



By Appointment
TO H.M. KING EDWARD VII.

E. Messum and Sons



LAUNCH AND BOAT BUILDERS,
RICHMOND-ON-THAMES
ENGLAND.

E. Messum & Sons,



By Appointment to
HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

Telegraphic Address :
"MESSUM, RICHMOND."

Telephone :
Post Office, Richmond, No. 30.

*Boat, Launch, and Yacht Builders,
Oar and Scull Makers, & Watermen,*

Patrons—H.I.M. THE GERMAN EMPEROR.
THE SULTAN OF TURKEY.
H.H. THE DUKE OF TECK.
H.H. THE MAHARAJAH OF OODEPORE.
H.I.M. THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO.
H.M. THE KING OF SIAM.
H.M. THE NYZAM OF HYDERABAD.
THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH.
And numerous others.



LANSDOWNE BOATHOUSE, Petersham Rd.,

AND

ALMA BOATHOUSE, The Bridge,

RICHMOND, Surrey.

Designers and Builders of High-class Launches,

Houseboats, Racing and Cruising Yachts, Skiffs,

Punts, Dinghies, and Canoes. ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

Speciality—GENTLEMEN'S PLEASURE SKIFFS.

LARGE Stock of New and Second-hand Boats always on view. Private Launches, Houseboats, and Boats Let for the Season, Housed, Overhauled and Repaired, Varnished, &c., on most reasonable terms. Estimates given. Every accommodation at Boathouse. Steam and Electric Launches for Hire, from **£3 3s.** per day



Photo by]

MESSUM'S FROM THE RIVER.

[Gunn & Stuart.

THAMES BOATBUILDING:

The Firm of Messrs. E. MESSUM and SONS, of Richmond, Surrey.

By the Editor of "River and Coast."



ONLY those who have a close acquaintance with the River Thames extending over many years can fully appreciate the really wonderful manner in which its popularity has increased, more especially within the last decade or two. There was a time, regretfully yet easily remembered by a few middle-aged votaries of aquatics, when the Upper Thames, even at the height of summer, presented a succession of picturesque solitudes, broken here and there by quaint old towns and villages, ancient bridges, locks, and weirs, the whole forming a delightful region known only to the Few. To-day, the Upper Thames is the holiday haunt of the Many. It is the summer resort of hundreds of thousands of people, and is alive with whole fleets of launches (steam, oil, and electric), sailing boats, punts, canoes—in fact, with every species of pleasure craft known to man. Even the stately Italian gondola is no stranger in the upper reaches of the Thames.

All this has had the inevitable effect of creating a new form of British industry, which is growing year by year, and affords employment to a little world of workers, skilled and otherwise. From Metropolitan Putney right away to distant Oxford there are at intervals establishments where the beautiful craft which only the Thames boatbuilder can produce in its highest excellence is being built all the year round, and which finds its way to every part of the known world.

Amongst the various Thames firms, one of the largest is that of Messrs. E. Messum and Sons, of Richmond. This beautiful riverside suburb, lying a little under ten miles to the south-west of London, has been picturesquely termed "The Gateway of the Upper Thames," marking, as it may be said to do, that point where the Stream of Pleasure really commences. In the midst of the loveliest surroundings, and at the very foot of the Hill renowned throughout Europe for the beauties of the prospect which it commands, is situated the extensive block of buildings known near and far as "Messum's."

Strangers to the district, looking at the illustration on another page, which shows the full river frontage of "Messum's," as it appears to-day, will have some difficulty in realising that not much more than a quarter of a century ago the premises of the firm consisted of a single boathouse and a dilapidated shed or two. Now, there are eighteen boathouses (with a storage capacity of 1,200 boats), an hotel, a club, and the private residence of the present head of the firm. In the boat-building department alone, twenty-six hands are employed alike in summer and winter. In other departments, such as artists' designers, varnishers, sailmakers, joiners, oar and scull makers, upholsterers, machinists, boatsmiths, &c., another twenty-four men are kept in constant work all the year round. Add to this the outdoor staff of watermen, which numbers sixty in the season, and averages twenty during the winter months, together with the eight persons comprising the office staff and management, and it will be seen that "Messum's" is a centre of busy activity for a variety of skilled workmen. It may be as well to state here that everything connected with the building

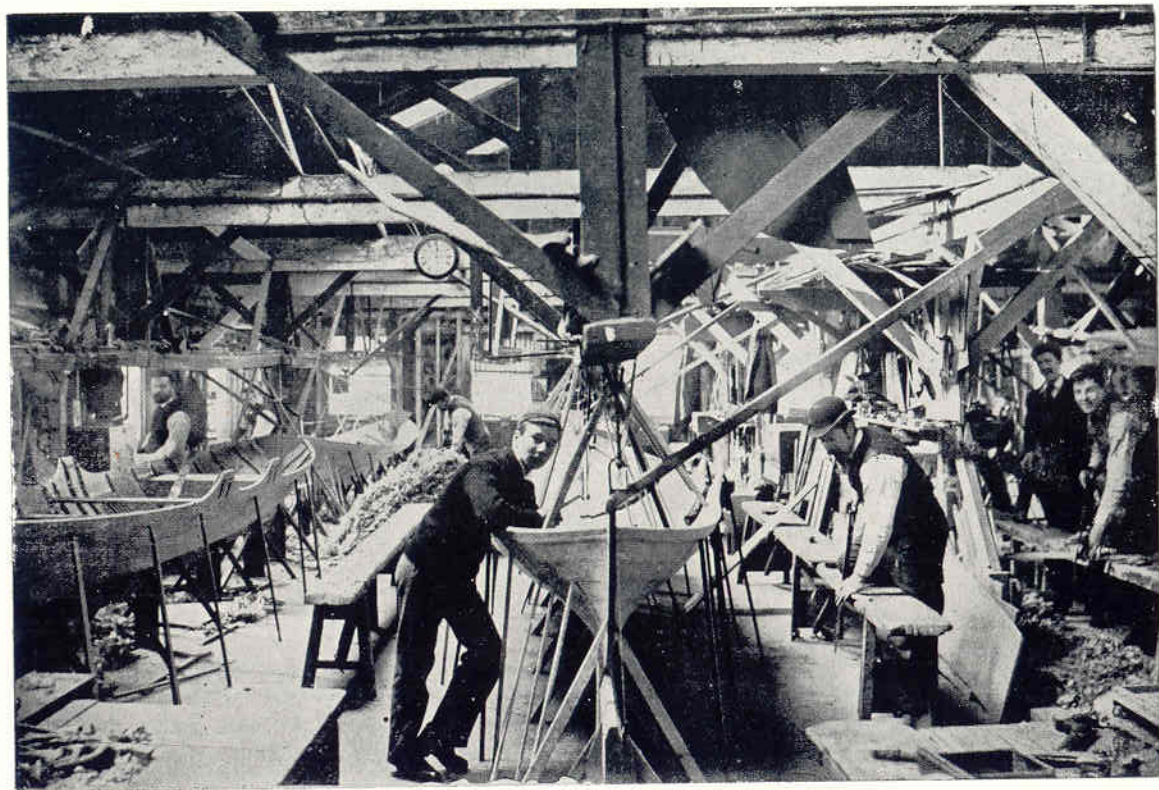
and furnishing of a boat is carried out on the premises.

