

TOPICAL TOPICS.

(By "The Tooter.")

Nine years ago last August, the American Fleet anchored in Hobson's Bay. The day of its arrival was fine, and, thanks to the firmness and sound common sense of Pilot Captain Stanford, who refused, on behalf of the Pilot Service, to recommend the anchorage off St. Kilda as suitable, the fleet dropped anchor off Williamstown, with the result that Gellibrand Point had the record crowd thereon that day, the concourse of people numbering 75,000. The visit of the fleet led to the Battery-road being put in order, the sea wall repaired, and the east end of the town, piers, etc., being tidied up. It was much needed. From the "Chronicle" of 29/8/08, the following items were culled:—At the suggestion of Cr. Bolton, two days' holiday were granted to council employees. The "Chronicle" issued a colored picture, showing each ship of the fleet. Captain Press distributed 1000 copies of Williamstown (illustrated) among the ships of the fleet. Church parades were announced to be held in many of the churches, with special singing by well-known soloists. The landing place for the crews of the fleet was at the east side of the new pier. The men had to climb hand over hand to get on to the deck of the pier. Commodore McLean said that yachting was one of the cleanest of sports. He could have added and most useful. Cr. Heriot said that flags were flags just now; but, after the departure of the American fleet, they would be rags. Captain John Cameron, of the Boys' Naval Brigade, in a poll of 4000 votes, won first place in the election on the School Board.

Mr. J. A. Thompson, I.S.O., a popular and respected citizen, was honored with a smoke night and presented with a handsomely bound volume, etc. Mayor Treganowan and leading citizens took part.

The new Sailors' Rest was opened by Sir John Madden. The original was opened by the late Chief Justice, Sir W. Stawell.

The Hobson's Bay Yacht Club also had an annual celebration.

Crs. Bolton, Woods, Chandler and Carter each had a walkover for their seats, the returning officers being Crs. Wymark, Crookford, Heriot and Treganowan. (The latter is the only one of the eight now in the council. Time works wonders.)

Captain Cameron's Boys' Naval Brigade formed a guard of honor to receive Sir John Madden, at the opening of the Sailors' Rest.

The death of ex-Cr. Daniel Aitken was announced.

Football and baseball were in full swing.

What a difference war has made in the events of August, 1908, and August 1917!

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When shall we have the piping times of peace again, and all that it stands for. "Tooter" says not until the British fleet, aided by the fleet that visited our Bay nine years ago, and our boys in the trenches, with their allies, have accomplished their task. For peace they endure, fight, suffer hardship, dismemberment and death; but the whole world for all time—aye, and for eternity—will be the better for their heroism, sufferings and deaths.