

Yacht hitches 2:17:70 a ride

"Mercury" Correspondent

CAPE TOWN.—The Cape Town-based fish factory ship, Willem Barendsz, which has been operating off Spanish Sahara for the past year, has come to the aid of a small British yacht whose skipper was afraid he would miss the start of the Cape-to-Rio race.

The southward-bound factory ship plucked the 9m (30ft) sloop Barbette—one of the smallest entries in the race—out of the water at Las Palmas, swung her aboard and is now heading for the Cape with the boat stowed as deck cargo.

Barbette's skipper, Adam Clackson, a young British civil engineer, is working his way south as cook in one of the Willem Barendsz's catchers. The vessels are expected in Cape Town on about December 18.

Mr. Rudolf Baumgarten, Marine Superintendent of Willem Barendsz Ltd., in Las Palmas, who is now in Cape Town preparing for the ship's arrival, told me yesterday that when Clackson arrived in Las Palmas he realised he would not have time to reach the Cape, make the necessary preparations and be among the starters on January 16.

"Apparently he heard from the skipper of one of our catchers that the Willem Barendsz would soon be heading south.

"He telephoned me late that night to ask if the ship could bring his yacht to Cape Town to enable him to take part in the race."