

the idler's column

DOWN OUR LANE

*Mystery
bottle
reveals
deeper
message*

THE bottle mystery has been solved. I take no credit for its solution — it solved itself, actually, when a letter from Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann arrived.

He sent me that message in the bottle. What's more, he sent 9,999 similar bottles to top businessmen and executives on behalf of the South African Ocean Racing Trust, of which he is a trustee.

The bottles were designed to break through the "secretary barrier" which apparently surrounds big businessmen. That message: "Help! Team up, patriots" has now been followed up with brochures and letters from Admiral Biermann, promoting the fund-raising drive for the Cape Town to Rio yacht race in January, 1971.

In his letter the Admiral says:

"You will appreciate the effect of the tremendous publicity achieved overseas through Bruce Dalling's magnificent success in Voortrekker.

Encouragement

"This has offered encouragement for a fresh and even greater challenge — South Africa's own international ocean yacht race between

THE LOCKHORNS



"GLAD TO HAVE SEEN YOU ALL...
BARGE IN AGAIN ANYTIME!"

TODAY'S THOUGHT

There is no pleasure sailors have greater than sighting from the deep the distant land.

— *Plantus.*

Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro. The prestige for South Africa's image with a win in this event would be truly enormous.

"We have challenged Germany, Holland, Brazil, the Argentine, the U.S., England and Australia (to name but a few) to beat us, if they can, across the South Atlantic — and, with your help, we're going all out for that win.

"This time we need more yachts to support Voortrekker, which will be sailed by the South African Navy. We need crews, the greatest, trained and practised for the big day when they leave Cape Town on January 9, 1971.

"Did a bottle wash up on your desk? We sent it to you in the hope that you will join our band of patriots and share the pride in this great attempt for a South African victory."

Mardi Gras

The starting date, incidentally will coincide with the Tenth Republican Festival in Cape Town, and the race will end in time for Rio's famous Mardi Gras Carnival.

Bruce Dalling, the man who started this whole ball rolling through his sportsmanship in the single-handed race across the Atlantic, will be sailing in the race in a yacht of his own choice. He will be representing the city of Pretoria, because it was a Pretoria firm that made the sum of R100,000 available to him for a brand-new yacht.

Syndicates in Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Cape Town are also working to raise money for yachts to race against the foreign entries.

There is already tremendous enthusiasm for this little ship adventure on both sides of the Atlantic. Mayoral committees, under the guidance of the South African Ocean Racing Trust and the Cruising Association of South Africa, are hard at work in Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro on preliminary planning.

Engines Taboo

No yacht larger than 73 feet overall will be allowed to compete, and none smaller than about 24 feet. Engines will be taboo, of course — yachts with auxiliary engines will not be allowed to use them during the race to drive the craft. Only the wind and

current may be used to best advantage in the 3,500-mile trip.

The Prime Minister, is Patron-in-Chief of the South African Ocean Racing Trust, and has wished the venture every success.

The Trust's aim is to raise R150,000 and with your help it can be done. If you'd like to see South Africa in the forefront of international yachting, how about parting with a little of your hard-won loot?

Send it to the South African Ocean Racing Trust at P.O. Box 3473, Cape Town. It could well be an investment for your future.

Go No-Go Decision

J.F.R. of