As this article is intended to be read mainly by strangers, it will be of interest to point out the various ways in which such a number of men are employed. In the first place there are never fewer than 500 boats belonging to private owners stored on the premises of the firm, and this number rises in busy times to 750. In the boating season many scores of these craft are carried down to the water for use, and taken back to the boathouse after use, daily. The busiest times are Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays, on



MR. RICHARD H. MESSUM.
(In the State livery of a Royal Waterman.)

which days the scene on Messum's rafts, in connection with the landing and embarking of gaily-attired parties, is one of pleasing animation, and never fails to attract little crowds of interested spectators. In addition to the private boats, a stock of from 150 to 160 craft for hiring purposes is always in readiness, which, with yet other craft kept for sale, represent value to the amount of thousands of pounds sterling stored at Messum's. It is not surprising, therefore, to know that the boathouses have been constructed on principles that render them practically fire-proof.



ONE OF MESSUM'S WORKSHOPS.

Turning to the boatbuilding department, we shall find that the number of hands kept employed is not so large considering the output. Commissions flow in steadily from all parts of the world. During the past twenty years or so the firm have sent craft to India, China, Japan, Turkey, Morocco, Siam, the West Indies, Egypt, United States, Argentine Republic, Mexico, Chili, Australia, Russia, France, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway—in fact to practically every part of the globe. Most of the crowned heads of Europe have honoured Messrs. Messum with commissions. Amongst their Royal and distinguished patrons they include the Emperor of Germany, the Sultans of Turkey and Morocco, the King of Siam, the Maharajah of Oodepore, the Nizam of Hyderabad, the late Duke of Teck, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Sunderland, the Marquis of Camden, the late Marquis of Lothian, the Earl of Burford, Baron de Worms, Lord Montagu, Lady Agatha Russell, the late Lord Ava, Sir Henry M. Stanley, Bart. (the African Explorer), Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bart., and Sir Allen Young, in addition to all the principal rowing and boating clubs at home and abroad.

It is almost superfluous to say that such a firm has been represented at many exhibitions in the past. The following may, however, be mentioned as some of the honours which they have gained:—Silver Medal and Diploma of Honour, Fisheries Exhibition, for pleasure skiffs; First Medal and Diploma of Honour, Shipwrights' Exhibition; Gold Medal London Exhibition, 1895, for pleasure boats and fittings; Silver Medal and Diploma of Honour, Falmouth Exhibition, for pleasure boats and fittings; Gold Medal, Richmond Exhibition, for models of pleasure boats; Gold Medal, London Exhibition, 1884, for pleasure boats and fittings; Medal and Diploma of Honour, Liverpool Exhibition, for pleasure boats and fittings. The firm's latest success in this direction was at the Paris Exhibition of 1900, where they received the highest award; the whole of their exhibits there, it may be added, were sold to a French Rowing Club. The various illustrations in this book will give a fairly good idea of the variety of pleasure craft which have brought Messrs. Messum so much honour, fame, and profit.

The present head of the firm, to whom its remarkable development is mainly due, is Mr. Richard Henry Messum, whose portrait in his State livery as one of His Britannic Majesty's Watermen appears elsewhere. He was born fifty years ago on the banks of the river beside which his entire life has been passed, and from an early age devoted the whole of his time earnestly to the study of boatbuilding. Ever on the alert to introduce improvements, unwearying in his efforts, and personally supervising every department, Mr. Messum has, in a comparatively short time, raised the firm to the high position which it now enjoys. In addition to being a Royal Waterman, he was also for many years waterman to the Duke of Buccleuch when resident at Richmond, and subsequently acted in a similar capacity to Sir Whittaker Ellis, his Grace's successor at the charming riparian residence adjoining the boathouses, and known as Buccleuch House. He (Mr. Messum) is a member of the Shipwright's, Waterman's, and Lighterman's Companies, a Liveryman of the City of London, a Freemason, holds very important posts, and is highly popular, not only in the town in which he resides, but all along the Thames. A considerable share in the management of the business is now taken by his eldest son, Mr. R. H. Messum, Junior.

It is but strict justice to say that every man engaged at Messum's is full of zeal for the firm by which he is employed, and of whose importance in the aquatic world he cannot but be proud, inasmuch as he must feel that he, individually, has borne some part, however small, in effecting such a result.

The view on another page gives a good idea as to the extent of "Messum's" from the river. To see them, however, at their grandest, it is necessary to view them from the Middlesex shore on the occasion of one of the River Fetes, for which Richmond has gained such renown. Messrs. Messum's illuminations on such occasions are always on a lavish scale, sometimes as many as 8,000 lights being in use. The building to the right of the picture half-hidden by the foliage is the

Pigeons Hotel (belonging to Mr. R. H. Messum and under the management of Mrs. R. H. Messum), a favourite riverside hostelry. The illustrations in this booklet are not without interest. In addition to the various specimens of craft built by the firm in the ordinary course of business, pictures are given of the special commissions executed at different times for the Sultan of Morocco, the German Emperor, and the Nizam of Hyderabad.



