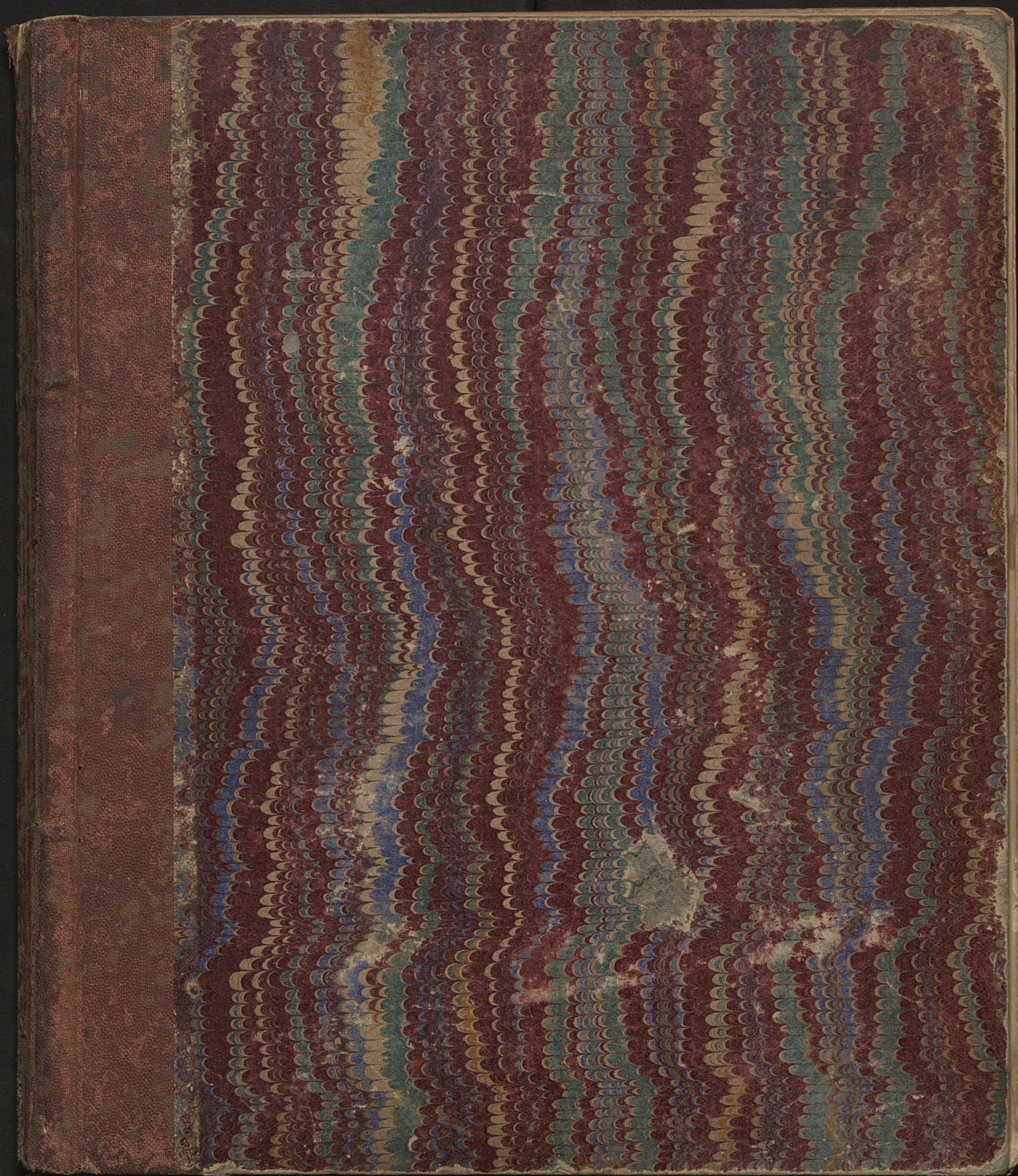




Canada to South Africa - 1900

Small diary of veterinarian on
ship to take horses to British
during Boer War.

375-

Log Book of Veterinary Surgeon Plaskett
being a daily record of events, incidents, etc
but chiefly relating to the professional aspect
of the voyages of the steamships "Devon"
and "Corona" of the Thomson Line, from
Montreal, Canada to South Africa
with horses for the British Government.

Feed for the trip

In estimating the number of pounds of hay each animal consumes per day it is very difficult to come at it accurately. The bales forward are very large averaging as nearly as I can arrive at it 235 pounds each. Aft they are smaller and average 145 pounds. These bales vary a great deal in weight and it is possible my average is wrong. The bags of bran I am estimating at 100 lbs each. The oats are in 2 bushel bags and are I should judge about 32 lbs to the bushel. The water is easier reckoned as the chief engineer reports when each tank is emptied and the capacity in tons of each
 $224 \text{ gals} = 1 \text{ ton}.$

Feed for the day

33 bales hay

18 bags bran

1900

June 9th
1st Day

The Ss Devona left Montreal this morning with 777 horses on board bound for South Africa. The 40 men engaged to look after the horses are mostly green hands but seem to be willing to work. Harris Head Foreman, has already been one trip on this same ship from New Orleans to Durban. He appears to be an excellent foreman & I think will be of great assistance to me. As there is no British officer in charge for the Govt the responsibility devolves on me and I am not overjoyed at the prospect. Have been very busy to day trying to get some semblance of order out of all this confusion & chaos & have partially got things straightened up. The feed boxes are not well made & the attaching hooks come off and the box drops. The carpenters will start fixing them on Monday & then I trust feeding will be more satisfactory. The horses were only watered twice

June 9th

Feed to day Hay + Bran

Each horse averaged 9 lbs of
hay + 3 lbs bran

~~Sick list~~

3 cases influenza

to day morning & evening as the weather is cool. Hay fed after watering have not started grain or bran yet. Hay seems of medium quality but the bales are large and unwieldy.

Have already got three horses under treatment for influenza and am afraid I will have a serious outbreak. Animals still very nervous & unsettled fight one another continually. Ship very steady gives promise of being good sea boat ventilating arrangements good.

Passed Quebec at 6 P.M. on way to the Gulf. Quite chilly on deck very comfortable for horses on shelter deck & tween decks.

Feed for the day
10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs hay + 3 lbs bran

30 bales hay
22 bags bran

June 10th
2nd Day

Mustered the horsemen on deck this morning for a re-arrangement of our forces as they had not been equally divided. Have got each of them doing an equal share of work now and things are progressing more satisfactorily. The hallets and hallet shanks which the horses wore on coming on board are a very inferior lot but luckily we have a good supply of extras which we can use.

Fed bran mash at noon today horses seemed to relish it with some few exceptions. Watered twice but start watering three times tomorrow. Horses chewing mangers and head boards badly, started man painting them with tar (the head boards not the horses) which stops them. Some of the hay opened to day proved very mouldy & musty hope we do not continue to feed it.

New sick cases

Punctured wounds 5

Influenza 2

Strangles 2

We are shorter handed than we expected consequently I have no assistant to help me. I have been utilizing the farrier for that purpose but as he also has to replace shoes that are lost & keep the horses feet in condition that will keep him busy after the first week or so. The sick horses are doing well thus far but have two or three with bad punctured wounds which I may have to open for drainage. However if I have much sickness I shall have to have an assistant from among the men, in the meantime a little extra work keeps me out of mischief & there is no danger of me dying of ennui. We are still running along the southern shore of the Gulf but expect to lose the land tomorrow.

Feed for the day

10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs hay + 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ of bran

44 bales hay

15 bags oats

20 " bran

new sick cases

2 influenza cases

serious cysts from bites 5

June 11th
3rd day

Rearranged the men once more and hope the third time will prove the charm. Each man has 24 horses to attend to now and some few of them have 25. Watered three times today but as weather continues cool they did not drink much. Fed bran at noon and night also & think we will start giving them a few oats tomorrow.

Weather quite chilly horses on top deck appear to be suffering from cold & have blanketed some which are suffering from influenza. Found one or two more sick ones but nothing very serious.

Saw a beautiful example of an ocean mirage to day, a fleet of fishing boats suspended upside down in the sky. Are now passing between Cape Breton & St Paul Islands after which no more land to St Vincent in the Cape Verdes. And the evening & the morning were the ^{third} day.

Feed for the day
10 lbs hay $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs bran
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs oats.

47 bales hay
15 bags oats
18 bags bran

New sick cases
Influenza 2

June 12

First tank of water finished
capacity 45 tons
3 days watering (first day tank
were filled from river) gives an
average of 43 gals per horse
per day.

June 12th
4th day

The weather continues beautifully calm & fine and we have had a most auspicious commencement of the voyage. It has been slightly warmer today and to morrow we will be in the Gulf Stream when we may expect a decided change in the temperature. Some few of the men are suffering from mal de mer but unless we run into rough weather they will be all right in a day or so. Watered three times today and fed a few oats with the bran at noon. (About 1 qt.) We fed it dry. Some few of the horses do not care for bran but the majority eat it well. Found a very sick horse this afternoon (influenza) but went to work on him immediately and hope it will not result fatally. Horses continue to chew one another's necks, lips, etc but do not see how we can prevent it. Passed through the fishing fleet on the Banks today & saw a great lot of small ships.

Feed for the day

$11\frac{1}{4}$ lbs hay 2 lbs bran
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs oats.

