

THAMES BARGE RACE

Thirteen barges line up at Gravesend for the start of their traditional race down the Thames. Despite there being hardly any wind they all get away quickly and set sail for Southend. Already in the lead is the fifty-ton barge, "Bara," which won the same contest in the year of King George the Sixth's Coronation.

"Bara" still holds her lead as they near Southend, before turning back to Gravesend again. Five thousand six hundred feet of canvas send her bows searing through the water towards the "Royal Sovereign" which marks the turning point in the course.

Seen the great red sails of the Thames barges will be seen no more, for modern ships far outstrip these craft; so this special Coronation race may well prove the last ever to be held. In scoring her fifteenth victory "Bara" shows that there's plenty of spirit still left in them - and in the men who sail them.