MR. R. H. MESSUM, JUN.

In conclusion, "Messum's," with its boat-houses stored with craft of all sorts and sizes, its workshops the daily haunt of skilled artificers, its picturesque dwelling completed in 1902, and its comfortable hotel so popular both with visitors and residents, is an important feature in the Thames world, and a notable example not only of business enterprise, but of the great popularity of aquatics at home and abroad.

E. MESSUM & SONS.

Members of the Shipwrights' Company.

Silver Medal and Diploma of Honour, Fisheries' Exhibition,
for Pleasure Skiffs.

First Medal and Diploma of Honour Shipwrights' Exhibition.

Gold Medal, London Exhibition, 1895, for Pleasure Boats
and Fittings.

Silver Medal and Diploma of Honour, Falmouth Exhibition,
for Pleasure Boats and Fittings.

Members of Watermen's and Lightermen's Companies.

Gold Medal, Richmond Exhibition, for Models of Pleasure
Boats.

Gold Medal, London Exhibition, 1884, for Pleasure Boats
and Fittings.

Medal and Diploma of Honour, Liverpool Exhibition, for
Pleasure Boats and Fittings.

Paris Exhibition, 1900, Grand Diploma of Honour and Medal.

**E. Messum & Sons do not hold themselves responsible for Boats, Fittings, &c., left in their charge in case of Fire.
The Firm have made Special Arrangements for Insurance.**

All quotations for the hire of Launches are subject to the same being disengaged on receipt of order, and no guarantee is
given or implied as to the fulfilment of programme.

Flags, Fairy Lamps, and Japanese Lanterns lent on Hire, and places decorated.

Hampers packed for Picnic and Launch Parties.

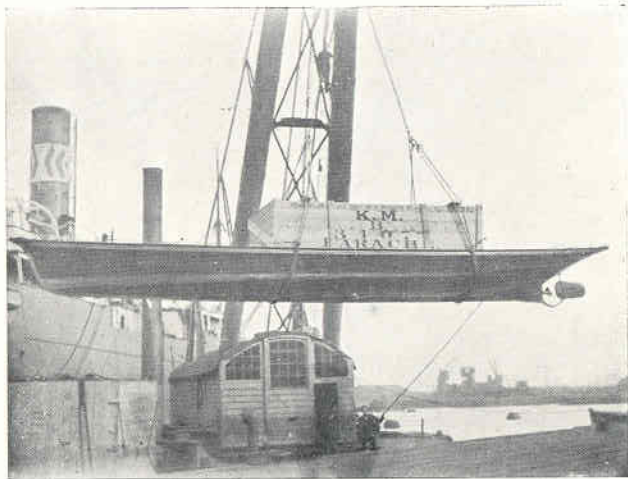
Boats specially equipped for Camping Out.

DRY DOCKS FOR LAUNCHES AND HOUSEBOATS.

**State Barges, Launches, Houseboats, and Skiffs of all kinds built to order for Ornamental Waters, Lakes, Rivers,
and for Abroad. Estimates sent on application.**

Masts, Sails, Gun-metal Boathooks, Fairleads, Cleats, Awnings, Rails, Lamps, Boat Covers, Rubbers, Lines, Cushions, and
Launch and Boat Fittings of every description to order.

LARGE AND UP-TO-DATE DRESSING ROOMS FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.



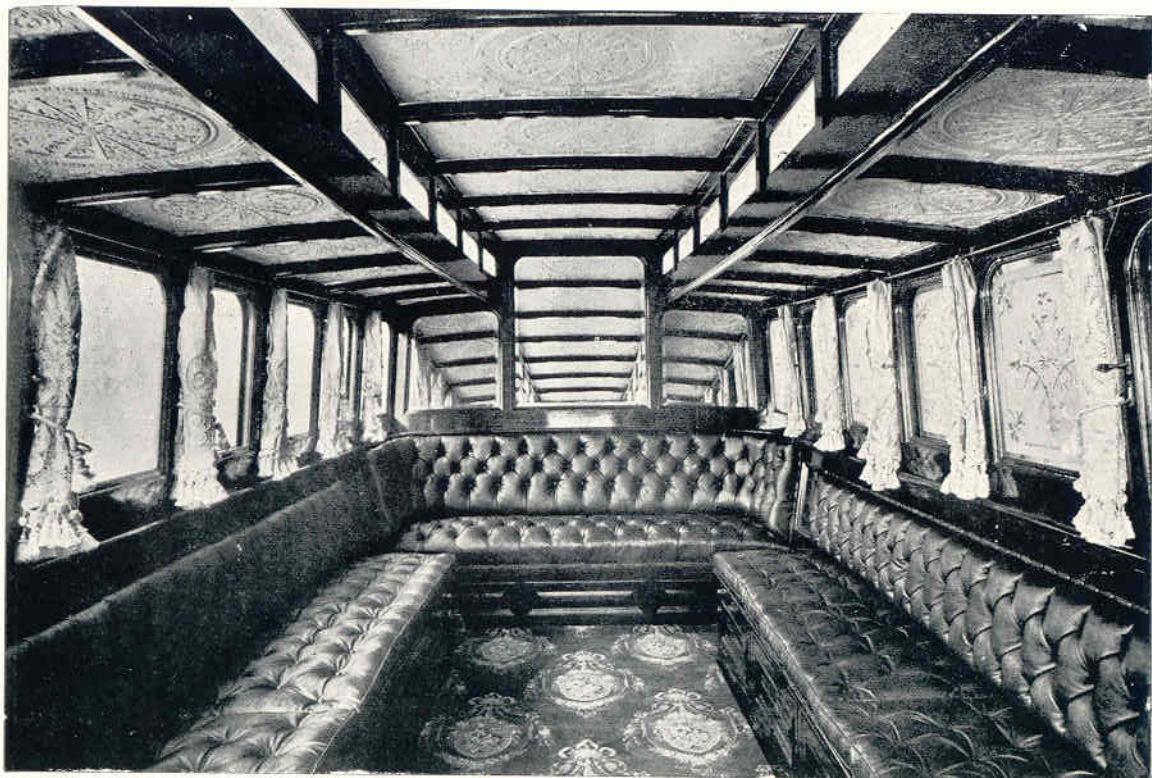
LAUNCHES &c., SHIPPED TO ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR LAUNCHES, &c., ON APPLICATION.