52 bales hay
18 bags ~~oats~~
16 bags bran

New sick cases

Influenza 3 cases

Purpura Haemorrhagica 1

Strangles 2

abrasions & lacerations of skin 5

June 13th
5th Day

Fresh Breeze from the north quite a
lump of a sea running & we are rolling
slightly. Started mucking out this morning
getting along fairly well with it but it will
take two or three days. Fed bran & oats
(dry) at noon, no bran tonight, think
one feed of bran per day will be enough
for a while.

The case of influenza is better today
but have a bad case of purpura hæ-
morrhagica on hand now. More horses
developing influenza but it seems to be
a comparatively mild form and as yet
unattended with complications.

Had the farrier busy to day replacing
lost shoes on the horses, the shifting
of them to muck out gave him an
opportunity of inspecting their feet.

The north wind keeps the temperature
chilly. but we are now in the Gulf Stream
may expect a change of wind & temperature
tomorrow. Are passing the track of Ocean
Lines to New York but have seen none.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 235 \\
 \underline{24} \\
 1040 \\
 \underline{470} \\
 5740 \\
 \underline{145}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 28 \\
 \underline{1160} \\
 290 \\
 \underline{4060} \\
 5740
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 777 \overline{) 480} \text{ d } 22 \\
 \underline{777} \\
 2030 \\
 \underline{1554} \\
 476
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 777 \overline{) 1700} \text{ d } 24 \\
 \underline{1554} \\
 146
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 3234 \\
 \underline{128} \\
 96
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 777 \overline{) 1088} \text{ d } 2 \\
 \underline{777} \\
 311
 \end{array}$$

Feed for the day
 52 bales hay 28 small ones
 24 big "
 17 bags bran.
 17 " oats.

Average 12 1/2 lbs hay
 2 1/4 " bran
 1 1/2 " oats

new cases sick today

Influenza 5 cases
 Worms 5 "
 pneumonia 2 "

June 14th
6th Day

Horse no 554 died last night of purpura haemorrhagica. Very rapid fatal attack only noticed him sick about 10 hrs before death. Found another with a punctured wound in both locks afraid it may go into acute synovitis. Have put him in slings and doing what I can for him. Mucking out progresses slowly think we will finish to morrow. Used the ships buckets & steam winch to hoist up the dung from the lower deck. Much warmer to day are still in the Gulf Stream and saw plenty of "Gulf Weed" & some fine specimens of Portuguese men of war to day. Have opened several cysts on horses necks to day. They were caused by the horses biting one another, I never saw such a savage lot of bontes for that. Find a few new patients every day but most of them have only trifling ailments. 240 miles.

Finished second tank to day
capacity 55 tons

$$\begin{array}{r}
 224 \\
 \hline
 1120 \\
 \hline
 1120 \\
 777 \overline{) 112320} \begin{array}{l} 15 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 777 \\
 \hline
 4550 \\
 3885 \\
 \hline
 665
 \end{array}$$

2/15⁶
7¹³/₁₄ gals per day
per horse

Feed for the day
45 bales hay
17 bags oats
16 " bran

New Sick cases

Influenza 2 cases

colic 1 case

strangles 1 case

June 15th
7th Day

Harry's Birthday

Things moving along fairly well some of the men think they have to work too hard and that the grub is not what it should be. Getting a little warmer on the shelter deck shifted some horses on the top deck & opened a hatch which communicates with the shelter deck just alongside the engine bulk heads improving that part a good deal. Have a very sick horse on my hands & think there will be another funeral in the morning. Also had a case of colic which however yielded to treatment & seems all right now. Mucking out about finished a few more stalls to do it is a long and tedious job as there are no facilities for disposing of the dung without a lot of work. Time passes slowly & I wish the journey was over but all things must come to an end sometime. Made 260 miles to day & by tomorrow should be a quarter of the way there.

Feed for the day
59 bales hay
16 bags bran
15 or oats.

416) 934 (L
82

114

New Sick cases
Influenza 8 cases
Purpura 1 "
Oedematous swellings 5
Ruffled Tails 3
Serous cysts 3
Enteritis 1

June 16th
8th Day

The funeral prophesied for today did not materialize but I have three promising candidates for one in the near future although of course I will be overjoyed if they decide they would rather live. The men are still kicking about the grub and the sub foreman Mr. Donald who has charge forward seems to have some trouble in controlling his gang. I think he is a little too autocratic and that if he changed his tactics he would do better. Most of the horses appear fresh & good. I am afraid we shall find a good many rubbed tails when we come to unload as I have several under treatment already. Some of the indisposed horses have already developed large oedematous swellings about the sheath & legs & I have had to scarify them. Saw two steamers & a sailing vessel to day at the same time, signalled one a Harrison Line from Liverpool bound to New Orleans. Saw lots of gulf weed & flying fish. Day fair & sea calm wind shifted more ahead. 246 miles.

Feed for the day
52 bales hay.
17 bags oats.
20 bags bran.

New Sick Cases
Influenza 5 cases

June 17th
9th day

Sunday and a comparatively quiet day. Fed bran mash & oats at noon as some of the horses appear a little constipated. Mixed a handful of salt with each horses feed, they seemed to relish it. Patients all doing well & as far as the mortality is concerned we are making a good beginning. Everything else moving along fairly smoothly. Been quite warm today & the shelter deck beside the engine room bulkheads is very hot & horses are sweating badly. Must shift some of them tomorrow & see if we cant improve matters. Scarcely a breath of wind today which makes it worse as the wind sails are useless for ventilating. Expect to strike the North East Trades tomorrow when we will probably get a steady breeze. Saw a little sailing barge away off on the horizon this afternoon and think it must be lost on this waste of waters. Keeping up our pace 25.5 miles to day.

Feed for the day
51 bales hay
16 bags oats
24 bags bran

New sick cases
Influenza 5 cases
Serous cysts 3
Strangles 1

June 18th
10th day

We have struck the North East Trades & have a fresh steady breeze on the Port beam consequently it is much cooler on the shelter deck & tween decks. We will have this breeze with us until we reach the line & I hope it will keep the ship cool & well ventilated. Had the water barrels well cleaned & rinsed out to day as they contained some iron rust from the tanks. Started the condensing apparatus to day & in the future our horses will be getting fresh & condensed water mixed. Mucking out begins again tomorrow & will be done once a week until the end of the voyage. Shifted some horses today that were sick or wounded into more convenient places. Our influenza patient relapsed & another that had colic is I am afraid taking enteritis. Some new cases of influenza developing each day but they yield readily to treatment. Continue to open apt robscusses produced by the brutes biting one another.

250 miles

Feed for the day
50 bales hay
15 bags oats
15 bags bran

New sick cases
Influenza 3 cases
Purpura Haemorrhagica 1
Abrasion 2

June 19th
11th Day

Trucking out began again this morning & the men seem to be making better progress than they did the first time. Weather cool, steady fresh breeze and we are fairly into the North East Trades.

I have had a rather trying day as sickness is increasing & being without an assistant I can not do as much for the horses as I would like. A horse with influenza got down to day we had a terrible time with him but finally got him up though I think he will die tonight. Another bad case of purpura on hand which I think is also bound for the Elysian fields. I have also ten other bad cases of influenza under treatment. Some of the horses look a bit thin & nearly all of our sick ones are on the shelter deck while the lower deck has not a sick horse. Think I will go to bed so good night

230 miles

Feed for the day
54 bales hay
15 bags oats
16 bags corn

New sick cases
Zofluenza 3

June 20th

12th Day

Horse no 1912 died last night of influenza. This is the one that was down last night which we got up but he died during the night. The others seem a little better but I still have some on my hands that are quite sick and one with purpura is in a dangerous condition. Mucking out is progressing but getting it overboard from the tween decks is very inconvenient. The men are kicking about having so much work to do but though I feel sorry for some of them "duty must be done". We passed the equator today & after this when it crosses the meridian at noon it will be to the north of us instead of the south. It has been rather an unfortunate day for the ship as there has been 3 accidents. Two of the ships coal heavers have been hurt by objects falling on them from the deck to the hold & one of our men was hurt by a vicious horse during the mucking out process. However fortunately none of them were serious.

235 miles

Feed for the day
53 bales hay
16 bags oats
15 bags bran

New sick cases
Influenza 4 cases
Oedematous swellings 3

June 21st

13th Day

This is the longest day of the year but here in the tropics the twilight is not as long as in the Northern latitudes.

The trade winds continue steady and fair & the ships officers tell us that we have passed through the hottest weather we will meet with on the trip.

Mucking out continues but is nearly finished. Some of our horses are getting thin & tomorrow I will start & give them grain twice a day.

Influenza is increasing new cases are developing every day & I am afraid it is going to play havoc with our cargo. Most of them are doing well but some of the more serious cases are giving me some anxiety. We will pass the

Cape Verde Islands tomorrow & the Captain talks of signalling them for war news.

By Saturday we should be half way there for which the Lord be thanked. Found a flying fish to day on deck it had flown on during the night. I am trying to preserve the wings

239 miles

Feed for the day
50 bales hay
39 bags oats
25 bags Bran

New sick cases
Influenza 5 cases
abscesses 3 "
pneumonia 2 "

1917
June 22nd
14th Day

Horse, no 1917 died last night quite suddenly of acute congestion of the lungs. I held an autopsy on him this morning. He was only noticed to be sick for a few hours.

