

Sailor



OFF THE PAMIR

A KORERO Report

HE WAS A sailor off the "Pamir," and proud of it. Not just proud of being a sailor, but proud of his ship, the "Pamir," the only square-rigged sailing-vessel New-Zealanders see these days. When he talked, it was to tell you something about his ship—the significant dates in her history; her length, 316 ft.; her beam, 46 ft.; her masts, 168 ft. off the deck. She carries 45,000 square feet of canvas; a good sailer in light winds; all steel and can take anything that's going. And much more similar detail. But if you wanted to know anything about himself you got it only by a process of persistent question and reluctant answer.

This young New-Zealander was working for an insurance company in Wellington a couple of years ago. The life was a quiet one, and he didn't like it. Then a chance came to sail in the "Pamir," and he took it. The life there is a tough one, comparatively at any rate, but it's the kind of life that appeals to this young

man, and he intends to continue with it until he can sit for his ticket.

A four-masted barque of 2,799 tons gross register, the "Pamir" is a small ship by comparison with the great steam and motor liners that carry on New Zealand's overseas trade to-day. Yet the sight of her masts and yards towering above her modern sisters is one that fascinates and stirs the imagination. Steam has been used at sea for little more than a century; but sails were used to propel the excellent ships developed in the Mediterranean 2600 B.C. The people of the British Isles understood the advantages of sail before the advent of Julius Caesar. The British Empire was largely built in the sailing-ship era. And the "Pamir" is one of the few survivors of that age.

The "Pamir" was launched from the Blohm and Voss yard in Hamburg in October, 1905, for F. Laiesz, of that city. Laiesz had a great fleet of sailing-ships which were for many years the chief