Launches have already been built for the King of Siam and the Sultan of Turkey.



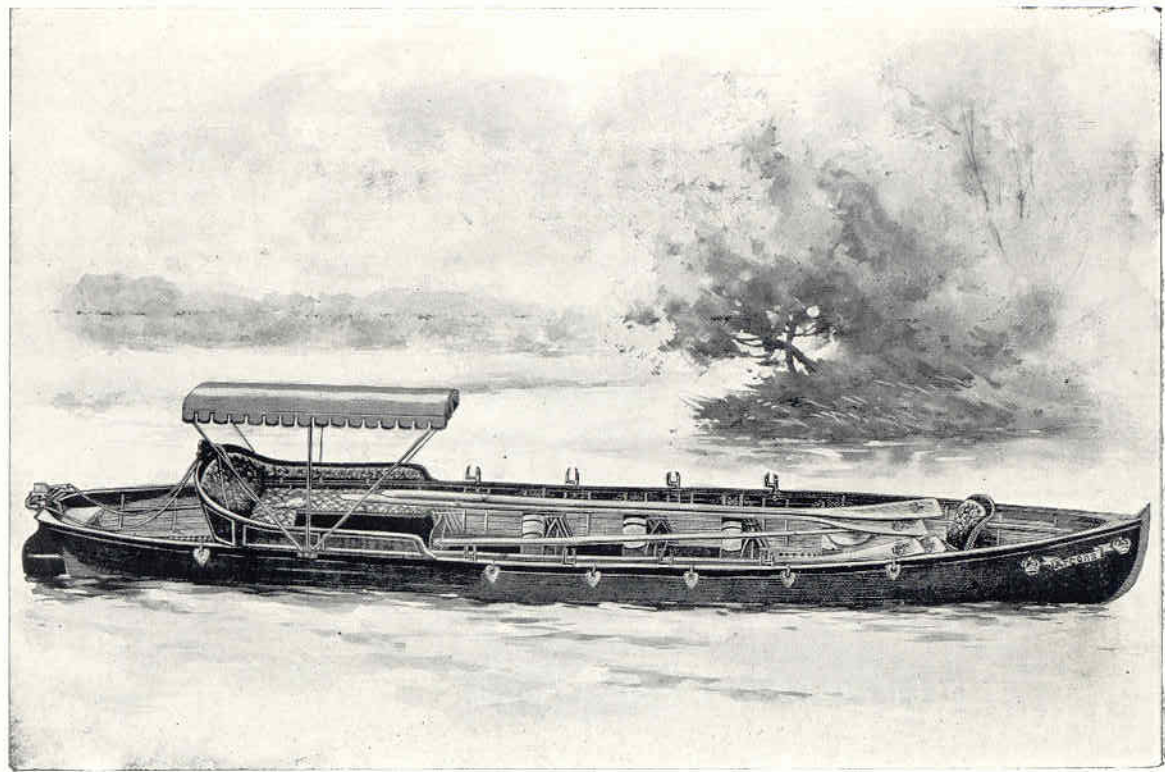
MAHOGANY MOTOR LAUNCH BUILT FOR THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO.



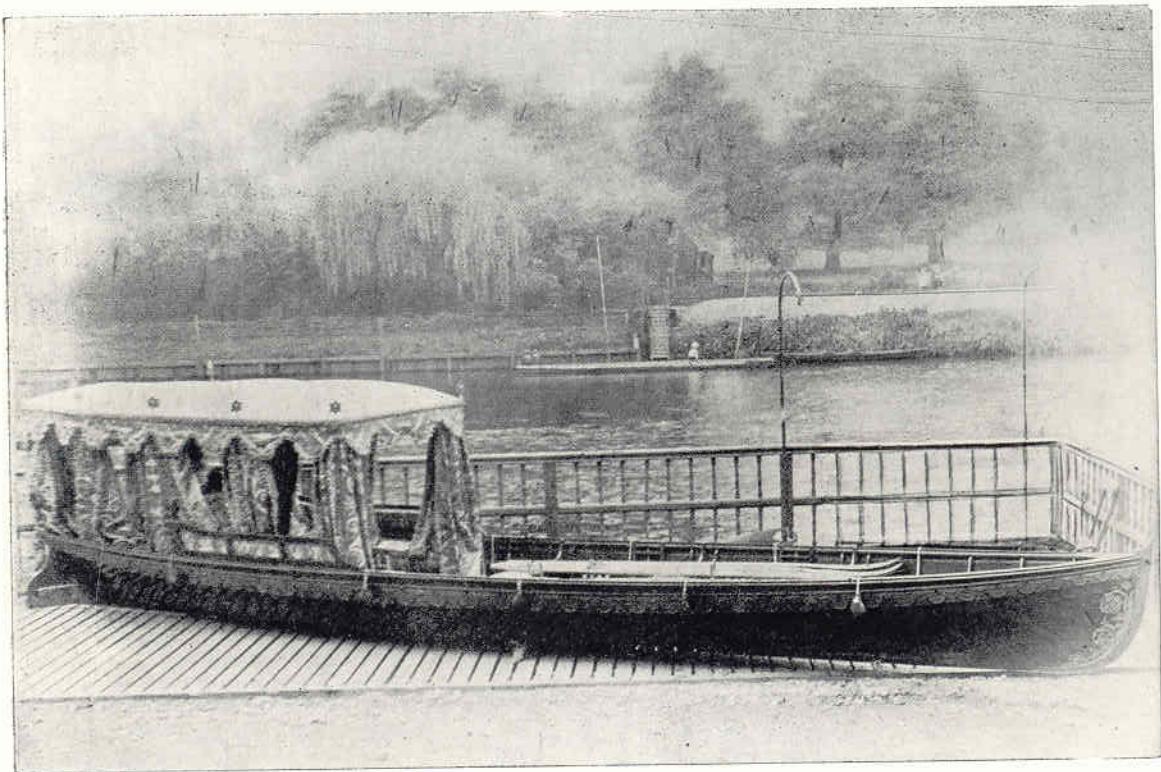
CABIN OF THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO'S LAUNCH.