Another mare which had had influenza got down about 1 a.m. and was only got up after much trouble, she appears better to day and I hope will not interrupt our slumbers to-night. Started feeding bran & oats twice today (noon & night) dry at noon & a mash at night. Will continue it from now on as some of the horses are getting this. More of them taking influenza & I have found a few cases of strangles the last day or two. Also scarified several that had oedematous swellings about the sheath & dependant portions of the body. Mucking out finished & men will have a rest tomorrow. Passed the Cape Verde today & saw several of them in the distance St Antonio, Joao St Vincent etc. Will see no more land now until grand old Table Mountain looms up thro' the clouds.

Cloudy & hazy today fresh wind on the Port beam. Harris got a crack on the jaw from a fiery horse

235 miles

Feed for the day
53 bales hay
22 bags bran
35 bags oats

New sick cases
Influenza 8 cases

June 23rd
15th Day

Has been very hot today the wind is very light and I am dreading my nightly inspection as it will be stifling below. I am afraid I will have a funeral or two in the morning as I have two very sick horses & the heat may carry off one or two more. There is one down now & I can hear the men working with him I hope they get him up. One of our men has a sprained ankle which is a misfortune as we are already short handed. The crushed rats or mould which we are feeding with the bran at night are heating & moulding & I am going to stop the use of them & feed whole ones instead. We seem to be losing the north East trades & as it will be some days before we strike the South East ones I am afraid we are in for a spell of hot weather. One of the Prince Line Steamships crossed our bows today probably bound for Buenos Ayres. We did not signal her & she was too far off to read her name. Saw a shark near the ship today & are seeing plenty of flying fish. I wish we were in Cape Town as my heart misgives me

236 miles

Feed for the day
44 bales hay
36 bags oats
21 bags bran

New sick cases
Dysentery 10 cases
serous cysts abscesses etc 3
Pneumonia 1

June 24th
16th Day

Horse no 880 died to day / Pneumonia
I was not surprised as his demise has
been expected. Have one or two more
that are very sick & the heat & lack
of air today are very hard on them.
There has not been a breath of wind today
& the heat below is stifling. The smoke from
the funnel goes straight up to Heaven in a
dense black cloud. We should strike
the South East Trades tomorrow or next day
& it will be a relief to get a little fresh air
once more. We are in a very heavy swell &
There has evidently been a heavy gale of wind
to the South of us. We may get some of it
as the Captain fears stormy weather.
Tonight we gave the horses forward one ounce
of Epsom Salts in their mash but some of
them did not eat it. Will give the re-
minder their dose tomorrow. The ship is
pitching a good deal & I am afraid if it keeps
up some of the men will be seasick tomorrow.
Passed one of the Union Line boats in the
early grey of dawn before it was yet light.

244 miles

Feed for the day

51 bales hay

40 bags oats

23 bags bran

New sick cases

Influenza 8 cases

Gastritis 3 cases

Purpura 2 "

5th Death

June 25th
17th Day

By dead
reckoning
220 miles

No observations
taken to day
too cloudy to
shoot the sun

Heavy rains & squalls all day much
rain fell and the decks are in an awful
state. I think it is over now & sincerely hope
so. Nice breeze sprang up this afternoon &
it is much cooler tonight but there is a
heavy sea on. Harris fell down the bunker
hatch this morning & hurt his back rather
badly but I think he will be fit for work in
the morning. I could ill spare him as he is a
valuable aid to me. On account of the rain
not much done to day except feed & water
the horses. The rain beating on my patients
on the top deck is very injurious to them &
I am afraid of ill effects from it. One of my
men developed pleurisy this morning from
getting wet last night he seems pretty
sick. Horse no 1156 died this morning of Purpura
Haemorrhagica that is the fifth one & my total is
running up faster than I care to see. Influenza
keeps spreading & I have a lot of patients on
my hands. Several cases of pneumonia as
complications have developed & I am afraid of
much heavier mortality before journey is ended.

Feed for the day
50 bales hay
39 bags oats
15 bags bran

New sick cases
Dysentery 12 cases
Typhoid 2 "
Abscesses 3 "

June 26th
18th Day

No deaths today but from indications at present there may be two tomorrow to make up for it. Rain is over we had a nice day with moderate south east trade wind. Sea is smoother we are making fair progress will cross the line tomorrow. Harris is better and around today though his back is still lame. Man with pleurisy is also improving. Will start mucking out again tomorrow + one time after that will finish us I hope. Gave all the water tubs a thorough cleaning today some of them smelled quite filthy. Gave the horses aft Epsom Salts in their feed tonight the others had theirs on Sunday. Fed the bran + oats dry to night as they seem to prefer it to the mash. Think I will continue to feed it dry + will increase the proportion of oats in it as some of the horses are quite ^{stale} though the majority are in fair condition. More pneumonia + influenza developing + it keeps me hustling to give them all the proper attention.

239 miles

Feed for the day
48 bales hay
44 bags oats
14 bags bran

New sick cases
colic 1
Influenza 10
pneumonia 2
oedematous swellings 6
abscesses 3
abrasions 3
Septic Infection

6th Death

June 27th
19th day

I have had a beastly sick head ache to day & it has taken all the starch out of me. However I fed the fish rather copiously this afternoon & feel better for it. Harris has been worse to day did not get up this a.m. but is around again tonight. Hope no 868 died to day of cerebral congestion. I am afraid I will have a death to report every day now as there is a frightful lot of sickness on board & it is impossible for me to give each case the attention I would like to. Have three horses very sick with pneumonia one of them is certain to die and the other two are doubtful. Also have a bad colic on hand tonight & things altogether do not look very reassuring for our cargo. Started mucking out again today getting along fairly well but it is an awful job. Will cross the line about 7.30 tonight & then will have a straight shoot for the Cape. The thin horses seem to be improving a little but some of them will not eat any grain. Of course all the sick ones fall off in condition.

230 miles

Feed for the day
54 bales hay
45 bags oats
13 bags bran

New sick cases
Influenza 5 cases
Strangles 3 "
Purpura 3 "
Abscesses from injuries 3
Colic 2 "
Oedematous swellings 6
Purgation 3. Laryngitis 2

7th Death

June 28th
20th Day

Horse no 553 died last night of pneumonia. I had prophesied his death for a day or two as he had a very severe case with epistaxis. Have two others very sick one with pneumonia & the other with purpura. Mucking out progresses fast will be through tomorrow. Are keeping up the same feed & most of the horses are improving but some of them will not eat the grain. A great many of them have swollen legs & throats and I have scarified at least sixty to day. The horses are getting tired and leg weary and a good many of them lie down & get their legs mixed up in the division boards making it troublesome to get them up again. Last night between eleven & two o'clock the sea presented a most beautiful appearance, the phosphorus giving it the appearance of liquid fire. It was as light as day on the deck & the sailors tell us that such a phenomenon is rarely witnessed. There is no sign of it tonight. Beautiful day S.E. Trade wind fresh breeze

249 miles

Feed for the day

47 bales hay

50 bags oats

13 bags bran

New sick cases

pneumonia 2 cases

Influenza 4 cases

punctured wounds 3 "

oedematous swellings 8

8thth Death

June 29th
21st Day

I scored a double today two horses died nos 1821 & 1916. The first one died of purpura the second one of septic infection from an accidental wound in the shoulder. She got hurt some way during the night about two days previous & developed blood poisoning from it. Have two new cases of pneumonia & will probably have one or two deaths per diem until the journey is ended. Had an awful mess on the tween decks aft tonight four horses down & piled in one inextricable mass. How they avoided breaking one another's legs & necks is a mystery but with the exception of some bruises & abrasions they seem all right. Another mare took a kicking streak & paid no attention to twitches etc. I had to give her 5 grs morphia hypodermically to bring her to her senses. Horses are 3 times the trouble that

Nice day today

South East wind

the Trades are much

more moderate than

we expected.

240 miles

mules are on board a transport ship.

Mucking out about finished the ship smells

better since it was done. Continue to find

sedematous swellings & have been using the knife

freely on them. I am afraid my horses will present

rather a battered appearance when they are unloaded.

Feed for the day
48 bales hay
49 bags oats
13 bags bran

New sick cases
Strangles 4 case
Laminitis 1 case
Pneumonia 2 cases
Influenza 2 "
Impaction of bowels 1 "

Dominion Day

July 1st
23rd Day

Beautiful day
sea calm &
light S.E. breeze
getting cooler.

245 miles

For a wonder I have no deaths to record to-day although I have 6 or 7 very sick horses. Will probably make up for it tomorrow by having two or three deaths. Pneumonia is increasing rapidly it comes on very rapidly & is of a very severe type. My case of laminitis is down & unable to rise think she will die tonight. Found an abscess on the buttocks of a horse today & on examination it proved to be a fracture of the ischium I removed a piece of necrosed bone but there is more of it that will have to come away. Have another with punctured wound of the hock she is in slings but I do not think she will do any good. Horses keep going down in the stalls & some of them give us a lot of trouble to get them up again as they are dead tired & will not make any effort to rise. Gave the case of impaction half a gallon of raw linseed oil tonight but still no movement of the bowels. Thank God we will only have one week more of it unless they decide to send us up to Durban which Heaven forbid

Feed for the day
53 bales hay
48 bags oats
25 bags bran

New sick cases
Strangles 2 "
Pneumonia 2 "
Influenza 3 "

11th or 12th

July 2nd
24th Day

Two deaths to day - nos 973 + 1344. Have four more hovering on the brink and two or three more in that vicinity. Took four large pieces of bone from the fractured ichium besides a lot of debris. Gave the horse with impaction another half gallon oil today & she had two small passages but nothing to speak of - she is getting very weak. Mare with laminitis has developed pleurisy & will die tonight. Both horses that died last night died of pneumonia one had only been sick for ten hours.

