yesterday morning. Her destination is Strahan, whence she proceeds to Hobart.

Misaap to a Obstacle.—The captain of the Government dredge Tethys has sent a report to the Department of Navigation to the effect that while crossing over the Richmond River bar on Wednesday last the vessel struck her propeller while drawing 7½ fms. soundings which had been taken gave 110 fms. of water so it is presumed that there is some obstacle in the channel. The views given by captains reading to the report are that the obstacle is the propeller of the wrecked steamer Tomki. The matter is now receiving the attention of the Navigation Department officials, and a search of the vicinity will be made, probably by the pilot stationed there.

Marine Disturbance.—A shock of earthquake was experienced at sea by the *By* *Guyx* at noon on September 7, while on the voyage from Surprise Island to Auckland. The barque at the time was on the 230deg. south, long, 10026deg. east. The sea was much agitated around the vessel, which quivered fore and aft for about 10 seconds. It was at first thought that the barque had struck a rock. A few months ago, when the Norwegian *By* *Drummerseren* was bound to Auckland from Maiden Island with a cargo of guano, she met with a similar experience.

New Steamer for Spencer Gulf.—On July 26 Messrs. George Brown and Co., of the Garval shipyard, launched the steel-hulled steamer *Karatta*, which will come out to South Australia to the grant of the Gulf Steamship Company for the Kangaroo Island trade. The *Karatta* is 175ft long, 25ft broad and has a depth of 12½, and on leaving the ways in the shipbuilding yard the steamer was christened by Mrs. C. Wilcox, the wife of the chairman of the company. Mr. Brown, the head of the firm, remarked that the vessel would be capable of doing 12½ knots. It is expected that the new vessel will reach Port Adelaide in time to be put into commission for the Christmas traffic to the island and in the gulf.

The *Kamona*—*Kamona*, s., which is due at Port Huon from Adelaide to-day,

the *Kamona*—*Kamona*, s., which is due at Port Huon from Adelaide to-day, should finish her loading at Port Huon by Saturday, and come up to Hobart by Sunday to complete the cargo of timber for Lyttelton and Dunedin. The whole shipment will be about 600,000ft. From New Zealand she will return to Port Huon to load about a quarter of a million feet of timber for Adelaide, supplied by the Huon Timber Co.

Wellamat bgn., from Port Esperance with timber, is now due at Adelaide. At Adelaide she will load wheat for Launceston, and will proceed from Launceston to Port Esperance, where she will again load timber for Adelaide.

Sephyr, bqin., is on her way from Adelaide with wheat for Hobart, and upon arrival and discharge at the southern port, will sail thence to Port Esperance to load timber again for Adelaide.