TWIN STATE BARGE BUILT FOR HIS HIGHNESS THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD.



SKIFF BUILT FOR THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

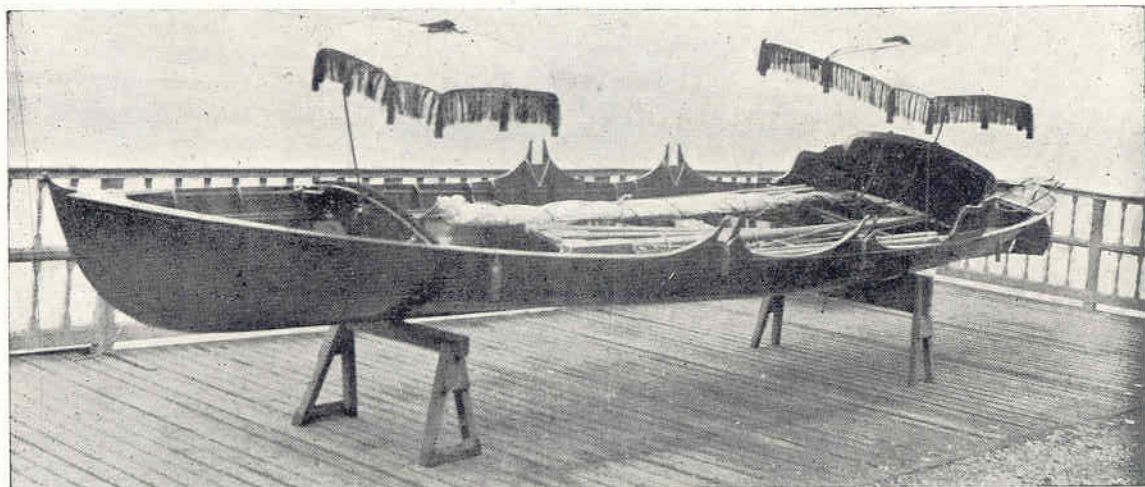


SKIFF BUILT FOR THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO.

PRICES VARY ACCORDING TO THE OUTFIT SUPPLIED.

DOUBLE SCULLING SKIFF.

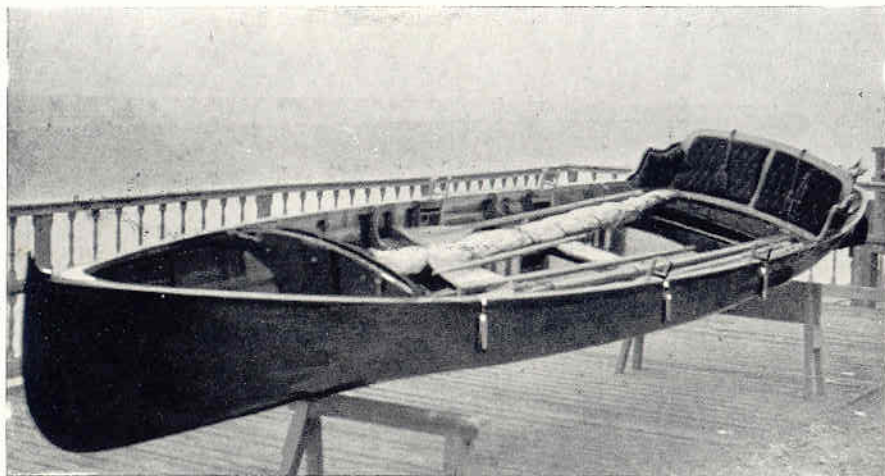
MESSUMS SPECIALITE GENTLEMEN'S PLEASURE SKIFF.



Length, 26ft. ; Beam, 4ft. 2in.

Built of selected mahogany, and copper-fastened throughout. Fitted all complete, **£45** ; Second-hand, **£35** ; or to Hire for Season, **£16**. Canopies, **£10** extra. Packed in strong case and delivered F.O.B, London Dock, **£5** extra.

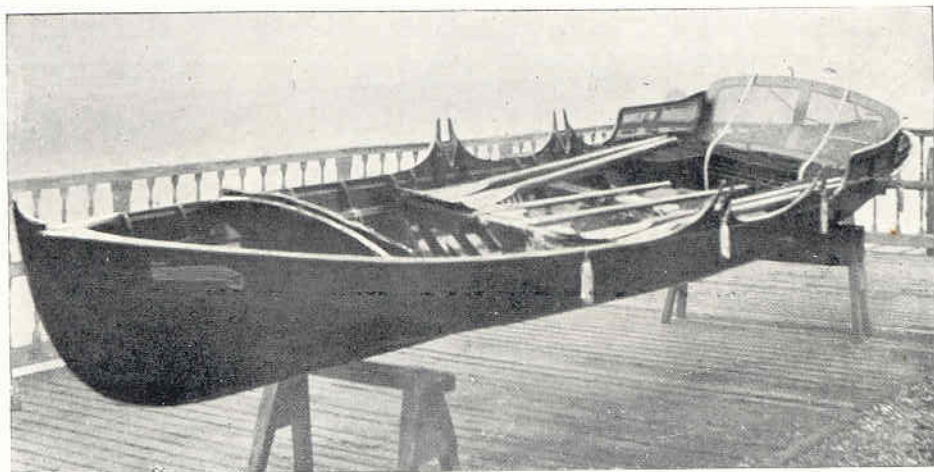
DOUBLE SCULLING GIG.



Length, 25ft.; beam, 3ft 10in.

Built of selected mahogany, and copper-fastened throughout. Fitted all complete, £45 ; Second-hand, £35 ; or to Hire for season, £16. Packed in strong case and delivered F.O.B. London Dock, £5 extra.