Will start in the morning feeding mash if any as some of the horses are getting constipated again & need a laxative. Will also start mucking out again for the last time I hope. Issued the dandy brushes to the men today with orders that each man brush his horses every morning. It will be awkward to do as the only way a lot of them can be got at is for the men to get on the division boards & brush them as best they can. Passed a steamer in the early morn too dark to make anything of her. We are right in the track of ships bound to the Cape & home from England.

249 miles

Feed for the day
47 bales hay
48 bags oats
30 bags bran

New sick cases
Pneumonia 2 cases
Purpura 1 "
Strangles 2 "

July 3rd
25th Day

13th & 14th

Horse no 1287 died last night & horse no 1279 was destroyed by my orders this morning. Both had pneumonia. I held a post mortem on the first one & found lungs perfectly gangrenous. Other one had no chance of recovery so I put her out of her sufferings. Another bad case of purpura think it will succumb also found two fresh cases of pneumonia. Influenza on the wave no fresh cases today. Mare with impaction has a hole through her at last but think she will die as she is very weak pulse 104. Fed Bran mash this morning & will continue it from now on. Made the discovery this morning that our oats (the whole oats) are running short & will only last 3 or 4 days longer. We have plenty of crushed oats but stopped feeding them some time ago as some of them were heating in the bags & unfit for food. If necessary will have to fall back on them again picking out the best ones. Passed a ship this afternoon but could only see her smoke 20 miles away. Wind freshened to a stiff breeze last night & is keeping up but hope it will drop tonight. Will have one or two more dead ones in the morning & am managing to roll up quite a heavy mortality.

239 miles

Feed for the day
48 Bales Hay
47 Bags oats
30 Bags Bran

New sick cases
Purple Hemorrhagic 2 cases
Strangles 3 "
Pneumonia 3 "

15th, 16th & 17th

July 26th Day

The ball rolls merrily on three dead horses this morning nos 619. 1257. 850.

They all died of pneumonia & in two of them it ran a very rapid course. Treatment seems to be of no avail & in fact all my principal medicines are exhausted & I have to make shift to do the best I can with murice of ammon & spts vini rect. The disease is endemic all over the ship & fresh cases are developing all the time. Think I will have one or two more deaths tonight.

I think when I tell my little tale of woe at the Cape they will disembark us there & not send us around to Durban. Purpura is also increasing two more bad cases developed to day. I have become somewhat calloused by this time & one or two more dead horses makes no impression on me.

Started mucking out this morning & hope to finish by Saturday night. Horses continue to get down & skin themselves up but my unguentum is finished so I can no longer anoint their wounds. Breeze is moderating but heavy swell on. Luckily our ship is very steady & does not roll. The head wind & swell stops her though. Cape Town on Monday

212 miles

Feed for the day

55 bales hay

48 bags oats

27 bags bran

New sick cases

Dysentery 1 case

Strangles 2 cases

Wounds 3 "

Open Steno's Duct 1 "

18th

July 5th
27th Day

Only one dead horse this morning no 878. This is the one that had impaction of the bowels for six days + when I finally got them started there was no stopping them. Two of my pneumonia patients very bad think they will die tonight. The ones with purpura seem to be doing fairly well. Found several new cases of strangles today it seems to be spreading but is the regular form + no trouble. Have a horse with Steno's duct cut open the saliva pours out of it when he is eating I tried to patch it up but with no success. Mare with broken ischium is not doing well as I cannot drain the wound properly. Gave the horses the remainder of the Epsom salts tonight about one ounce each. Mucking out progressing very well as it is the last time the men are working well. It is almost impossible to get the men to brush their horses with the dandy brushes as they are afraid to go in beside them. Passed a ship today homeward bound from the Cape. She was about 3 miles off but could not read her name. The wind is well continue and in consequence the ship is making slow time.

220 miles

Feed for the day
53 bales hay
47 bags oats
27 bags bran

New sick cases
Pneumonia 1 case
Wounds 2 "
Strangles 1 "

19th

July 6th
28th Day

Horse no 1319 died to day of pneumonia. It is a very fatal type and very few of them recover. Fresh cases of it continue to develop and we may expect one or two deaths every day that we are on the ship. This makes nineteen deaths thus far and three days yet to Cape Town & if we have to go to Durban it means four days more. The indications are that the voyage which commenced so auspiciously is going to terminate rather badly as far as the mortality is concerned. Mucking out progresses fairly well & will be finished tomorrow. Feeding mash in the morning and oats & bran mixed dry at noon and night. The wind has dropped & the sea is calm but there is a strong current against us here & stops our boat to some extent. Most of the horses are looking fresh & good but some few of them are thin & some few more of them are sleeping at the bottom of the sea. Only a few days more of it thank the Lord

217 miles

Feed for the day

47 bales hay

46 bags oats

27 bags bran.

New sick cases

Laminitis 1 Case

Strangles 1 "

20th

July 7th
- 9th Day

Horse no 1176 was destroyed to day. He had two large abscesses & was very much emaciated & altogether presented a wretched appearance so I thought best to put him over the side. None of the other pneumonia patients are dead yet although two or three of them are in extremis. But I have not noticed any new cases today and maybe now that the journey is nearly over the thing is going to die a natural death. I have been busy with my report this afternoon & have a rough draft of it drawn up & expect to rewrite it and elaborate it tomorrow. Mucking out is finished and it will be the last time that it is done. Must try and get everything in shipshape order tomorrow so that the inspecting officer will find nothing to kick at. Some few of the horses are thin but the most of them are in fair condition.

Dead calm today sea very quiet only a long heavy swell rolling in.

240 miles

Some of the horses purging to day think it is too much bran will discontinue the morning mash.

Feed for the day
65 bales hay
43 bags oats
23 bags bran

Mew rich cases
now.

July 8th
30th Day

We will be in Table Bay in the morning if all goes ^{well}, but whether we will unload there or get orders to proceed to Durban is still problematical. I made a careful inspection of the ship this a.m. to see that everything was shipshape & in good order. No more horses dead yet but am afraid that two or three of my patients will be condemned by the inspecting Veterinarian tomorrow.

Removed some more debris of bone from the fractured ischium today I think I have got it all out now & that it will get well if it is given the chance. Have been working on my report today & it will keep me busy until the small hours of the morning. No more sick horses that I have discovered today for which I am thankful. Saw my first albatross today they are an immense bird also saw some whales spouting on the starboard bow. Weather continues very fine very little wind or sea

234 miles

Feed for the day
68 bales of hay
41 bags of oats
19 bags of bran

New Sick Cases
Pneumonia 2 cases

July 9th
31st Day

24th

We arrived in Table Bay this morning about 7 a.m. with fond expectations of discharging our horses there. But alas these were dashed to the ground as the orders came for us to proceed to Port Elizabeth & disembark them there. However it is only 2 days run from here but they will have to be swung over the side into lighters when we get there & that may prove a tedious job. I went ashore with the Captain after breakfast and got our orders from Sir Edward Chichester. Horse no 1340 died today of pneumonia & two more are very sick with the same disease. I have not done much Veterinary work today but on my rounds before supper I found two more with the dreaded pneumonia. Now that we know where we are going it is more satisfactory & we can tell how to regulate everything. One of my men left us this morning at Cape Town with a very sore hand. It has been another beautiful day.

Feed for the day
60 Baled Hay
41 bags oats
19 bags bran

July 19th
3rd Day

We rounded Cape Agulhas this morning & are now in the Indian ocean & due to arrive in Port Elizabeth tomorrow about dinner time. I hope the inspecting officer comes off immediately & that we can get at the work of unloading the horses without delay. No horses died today but I have 3 very sick ones & I am afraid our mortality list will be increased by a bullet fired under the army Vets order if not in the natural way. I am satisfied that several of my patients will not be allowed to land. We passed several steamers today bound up the coast & expect to find several more in Port Elizabeth discharging stores. A perfect day sea perfectly smooth & we have had lovely weather though this is the winter season here & storms are very prevalent.

My troubles are nearly over & for these & other mercies may the Lord make us truly thankful. Amen.

Feed for the day
54 bales Hay
37 bags oats
18 bags bran

July 19th
33 Last day

Praise the Lord for all his mercies & may his righteousness endure for ever.
Here we are in Port Elizabeth, the inspection by the Vet over & part of our horses ashore, the rest to follow tomorrow. I was somewhat dubious as to what they would ^{say} about our mortality, the condition of the horses etc but to my surprise & gratification they were very much pleased with everything & intimated that I had done very well. It appears that the Laguna which left Montreal about a week before us with 642 lost 58 & landed the rest in miserable condition. They were comparing us with that standard but we missed it. I went ashore today reported myself to Maj Wood Head of the Remount Dept & also to Maj Day Chief of the Vet Dept. They are both very decent fellows & I got through my business very nicely. I have to go ashore again tomorrow & hand in my report which I have not quite finished & to which I must now devote my attention. The motive will be in tomorrow with horses from the Mediterranean.

