

## THE RIVER PAGEANT.

### SEA SERVICES COMMEMORATION.

It was a happy thought to commemorate the anniversary of the mobilisation of our sea power on August 4, 1914, by a River Pageant, in which everyone, from the King and Queen to the smallest London urchin, could take part. Many thousands of seats, in windows and elsewhere, were disposed of "from a guinea and upwards," but the wise, including many nurses, —shared the joys of the proletariat, and mak-

sticky brown stuff, he was supremely happy, and his mother, knowing that the wash-tub would soon put things to rights, seemed quite satisfied.

Two little street arabs, wonderfully alert and well-informed, enjoyed themselves hugely, living for the moment. "There's the submarine-chasers!" they cried, as these wonderful boats dashed up the river to the delight of the spectators, and the "fire-engine boat."

"When the Royal Barge comes will the King and Queen be in it?" I assured them they would. "Really and truly the King and Queen, not just wax effigies?" "Really and



Daily Mirror.

THE ROYAL PARTY AT THE SALUTING BASE, ROYAL PAVILION, CADOGAN PIER.

ing an early start, gained points of vantage on bridges, and best of all, perhaps, in Battersea Park. No long hours of waiting in close rooms, but the beauty of the Park for background, the fresh invigorating breeze off the River to be enjoyed, and the movements of the craft which sped up and down as a perpetual interest. It was a holiday after nurses' own hearts, and after those of fathers and mothers, too, for they came, hundreds of them, with their families, and enjoyed an *al fresco* lunch. Good substantial sandwiches and home-made "toffee-apples" seemed the most popular, and if the baby did smear his chubby face, and his spotless white frock, with the

truly the King and Queen" seemed quite to content them, and they shouted themselves hoarse as the Barge with its picturesque watermen, rowing superbly, drew up at Cadogan Pier, and their Majesties, with the rest of the Royal Party, alighted, while the guns thundered their welcome, and proceeded to the Pavilion, where the King took the salute. The little children were put into the front row, the "Aussies" swarmed up the trees and obtained a coign of vantage in the branches. Somehow most people managed to get a peep.

It is a day to be remembered with thanksgiving.

M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)