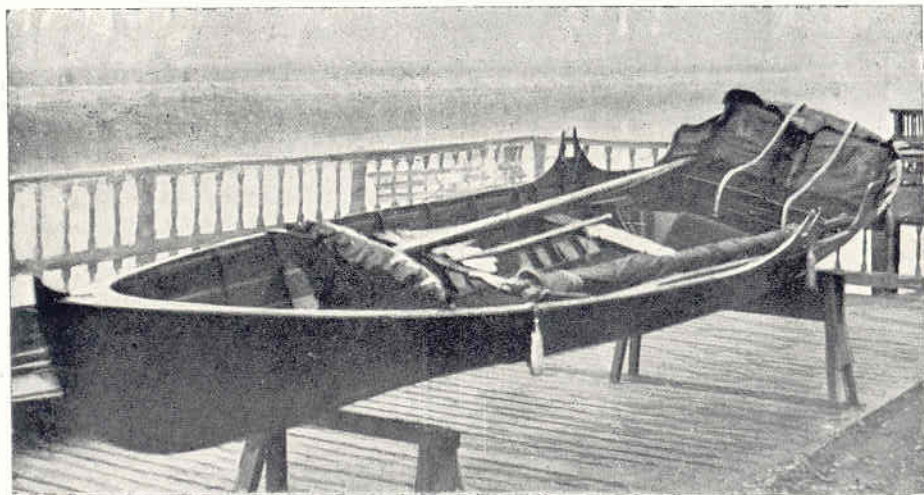
DOUBLE SCULLING HALF-BENCH SKIFF.



Length, 26ft.; Beam, 4ft. 4in.

Built of selected mahogany and copper-fastened throughout. Fitted all complete, **£45**; Second-hand, **£36**; or to hire for season, **£16**. Packed in strong case and delivered F.O.B. London Dock, **£5** extra.

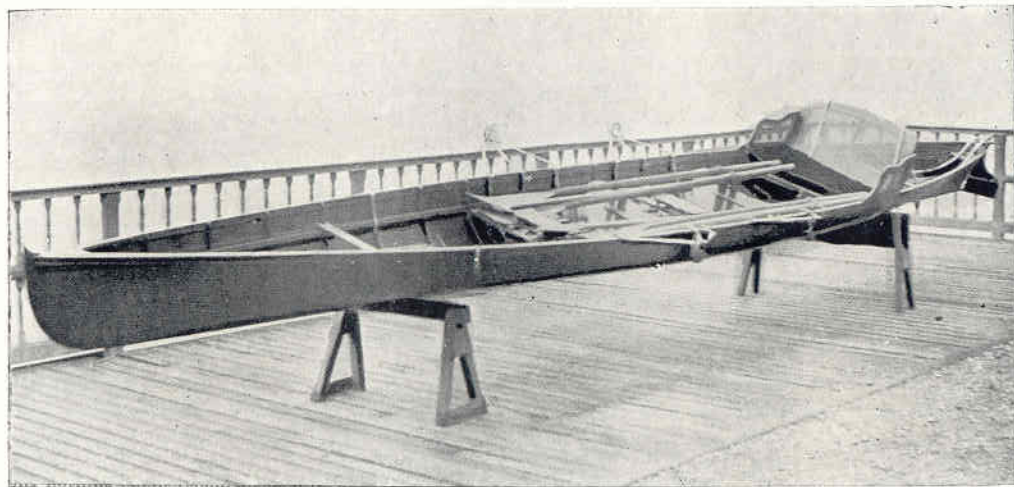
SINGLE SCULLING SKIFF OR DRUM.



Length, 23ft.; Beam, 3ft. 6in.

Built of selected mahogany, and copper-fastened throughout. Fitted all complete, £35; to hire for season, £13.

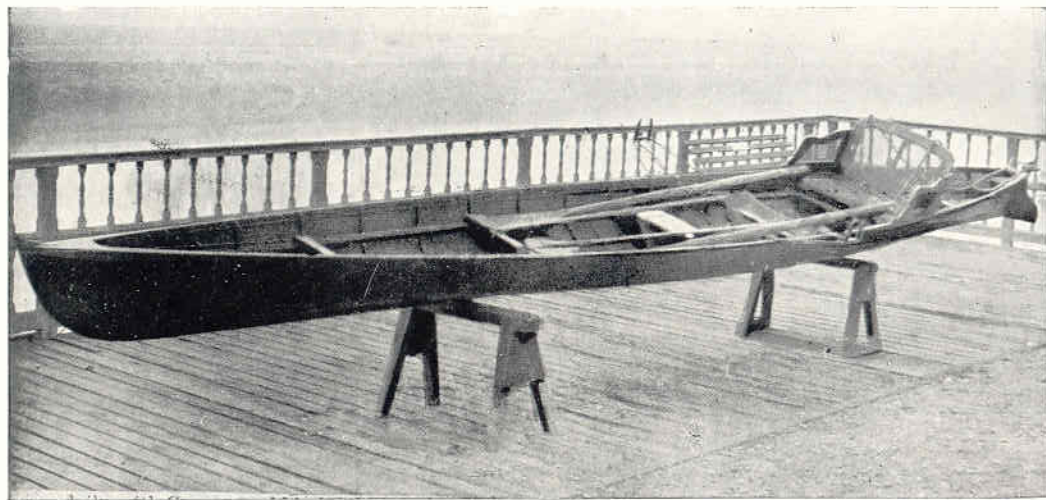
DOUBLE SCULLING OUTRIGGED GIG.



Length, 28ft. ; beam, 3ft. 4in.

Built of selected cedar and copper-fastened throughout ; with or without *sliding seats*. Fitted all complete, **£40**. This class of boat is suitable for Clubs, for racing or pleasure. Packed in strong case and delivered F.O.B. London Docks, **£5** extra.

SINGLE SCULLING OUTRIGGED GIG.