Sick cases to start with
Strangles convalescent or otherwise 10
Bad colds 15

Punctured wounds by kicks etc 7
Bruises & laceration of skin 10

1900
Sept 21st

I embarked this morning on my third voyage to South Africa for the British. This time I am Veterinary Surgeon in charge of the S.S. Cerwona a sister ship to the Devona which I had charge of last.

We have only 542 horses on board which leaves us plenty of spare stalls and vacant spaces and will be a great advantage when we get down into hot weather.

We are well supplied with stiffs as we have one to every 16 horses which number they can look after nicely and not grumble about having too much work to do.

The head foreman Mr Gordon is from the Thomson Co and as he has had considerable experience in the work he is of great assistance to me. He has his men well in hand already and I think in two or three days I will have things working

smoothly. The under foremen Neal and
Nott have both had experience Nott
was with me on the Devona. The
men are mostly green hands but seem
willing to work. The farrier talks too much
but will do his work all right. I
have an assistant this time for my
special use & as I know him personally he
is all right.

Left port at six o'clock mustered the
men immediately and put them to work.
Will water three times daily from the start.
Fed hay morning night and bran mash
at noon.

I already have sick rounds to make but
nothing more serious than a few bad colds
and wounds. Horses are not doing as much
biting one another as on previous trip.
Arrived at Dulbec at seven o'clock. Really
day heavy showers and very disagreeable.
Horses on top deck are all wet and
will probably have bad colds or some-
thing worse as the result.

New sick Cows

colic 1

nail in foot 1

colds 5-

Bites producing cysts and abscesses 5-

Sept 22nd

2nd Day.

If yesterday was beastly to day has been simply horrible. It has been pouring rain steadily all last night and all to day the wind is blowing hard and it is turning cold. The top deck horses are all shivering and I have blanketed some of them but the blanket gets wet through and are then worse than nothing. I hope it fair's up tonight but if it does it will be cold and we will not get nice weather for several days yet.

Passed Father Point at four o'clock this afternoon & put off the pilot. now we are alone on the heaving billows.

The horses with one or two exceptions are all eating well and looking bright. I was up until one o'clock this morning with a bad case of colic but it got all right. I have three or four under treatment for bad colics and several more for wounds and bruises of various kinds.

fed bran and oats mixed to day at noon
and gave it dry as there was enough
water around without wetting the Bran.

Gordon has already started mucking out
and has inaugurated a system by which
he expects to have every horse cleaned
out once in three days.

Some of the men seasick today Charlie
among the number, as usual I seem
proof against it. I have a very bad cold
though and getting wet today did not
improve and in addition a horse nearly
took a chunk out of my biceps tonight.
He made a nasty bruise the brute and
the air in my vicinity was tinged with a
blue color for a few minutes.

When we get into the Gulf Stream and
warmer weather I do not expect to do
as much work as I did last time as
I will have men to do it for me.

Thus endeth the second day.

new sick cases
strangles 2
colic 1
Cysts + boils 3

Sept 23rd

3rd Day

Worse weather and more of it. The rain has fallen steadily all day long and the top deck horses are in bad shape wet all over and shivering with cold. This is the third days rain and I think the good Lord in his inscrutable wisdom should send us a little sunshine and pleasant weather. Everybody on board is wet and miserable but the poor horses are the worst sufferers as they have to stand and take it. If I lose a lot of them from the effects of it it will be nothing more than a natural consequence of such exposure. It is still raining and turning very cold.

A lot of the men are very sea sick as there is a strong east wind and a heavy sea. This thing is liable to continue for a day or two longer and if so my expectations of arriving with a small mortality will be knocked sky west and crooked.

There are no very serious sick ones as yet some bad colds strangles etc and a bad colic which lasted all day but is all right to night.

The hay is turning out badly. I had to condemn two bales today as it was totally unfit for use. The oats and bran thus far seem very good.

We should pass the Bird's Rocks tonight or early in the morning and after that we should get better weather. It is very unfortunate that we should have had such awful weather as I believe that otherwise I would have made a record trip.

Eight bells has gone and I must go to make my nightly inspection but I hate to do it as it makes me feel bad to see the horses so miserable and know there is nothing I can do to alleviate their sufferings.

New Rich Cases
colic 1
Laryngitis 2

Sept 24th
4th Day

The weather shows a little improvement. Jupiter Pluvius has ceased his labors and we have actually had a few minutes when we could see the blue sky through a rift in the clouds. It is drizzling a little tonight again but nothing like the downpour of the previous days. The horses and men are all feeling more comfortable and everybody is in better spirits. We passed St Pauls Island to-night and that is the last land we will see for many days to come. Two or three of my men are still quite sick and unable to work but I think they will be all right shortly. Fed a bran mash this a.m. as some of the horses were inclined to be coative. Bran roots also at noon. Another colic to-night but very slight luckily. Men working well at mucking out etc! Very foggy today since going almost continuously, horses have got used to it & pay no attention now. Wind has shifted astern and we now have a fair wind though it is quite fresh & there is a heavy swell. Passed a collier bound Sydney.

New sick cases
Colts 2

Sept 25th

5th Day

Concerning the
weather we are
having I feel
like crying out
in an agony of
spirit. How
long my God.
How long?

There must be a j Jonah of some kind aboard
or some body has left without paying their
board bill. We are now tossing about in
a heavy eastern gale with seas breaking
over her bows and drenching the horses. The
Captain had to leave her to this afternoon
alter his course to east a half north and
weather wear above her nose into the teeth of the gale.
Had he not done so we would probably have
some of our horses washed overboard. The
ship is pitching a good deal and some of the
horses are sea sick and off their feed.
With this exception they seem to be standing
it wonderfully well but the bad results which
must inevitably follow this awful weather
may not be manifest for a week yet One
of my men is very sick and the steward &
myself are doing what we can for him.
Of course a lot of them are suffering from
sea sickness but I am afraid this fellow has
something worse. Fed the same feed to
day. Then that are not sick are working
well & I am thankful we are strong handed

New sick cases

Laryngitis 3 cases

Bad colds 5 "

Wounds 2 "

Sept 26th

6th Day

We have seen old Sol's radiant countenance to day for the first time since we left Montreal. The gale abided early this morning, the sea has gone down and we have had a beautiful day. At five P.M. though the fog came on thick again and the siren has been booming out its nerve rending shriek every two minutes since. The weather is much warmer and we will be across the Stream tomorrow and out of the region of fogs and gales. Everything seems going along very satisfactorily, men working well and no complaints.

Have a few more cases of sickness every day but nothing of a very serious nature has yet developed. Blistered the throats of four laryngitis patients today & have about ten under medical treatment. The water tonight seems tainted with tar, is very frothy & soapy & they will change to another tank in the morning. Got an observation today the first since we left Montreal

new sick cases
Pneumonia 1
colic 1
Colic etc 6

Sept 27th

7th Day

It has been another fine day the fog cleared during the night and we will probably have no more of it. We are in the Gulf Stream and the warm waters have made the atmosphere very warm and muggy. It is very close tonight and the horses are feeling the effects of it. We will be across the stream tomorrow when we will probably have cooler weather. Sickness is increasing among the horses there are now a lot of them under treatment for various ailments. A horse which I have had under treatment for laminitis since we left port developed pneumonia to day and I am afraid he is a waste. He has the typical symptoms of that form of pneumonia that was so fatal on my last voyage and I am probably in for another siege of that. Some of the others are also developing the same symptoms. Some feed as usual. — Ship steaming badly has done so since we left port. Engineers claim that coals are of an inferior quality.

203 miles

light S.E. winds

New sick case
Pneumonia 2
Strangles 5

First one dead

Sept 28th

8th Day

The first death occurred this morning horse #3760 died of pneumonia. I held an autopsy and found the pleura rotten and the lungs completely gangrenous. It is the same type that gave me so much trouble and caused so many fatalities on the Devona. I hope it will not become endemic on board. Blistered another one today that was developing similar symptoms and hope I will be able to check it. Strangles also continues to develop some quite bad cases of it.

Same feed today horses seem to be holding their flesh well in it and with some few exceptions are in good condition.

Weather continues fine nice south east breeze and thus far we have had no trouble in providing sufficient ventilation.

Ship continues to steam very badly and to make slow progress I am afraid we will have at least a 35 days passage to the Cape.

Washed out all the water barrels today. Mr Gordons system of mucking out is working well all the horses have been once cleaned and about a third of them have been gone over the second time.

149 miles

New sick cases
Parpura 1
Colds 5
Strangles 2

Sept 29th

9th Day

I think there will be another funeral to record tomorrow as there is another horse very bad with gangrenous pneumonia. It has developed earlier in the game than it did on the Devona and I see plainly that there will be many deaths from it before we reach Cape Town. As before treatment does not seem to have any effect on it as this horse was recognized in the earliest stages and vigorous treatment instituted. As far as any appreciable benefit from it is concerned I might as well have poured the ^{medicine} into the mighty deep, and I am afraid that ere the morning light he will have shuffled off this mortal coil. All I can do is to watch closely and try everything possible to check the thing and if they continue to die why I can not help it. I also have a case of purpura that is very sick but not yet hopeless. More colds & fever developing several additional cases of troubles. Same feed & routine as formerly. Hay is improving in quality, other feed is good. Weather very fine 215 miles nice breeze. Ship steaming a little better.

