

THE "FORDSDALE."

Largest Australian Built Vessel.

An interesting arrival in the Thames recently is the Australian Commonwealth Line steamer *Fordsdale*, the largest vessel yet constructed in Australia. Yesterday a number of guests were entertained at lunch on board, and subsequently had an opportunity of inspecting the vessel.

Mr. E. A. Eya, the general manager of the line for the United Kingdom, speaking in reply to the toast of "Success to the Commonwealth Government Line," said they were very proud of the *Fordsdale*. During her trials the vessel had averaged 15 knots, and her speed on the homeward run had worked out at 13½ knots, the voyage from Fremantle to the Thames having been completed in 29 days 14 hours 19 minutes.

Built by the Commonwealth Dockyard, Cockatoo Island, Sydney, the *Fordsdale* is 520 ft. long, 63 ft. 3 in. wide, and carries about 12,700 tons deadweight on a draught of 29 ft. 10 in. The vessel has six holds, access to which is provided by nine hatches. Two of the holds and 'tween-decks, with a total capacity of 158,300 cubic ft., are insulated for the carriage of refrigerated cargoes. She is fitted with quadruple expansion reciprocating engines, which have cylinders 23½ in., 34 in., 48½ in. and 70 in. diameter by 54 in. stroke. Her six single-ended Scotch boilers are arranged to burn oil or coal on the Howden-Wallsend system. A sister vessel to the *Fordsdale* is to be launched next month, and will probably be in commission by October. She is to be named *Ferndale*.



© 2020

Lloyd's Register
Foundation

002846-002852-0343