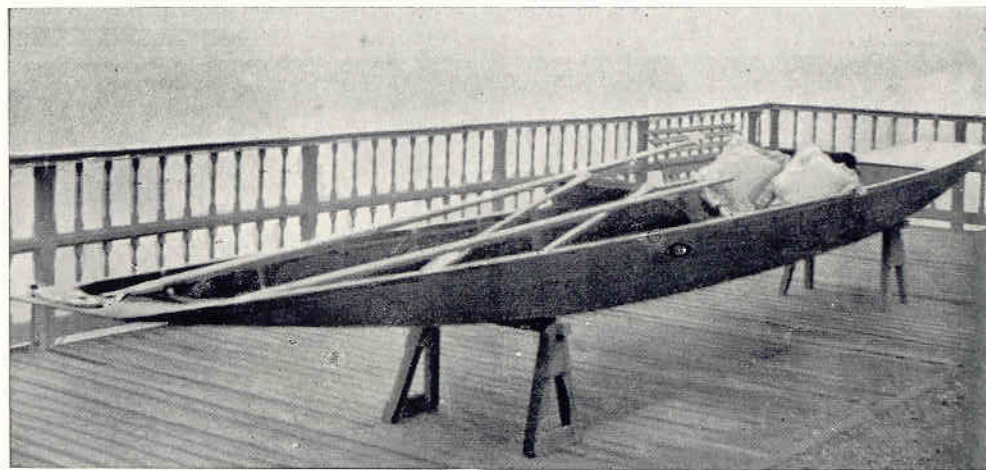


Length, 25ft. ; Beam, 2ft. 8in.

Built of selected cedar, and copper-fastened throughout ; with or without *sliding seats*. Fitted all complete, **£30.**

This class of boat is suitable for Clubs, for racing or pleasure.
Packed in strong case and delivered F.O.B. London Dock, £5 extra.

SHOVING PUNT.



Length, 27ft. ; Beam, 3ft. 3in. to 3ft. 6in.

Built of selected mahogany, and fastened with brass screw. Fitted all complete, £30 ; Second-hand, £20 ;
or to Hire for Season, £14.

DOUBLE SCULLING SHOOTING OR FISHING PUNT.

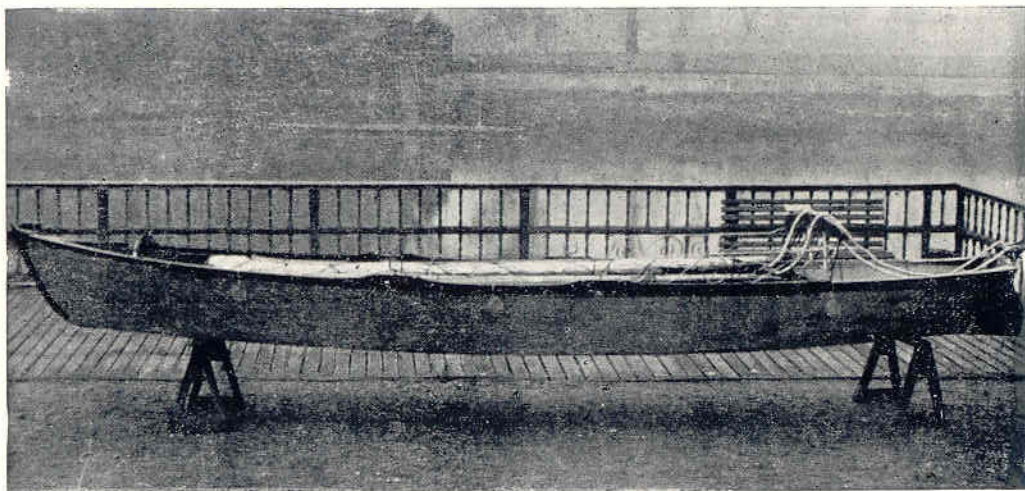


Length, 18ft. : Beam, 4ft. 6in.

Built of selected mahogany and copper fastened throughout, with large well and locker. Fitted all complete, £35

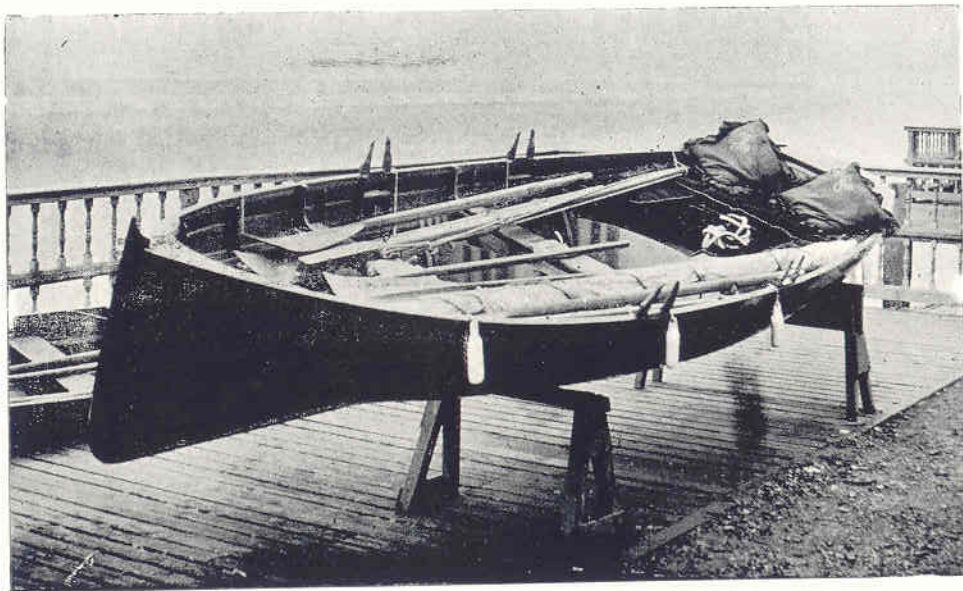
This is suitable for shooting, fishing, &c., in private waters, being flat-bottomed, and, with five persons, not drawing more than two inches of water.

SHOOTING AND FISHING PUNT (*as on page 24*).



MESSUM & SONS also build a first-class Sailing Punt, fitted with Patent Leeboards, Cases, and drop Rudder, all complete, £40.

DOUBLE SCULLING AND SAILING CHOCK GIG.