New sick cases
Pneumonia 3
colds 4
Strangles 2

Sept 30th
10th Day

2nd Horse gone

Horse #3859

Sunday at sea, solemnized it by another funeral this afternoon. The horse with pneumonia developed enteritis as a complication and the two combined were too much for his resisting powers. I held an autopsy & found lesions of both diseases though the lungs were not in as bad a condition as in the first victim. Found three more cases blistered them & have them under treatment. I am afraid that our death record will be greater than on the Devona though we have nearly 200 horses less. More colds and fevers develop all the time and I have about fifty horses under surveillance and treatment for different maladies.

No mucking out today nothing but feeding & watering & treating sick horses.

Started disinfecting the alleyways etc with carbolic acid solution and will have it done every day in the future.

Ship steaming better to day and hope she will keep up our gait otherwise we are going to have a very long passage. Weather continues fine fair wind to day

236 miles

New sick cable
Purpura 1
Feet 9 - 5

Oct 1st

11th Day

Things are running along smoothly enough with the exception that each day makes us more of a hospital ship than formerly. I have three or four very sick horses on board and at present the mortality prospects are not by any means encouraging. Are having a little trouble about the water it is tarry again tonight and some of the horses refuse to drink it. Have two cases of purpura under treatment and am giving them Iodide of Potassium mostly. Have a special bucket and sponge for every lot of horses and one man on each deck puts in the afternoon washing and cleaning dirty nostrils.

Another case of colic today, luckily it was slight and yielded readily to treatment. It is rather hot on the shelter deck and tween decks and some of the horses are sweating badly. Same routine of feeding etc. Weather continues fine fresh breeze on the port quarter.

235 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 2
Laryngitis 2
Whooping Cough 2
Abrasion + Lacerations 5

Oct 2nd

12th Day

On comparing notes I find that up to to-day my death record is the same as the Devona - two horses. My sick patients seem to be holding their own as well as I can expect, but diagnosed another case of pneumonia today which is in bad shape. In my sick rounds this morning I found that the pulse & temperature of nearly all my sick horses showed some improvement for the better. If I can just keep that fatal pneumonia in bounds I may still make a fair record. Things working very well as far as feeding, mucking out, etc is concerned. Gordon has his men under good control and watches them closely. The ship is better equipped in every way than the Devona & the stiffs this time have a picnic compared to the last ship. We can get steams on deck at any time for the asking and the facilities for mucking out, etc are very good. Ship going off in her speed again today it looks as if we would have about as long a trip as it has old Noah did.

246 miles

New Sick Cases
Pneumonia 1
Strangles 2
Colic & fever 3

Oct 3rd

13th Day

Time drags on slowly and we have many a weary mile of trackless ocean to cross yet before our journey is ended. I do not care so much for the time if I can only keep our mortality down to a reasonable percentage. Gave each horse on board one ounce of Epsom salts to day mixed in his feed and they seemed to eat it very well.

The pneumonia patients with one exception are doing well but I am afraid that one is going to graze among the green fields and smiling pastures of the equine Paradise.

My purpura patients are both improving and I have hopes of being able to save both of them. Cut out another horse to day with a temp. of 106.5 no lung complications as yet and am giving him acetanilid to reduce the fever. More coughs & fevers continue to show up and I am afraid as before I will be short on some of my principal medicines.

Nice day, wind
in same quarters
216 miles

Gave the ship a thorough disinfecting today fore and aft with chloride of lime solution. Shelter deck & tween decks kept nice & cool.

New sick cases

Pneumonia 2 cases

Fevers 3

Oct 4th

14th Day

Have been quite busy today shifting horses so I can give the sick ones a double stall and thus give them better attention. Spotted two more cases of pneumonia today gave them double stalls and blistered them. One of them is very bad and has some symptoms of a brain complication. As per usual plenty of new sick ones today and I have plenty to do watching and treating them.

Gordon is developing symptoms of fever and I am afraid he is in for an attack of it. I am sorry to lose his services as he is a great aid to me but I hope he will not be incapacitated for long.

I have issued the brushes to the men and as they shift the horses to muck them out they give them a brush down. It is making them look good and they are in better condition than they were last trip. The old tub is not going any better and it is a foregone conclusion that we have at least a 35 day trip of it.

Five day N.E.
trade winds

218 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 3 cases
Fever, colds. 5-
Diac 1
Edematous swellings 5-

3rd horse over the side

Oct 5th

15th Day

Horse #261.2 died last night of pneumonia. I did not autopsy him so I therefore consigned his body to the deep to "Requiescat in pace" until the sea shall give up her dead. It was one that was only noticed sick yesterday & was rapidly fatal. Found three more today with pneumonia and I am going to have, unless all signs fail, a sweet time of it for the rest of the voyage. I have been feeling blue & discouraged today in the dumps as it were, and I have plenty to worry me. Gordon is sick, one of my men cut a hole in his back 2 1/2 inches deep by sitting on a knife and is laid up, and the ship has the indications of being converted into a charnel house before the voyage is half over. Two more horses very sick and may die tonight and the pneumonia is now spreading aft while heretofore it was confined to the forward part of the ship. What can't be cured must be endured so I draw the inference that the horses that can't be cured must die enduring of the voyage. We are at present in Lat 18° 33' N. & the distance between that and 34° S is some few thousand miles yet to be traversed. So be it.

New sick cases
pneumonia 4 cases
fevers 3

4th horse gone to glory

Oct 6th

6th Day

One more gone #3805. He had been sick for about a week with pneumonia and got down at noon today. After some unsuccessful attempts to get him up and seeing he was in extremis I shot him at six o'clock to end his suffering. Three more new cases to day and from the present outlook I will average at least one death a day until the end of the voyage. Used disinfectants all over the ship again today and am doing all that I know to keep the thing in bounds. From now on while we are in hot weather I am going to make the men water the horses every night at eight o'clock. It has been pretty close today and the horses on the lower decks are sweating a good deal. Gordon is still sick his temp. is 102 tonight. As usual on every ship I have been on the men are kicking about the grub and to tell the truth I should not like to have to live on it, though it is the same as all the ships in this business give their stiffs. The man that stabbed himself by sitting on his knife is recovering. I don't think he will carry sharp pointed knives in his pocket any more. Another day gone to glory he

218 miles

Air Rick Cases
Pneumonia 3 cases
Wounds 2 "
Strangles 2 "

D.

17

no

by

oil

21

3rd Horse turned up his toes

Oct 7th

17th Day

Horse #2581 died this afternoon of pneumonia. I had expected his demise for two or three days, consequently the news of his death was no shock to me. Three more pneumonia cases today, two of them very bad ones and the mortality ^{prospects} are booming away up. I am becoming hardened now and am taking quite a philosophical view of things compared to what I did a few days ago.

We have lost the trades and it is a dead calm tonight and in consequence is hotter than the things of Hades on the lower decks. I have all ports, doors, hatches etc open and have done all I can to make things comfortable. We are now in the region of equatorial rains and have had a regular down pour this afternoon and the humidity and moisture of the atmosphere makes things worse.

Gave each horse a handful of salt in his feed to day, they seemed to relish it. It has made them very thirsty and I expect they will drink well at their watering tonight. Gordon still sick. Charlie my assistant, has not been himself since he came on the ship and is not feeling well at all. Our third Sunday at sea

No sun today
by dead reckoning
218 miles

New Rick cases
Pneumonia 3 cases
Wounds 2 "
Strangles 2 "

D
M

no
by
ain
21

3rd Horse turned up his toes

Oct 7th

17th Day

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No sun today
by dead reckoning
218 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 7
Paratyphoid 1
Colic 1 Strangles 2
Wounds 2. colds 5

18

Long
Lat
24

Oct 8th

18th Day

6th - One gave up the ghost.

Horse #2570 died today of pneumonia or rather I ended his life by a bullet, as he was a hopeless ^{case} and I had enough to worry about without him. Seven more new cases today which makes 18 cases of pneumonia at present under treatment. If it goes on at this rate half of my horses will be sick before I get to Cape Town. Three or four of the new cases are very bad, and it would not surprise me if I had several funerals in the morning. I am doing all I can in the way of treatment but where there are so many patients it is impossible to give each individual case the attention I would like to. Have another bad case of purpura on hand and think this one will succumb to the ravages of the malady. One of my other purpura patients after convalescing has developed pneumonia and will die. Some of the horses are getting thin & think I will soon have to start two feeds of grain per day. Has been very hot today dead calm with rain this afternoon. Very hot on shelter decks horses are sweating badly & have rigged extra windsails. Saw 3 sailing ships today, a school of whales, Bonita & sea gulls.

Long 25.30. W

Lat 9.43. N

240 miles

new sick cases
Pneumonia 5
Purpura 1

Oct
19th

Done
Lat.
23

8 dead.

Oct 9th

19th Day

Two gone to day nos 4029 & 4054. Both died at the same time six o'clock P.M. & both on the top deck. One of them was my old purpura patient who afterwards developed pneumonia. Five more new cases to day which I had shifted to double stalls facing the hatches and blistered. This is simply awful and if it keeps on as it is going at present we will have 30 deaths or more when we reach Cape Town. It is a much worse outbreak than we had on the Devona though we have much more space & room and better care is taken of the horses. I only hope that this awful pneumonia will stop developing but the prospects are that it will get worse. I have six other patients very bad and from indications I will score a double or a triple every day now. It continues very hot but we have a little more breeze now and I hope we shall soon have the S.E. trades. Quite calm to day saw another sailing ship away off in the distance. Had another heavy shower of rain tonight I wish we were out of the rains as it makes everything very nasty and causes foul smells. A little land bird came aboard to day he was quite exhausted but is making himself at home.

