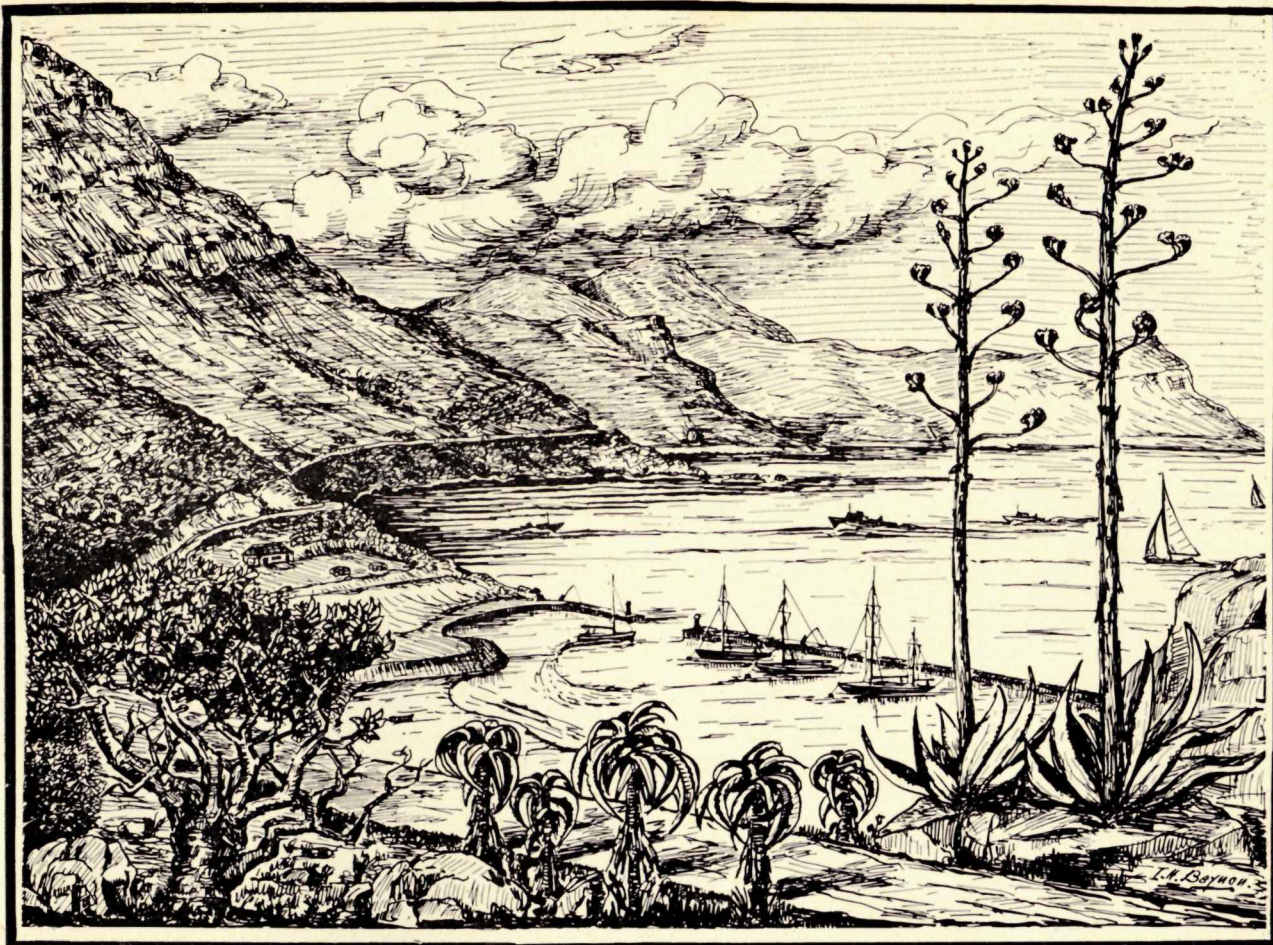




## YACHT HARBOUR at MILLER'S POINT

ALL sea-going small craft owners pay tribute to the good sense and vision of the Secretary of the Cape Divisional Council, George Malan, for taking the initiative and going ahead with the planning of a badly-needed haven in False Bay. The site he suggests is the naturally-sheltered cove in front of the Council's present Miller's Point pleasure resort—already an imaginative feather in their administrative cap.

Our thanks also go to the South African Navy for their expert help in surveying and appraising the site at the professional level.

Anyway, at the beginning of this month the R850,000 scheme was laid before the Divisional Council meeting, who have sent it to their Works Committee for the fullest study.

Ian Beynon went down to Miller's Point specially to do readers a drawing of what the harbour will look like, and he also traced the chart on the opposite page from the material that went before the Divisional Council.

It will be seen that the proposed harbour would cover 12 acres, as against the 10 acres of the Yacht Basin in Cape Town Docks, and would take about 100 craft.

No commercial fishing boats or undesirable activities would be allowed in it. It would be exclusively for the use of sportsmen.

The new South African Inshore Sea Rescue Service, which is appealing to local authorities to help provide launching ramps or mooring facilities, could base a sea-rescue launch there.

The naval survey, and a report by Mr. H. R. Moffat, former chief civil engineer to the South African Railways and Harbours Administration, on the project, showed the site to be ideal for the proposed harbour.

Mr. Moffat then wrote: "Not only would such a small-craft harbour be a great boon to yachsmen and motor-

boat owners, but it would enhance the attractiveness of the land facilities already provided at Miller's Point."

Mr. Malan says the haven could be as good as the best small-boat harbour anywhere in the world. Its facilities "should not be less than were found in some of the poorest Mediterranean countries".

At least one Cabinet Minister has recognised the worth of such a project as an international tourist attraction for the waters off Cape Point regarded as among the best big-game fishing waters in the world.

The report emphasises that existing facilities at Cape Town and Simonstown for small-boat owners are inadequate, outdated and crude, and at Simonstown are decreasing because of naval needs.

The present demand for mooring cannot be met, with the result that scores of boats can be seen at week-ends being hauled along roads on trailers.

The project is too big for the individual clubs, Mr. Malan stresses. It should be carried out by a regional authority supported by public demand and the municipalities in the Cape Division.

When he presented his plan at the Council meeting Mr. Malan told councillors: "The need for a small-boat harbour cannot be disputed. The fact that it has to be at a selected site cannot be disputed. Neither can it be disputed that this selection must be done by experts."

"The result, according to experts, is the plan for this site at Miller's Point, beyond Simonstown. This is the only place where it can possibly be established."

Referring to the harbour as an asset to the nation, he said small boats more than played their part in time of war. It was the small boats that got the British Army off Dunkirk.

Their potential role in South Africa was equally high.