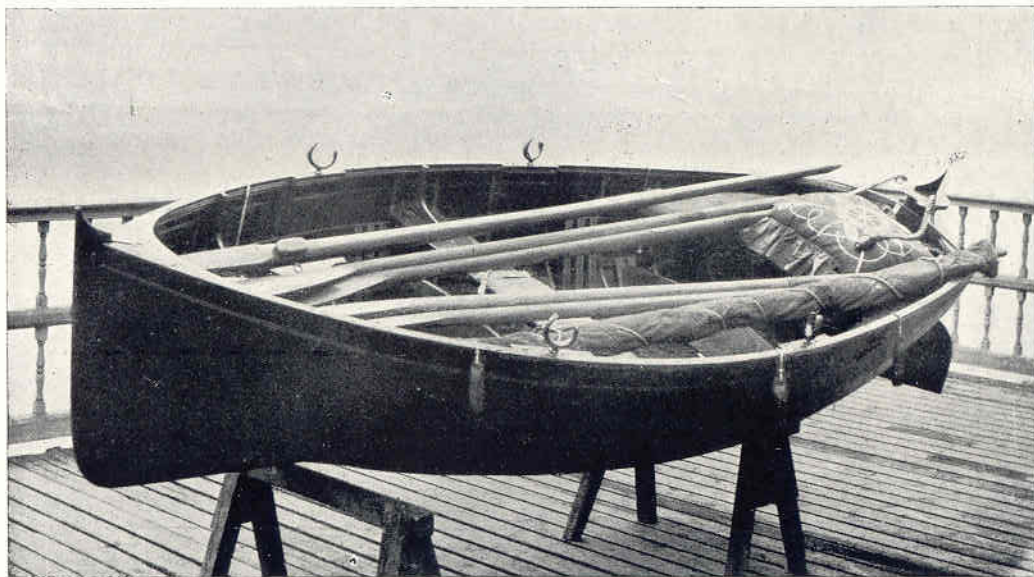


Length, 16ft. ; Beam, 4ft.

Built of mahogany, and copper-fastened throughout, with or without centre-board. Fitted all complete, £35.

This can be built to any dimensions.

DOUBLE SCULLING AND SAILING DINGHEY.

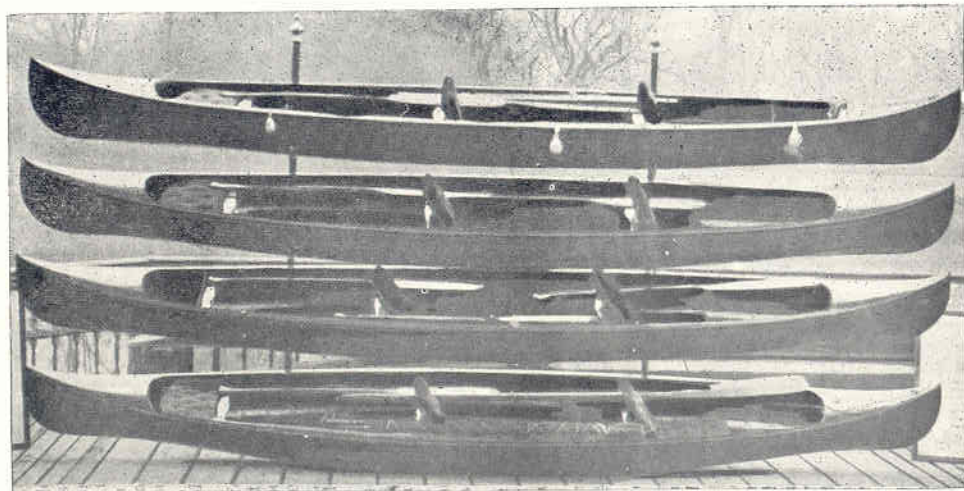


Length, 10ft. ; Beam, 4ft.

Built of selected mahogany, and copper-fastened throughout, with or without centre-board. Fitted all complete, £25.

This can be built to any dimensions.

ENGLISH BUILT CANADIAN CANOES.



Length, 17ft. ; Beam, 2ft. 4in.

Built of selected cedar, and copper-fastened throughout. Fitted all complete, **£25** ; Second-hand, **£15** ; let for season, **£10**.

These are much stronger and lighter than the American canoes, being fitted with a false keel.

SPECIMENS OF RACING BOATS.

(Prices and particulars on application.)



30 FEET 4-OARED SINGLE-STRAIKED INRIGGED RACING GIG.



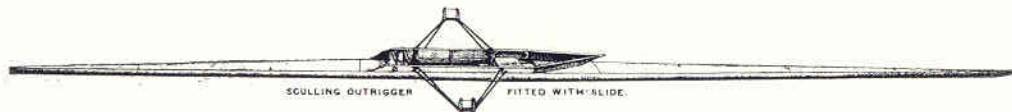
6-OARED SINGLE-STRAIKED INRIGGED RACING GIG.



8-OARED OUTRIGGER RACING-BOAT.



40 FT 4-OARED OUTRIGGER STRAIKED GIG.



SCULLING OUTRIGGER

FITTED WITH SLIDE.

MESSUM & SONS are also OAR and SCULL MAKERS to Clubs and Private Boat Owners.

The Pigeons Hotel,



PROPRIETOR—
Mr. R. H. MESSUM.

PETERSHAM ROAD, RICHMOND.
(Adjoining Boathouse.)



HARMINGLY situated on the banks of the Thames, opposite the entrance to the beautiful Terrace Gardens, five minutes from the summit of the world-renowned Richmond Hill and the Gates of Richmond Park, and ten minutes from the railway stations, omnibuses from which pass the door.

It has Dining, Coffee, and Bedrooms facing the river, and commanding delightful views up and down the Thames. There is also a spacious Balcony for Dinners, Luncheons, and Teas *al fresco*.

There is every accommodation for Boating, Fishing, and other parties. The Tariff is moderate, and the Wines and Spirits are of the best quality.

The Hotel is under the personal supervision of Mrs. R. H. MESSUM, and visitors to Richmond will find every comfort and convenience.



BALCONY OF THE PIGEONS HOTEL.

Richmond, Surrey :

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