Long 23.30 W
Lat 6.49 N
233 miles

New sick cases

Pneumonia 1

Colic 2

Fevers 5

20th

Lat
Long

By
all

Oct 10th

20th Day

Miracle of miracles! No deaths to day and I am glad to have had a break in the chain of mortalities, am afraid however it will be the last one.

Only found one new case of pneumonia but have several others very seedy - think they are taking it. Five of my old patients very bad. think some of them will die tonight. Two colics today, one of them is quite bad yet but think she will get over it. I am getting awful sick of this thing and heartily wish it was over and we were at Cape Town. Been another beastly day rain and wind squalls but at present there is no wind whatever and it is very hot down below.

Gave the ship another thorough disinfecting today on all the decks with chloride of lime solution, it purifies and sweetens things below.

Was up last night with one of my patients that got down but after much trouble got her on her feet again and she feels stronger today.

Will cross the line tomorrow, it is two weeks from there to the Cape. Lost all our pigeons but one today they flew away in a squall and couldn't get back. No observations today.

Lat 3.37 N

Long 21.35. W

By dead

reckoning
216 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 3..
Typhoid 4..

Lat
Long
22

9th one non est

Oct 11th
21st Day

One death today #2586 died of pleuropneumonia. Held an autopsy on him & found much fluid in the thoracic cavity. The third engineer took some snapshots of the job and is going to give me one of them. Have three horses very bad and expect to have some deaths to chronicle again tomorrow. Did a paracentesis thoracis on a horse with pleurisy and got a lot of fluid out but does not seem much better for it. Three new cases today but none of them very serious ones and I hope the worst is over. Opened two or three deep seated strangulated abscesses and scarified a lot of oedematous swelling on dependent parts.

We have the S.E. trades now, thank goodness, and the ship is cool and sweet again. We are also out of the rain and between these two it should be more salubrious for the patients.

We crossed the line today at four o'clock this makes my fifth time and once more I am in the South Atlantic. We should see Ascension on Sunday morning & St Helena three days later and from there it is only seven days run to the Cape. Beautiful day, ship steaming a little better.

Lat 33" N.

Long 14.37. W

228 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 4 cases
Purpura 2 "
colic 1

Oct 12th

22nd Day

Lat 2.51° S
Long 17.35° W

228 miles

Once more I have no deaths to record but am certain to have two at least tomorrow. Found four new cases of pneumonia today one of them very bad, and I have several more under blankets and observation. Two more cases of purpura and another bad colic. Why did I ever leave my 'appy' home.

Gordon is still sick but gets around as well as he can and is better than he was. Charlie is also not well but sticks to his work. I am giving him claret as a tonic and it seems to agree with his constitution. Another of my men has lymphangitis, purpura, or something of that nature his feet and legs are swollen to about twice their natural size. It reminds me of cases very similar that I saw in the island of Zanzibar among the natives but I do not know what it was. It is a gloomy night, dark clouds are hanging athwart the sky, and the wind is banging the wind sails about and whistling through the rigging. My spirits are just as gloomy as the weather. Oppressed with grief, oppressed with care, a burden more than I can bear I sit me down & sigh; these hours are a dreary load, along a rough & weary road, to wretches such as I.

New sick cases
Pneumonia 4 cases
Typhus 1 "
Strangles 3 "

10th - 11th - 12th - 13th up the spout.

Oct 13th

23rd Day

I have fattened up my mortality percentage at a great rate today four horses going over the side Nos 3790. 2655-3952. 3808. This is a record for me the nearest approach to it I made before was losing three one day on the Devona. Still I am not proud of it by any means though it could not be helped. The forward part of the ship is now fairly healthy though there are three cases aft that are as certain to die as though they were already dead. The case of colic aft has developed enteritis and is in bad shape. I found three more cases of pneumonia to day and it evidently is not going to stop spreading for a while yet. Scarified a lot of swellings today it seems to be the best thing to reduce them. I also opened two or three bad strangles abscesses and did another paracentesis thoracis.

We will pass Ascension at four o'clock in the morning and will not get a good view of it as it is not daylight at that hour. Strong breeze to day it stopped our old tub somewhat and we only made 213 miles. Think I will start feeding grain twice next week as some of our horses are rather ^{thin} though most of them are in fine condition.

Lat 6.58° S
Long 15.58° W
213 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 2 "
Anorexia 5 "

Lat
Son
tho 2
By

14th horse gone to that house from which no
traveller returns

Oct 14th

24th Day

One more unfortunate, weary of breath, rashly
unfortunate, gone to her death. There no 4028 died
last night of pneumonia after several days sickness.
A lot more of them have gone off their feed today and
the prospects do not look at all encouraging.
I have been figuring out an estimate today of
how many deaths we will have and think 25 will
hit it pretty close, as from the number of sick ones
I have on hand now and ten days more to go I do
not see how I can escape with any less.

We passed Ascension on the starboard bow this morn-
ing and tried to signal but did not get any answer.
It is a barren dreary looking island with no signs
of habitation on the side we saw, the town and a garri-
son of British soldiers are on the other side. It is
very mountainous and rough as all the Atlantic islands
are. We will pass St Helena on Wednesday and hope
to get a good view of it.

Mare with enteritis is better but have another case
that is puzzling me a good deal and I can not
quite make it out. She seems paralyzed behind and
can not stand on her feet.

This is our fourth Sunday at sea

Lat 8. 40' S
Long 13. 35' W

No seagulls to day
By dead reckoning
213 miles

new sick cases
Pneumonia 2 "
Strangles 2 "

25

Sat
Long
15

15th - 16th have shuffled off this mortal coil.

Oct 15th

25th Day

Two more gone today nos 2645 and 4007. Both died of pneumonia in fact every death thus far has been from the same cause. One of them was the mare that got down last night & could not get up. I held an autopsy on her this morning and found the lungs in a gangrenous condition. This animal was only sick ten hours in all and shows how rapidly some of these cases go on to a fatal termination. I have three on my list for a funeral tomorrow and two more for some time in the near future. Will start in the morning feeding rats and bran twice daily and expect to keep it up until we reach the cape. The horses are in much better condition than they were on the Devona and those that are left alive on our arrival in port will be in fine condition. I think I can ascribe the prevalence of pneumonia to such an alarming extent on this voyage to the terrible weather we had in the Gulf and during the first six days of the voyage.

We stopped three hours this morning to clean tubes as it was necessary in order to get her to go at all.

In consequence we only made a very poor run but I have got used to such things now and have ceased to worry about them.

Lat 10.18" S
Long 11.41" W
150 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 3.
Skin disease 1

17th & 18th horses have passed away.

Oct 16th

26th Day

Another day gone and two more horses ditto.
Nos 3824 & 4015 died today both of pneumonia.
I found four or five new sick ones today two of
them are promising candidates for a funeral soon.
Made a discovery today that has caused me some
worry. Found a horse with some kind of a skin trouble
mange, eczema or some thing of that nature. He was
on the shelter deck forward, took him aft to no
6 well and slung him up to the top deck. He is
quarantined there as effectually as it can be done
on a ship as there are no horses within four stalls
of him. I am afraid the thing is contagious and have
had his stall cleaned & disinfected and the horse on
either side of where he was standing thoroughly washed
with a creolin 1-50 solution. I am using the same treat-
ment on the affected horse and will wait for develop-
ment in the meantime keeping him quarantined.
Fed grain twice today morning & noon & expect to
continue from now on. For the last few days the
trades have been very fresh but are not blowing
so hard today & the sea is going down. Passed one
of Donald Curries Castle boats from the Cape with scurvy
to night. It was a break in this monotonous life

Lat 12.35 S

Long 9.02 W

209 miles

what a hummer
she is

New Rich Cases
Pneumonia 3.
Incipient. p. 4

Oct 17th

27th Day

By a merciful dispensation I am once more enabled to record no deaths for today. I find on referring to the Deoonas' log that on this same day out from Montreal we had the same number of deaths, viz 18. But on that ship we only had 3 days more to go and on this one we have eight. Found several more sick ones today none of them very bad but have three of my old patients that are hovering on the brink of eternity.

There has been no new developments in regard to the skin disease I spoke of yesterday and I hope no new cases if it will develop. The patient under treatment for it seems a little better. I scarified a lot of swellings today and opened several strangles abscesses.

We are at present passing St Helena but all we can see of it is the lighthouse. I am very much disappointed at not getting a view of it as I would like to have done so and I had calculated on doing so but this old tub steams so slow that it has upset all calculations. Have a good many horses on the top deck with blankets on as the nights are getting quite chilly.

Lat 15.12 S

Long 6.34 W

Distance 219 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 2
colic 1

19th + 20th Dead.

Oct 18th

18th Day

Another double today horses no 2599 or 3966. This makes 20 over the side and I am satisfied there will be at least five more. I have had rather a hard day if I worked all morning with a horse that was down. Finally got it up with the aid of slings but it only stood for about an hour and is again down and will die tonight. This is one I had not been anticipating, it had been a little sick for a few days but was doing well until it got down last night. I expect to hold an interesting post mortem on it tomorrow if my prognosis is correct.

We had an addition to our cargo today one of the mares bringing an offspring into the world but it was prematurely born and did not live.

The weather continues gloomy and chilly have not had a pleasant sunshiny day for a week now. We ought to be at the Cape a week from today if all goes well but she is steaming very badly and seems to be getting worse all the time. But it is a cheering reflection that it can't last very much longer now unless we lose the propeller or meet with some similar accident. Our blue pigeon is gone the last of his race.

Lat 17.14' S

Long 3.52' W

200 miles

New sick cases
Pneumonia 2
Colic 1
Strangles 4

24

W
+ di
mus
I have
Lat
Lat
Con
20

New sick cases
Colic 2
Strangles 2

22nd Deader

Oct 20th

30th Day

One more added to my already long list, horse no 2705 died today of pneumonia. It was one I put on my list several days ago so his demise was not unexpected. I have two more on the list besides the doubtful ones and it is going to keep me hustling to limit it to twenty five which is the figure I set myself some time ago. It continues cold, I have shut some of the doors and ports on the shelter deck tonight as it is too draughty on the horses. I have at least thirty under blankets in different parts of the ship, most of them are on the top deck. I gave the rest of the Mag Sulph to the horses today about one ounce each. They seem to rather relish it than otherwise when mixed with their feed. Two cases of colic today. The stiffs have made a sort of a gladiatorial arena on the hatch of No 4 tween decks and every night have an exhibition of wrestling, boxing etc. Some good wrestlers among them but none of them can box for shucks. If it wasn't for lowering my dignity I would go down and try some of them a round or two.

Lat 21.24 S
Long 1.49 E
Dist. 207
miles

New sick cases
1 colic
Fever 5

Oct 21st

31st Day

Sunday a day of rest and thanksgiving. The bosun and his gang have rested from their labors of heaving dead horses over the side and I have been returning thanksgiving for the fact that I have had no horses to die today. Things are looking a little better no new cases of pneumonia today and my sick patients with the exception of two are doing nicely. I had quite a haemorrhage today from an incision I made in a horse's neck and it gave me a lot of trouble to get it stopped. However it is all right to-night and I think the danger is over. The weather continues cold I have had a lot of wind sails taken down and the doors on the shelter deck all shut. Another case of colic today I think the increased prevalence of it is caused from the double feed of grain they are getting. I will have to start my report tomorrow or the day after as it will take me two or three days to finish it. We made 197 miles today and can not possibly get to Cape Town before Friday morning.

Lat 23.29 S

Long 4.22 E

Dist 197 miles

New sick cases
Strangles 2 Fevers 5
Quaternary swellings 5

0

32

La
Con
10

23rd Corps.

Oct 22nd

32nd Day

I shot one of my long standing pneumonia patients to day as his lungs were gangrenous and he hadn't the ghost of a chance to get well. The effluvia from his breath would nearly knock you down as rather than let him continue to pollute the already surcharged atmosphere I put a bullet where it would do the most good. Horse no 2503. That is the 23rd and I have my other two down in my little book besides two doubtful ones. I started my report this afternoon and have a rough draft of it about half done. This is the third one I have written so I am getting quite an experienced hand at it. Started grooming horses this morning and it makes a wonderful difference in their appearance to get all the loose hair and dirt off them. I think by Friday morning they will all be looking clean and bright. I have a case of colic that is giving me some uneasiness this is the third night it has been sick and it is still suffering a good deal. Some new horses not eating today I am afraid they will develop pneumonia and die if we do not get them off the ship in the next few days. Weather continues cold & gloomy

Lat 25.248
Long 7.15"E
196 miles

New sick cases

colic 74 ..

Cysts 13 ..

3-

Lat
Low
19

24th horse murdered

Oct 23rd

33rd Day

I shot another horse to day no 2582. This was a horse that had been under treatment for 16 days for pneumonia and at one time was convalescent and doing well. Then a relapse took place and about three days ago he began to manifest symptoms of gangrene of the lungs. Seeing he was a goner I expedited his departure by a bullet and afterwards held an autopsy on him. His lungs were a mess. The lower part of each lung was an abscess cavity filled with foetid pus and the stink from it was something awful. On section of them they presented all the different stages of decomposition.

I have had three cases of colic today one of them quite serious and the one that was sick for the last three days is still complaining.

I think the lack of exercise and the double grain ration is more than their digestive organs can stand. I have laid 24 on the shelf since I left Montreal and still have three quite sick ones so I will be able to bring my total up to 25 easily enough. The horses are doing more biting ones another's necks the last day or two and as our halbers are about played out it is hard to prevent.

Lat 27.27 S.
Long 10.10 E
193 miles

New sick cases

colic 3

Bites 8. Fevers 5

10

34

Lat
Long

218

Oct 24th

34th Day

No horses have died today neither have I have committed any more murders with my little gun. I still have two horses dangerously sick but I am hoping they will hang on until we get to Cape Town as my mortality list is long enough. With the exception of those two they are all doing well.

I have had three more colics today and have decided to discontinue the morning allowance of grain as it is quite evident that is what is doing it. The horses are in good enough condition to justify doing this, and I don't want to risk any of them turning up their toes from colic at this stage of the game. The horses are beginning to bite one another's necks now more than at any stage of the voyage. This is unfortunate as there will not be time to get them well and it detracts very much from their appearance. We will arrive about Ten a.m. Friday morning and I hope the powers that be will give orders for us to unload our cargo. I have a presentiment however that we will be sent around to Port Elizabeth.

Lat 29.30" S

Long 13.24 E

218 miles

How Dick cases
colic 1

De

35

Lat
Long

2

Oct 25th

35th Day

I have had a sick headache today which has taken all the starch out of me. It is not better yet but hope that a nights sleep will straighten me up all right. No deaths to record today and the horses do not seem to be taking pneumonia like they were a week or two since. One horse is very sick others seem to be doing well. Only one case of colic to day but I did not feed grain this morning.

We will be in Cape Town in the morning about eight o'clock for which glory be, I expect to go ashore with the skipper for our orders and have a few hours with Gods green earth under my feet again, after seeing nothing but blue water and sick horses and being dead to the world for 35 long and weary days. Will have everything ready for our inspection tomorrow in case we should unload at Cape Town which I am afraid is very unlikely. We have seen four steamers to day all bound for the Cape. One of them was actually steaming slower than us and if I had not seen us overhauling her I would not have believed such a thing was possible. I wonder what news we shall hear tomorrow.

Lat 32.03 S

Long 16.02 E

205 miles

Oct 26th

36th Day

Well we have been in Table Bay and gone again and are now on our way rejoicing to Port Elizabeth. We will be there Sunday afternoon and the Captain hopes to leave there again homeward bound by Tuesday night. Charlie & I went ashore with the skipper this morning and enjoyed our run ashore very much. The Canning has been here 3 days ago so she must have passed us at sea. She has also beaten us in mortality as she only lost 20 horses. Well I have done the best I can but the start I had was very much against me. Cape Town is still very busy and as I expected the war is not yet over. While I was on shore the ship was visited by the Govt Veterinarian who had a look at all my horses. Gordon says he expressed himself as well pleased with their condition. I wish I had been on board as I would like to have had a talk with him. No new sick cases today and the patients seem to be doing well. I hope to keep the rest of them alive until they are disembarked.

Oct 27th

37th Day

The sick patients are doing well and now that it is immaterial to me whether any more develop pneumonia or not they are all keeping remarkably healthy. I think I could turn around and take them back to Montreal without losing nearly as many as I did coming out. Hope to be in Port Elizabeth in time to get an anchorage tomorrow night so that we can start disembarking early Monday morning. I will have to wait on board until the inspecting Veterinarian comes and looks over the horses. I hope he will not delay as I want to have as much time ashore as I can. At the best we will only be there two days and then another siege of 30 days in jail. We have been passing along the coast of Africa all day but too far out to see much. Another steamer the Nyanga has been running us neck & neck since daylight but is gradually drawing away and leaving us. She signalled us this afternoon and is bound for East London. The days of my travail have been many and sore but for cometh in the morning.

Oct 28th

38th Day

Once more in Port Elizabeth and the work unloading our cargo has already commenced. They expect to finish tomorrow but I think it rather doubtful if they will. The inspecting Mr Frier the same as inspected the Devona came off this afternoon and looked over the horses. He expressed himself as well pleased with their condition and general fitness and said it was the best lot which had been landed for some time. The Carving has finished discharging she lost 22 & has thus beaten me. Her Captain was aboard this afternoon and he says they missed the weather in the Gulf which played such havoc with us. I learn that I am under restrictions about going ashore but can go in the morning for an hour or two. I wish I was free to go and come when I like but the regulations are much more strict than they were before. However thank the Lord the horses will be off the ship tomorrow & I will feel as if a millstone has been removed from my neck when the last one goes kicking & squealing over the side.

Oct 29th

39th Day

Contrary to my expectations they finished unloading us at four o'clock this afternoon all the horses going ashore safely. Once more I am care free and have nothing to worry about and tonight I feel like a ten year old kid let loose from school, and as happy as a great big clam. No more inspections, no more horses going to die tonight, no more rounds at eight bells, no more getting up at night to dope colicky horses and to lift my liver out trying to get up "downers" no more worrying, fretting, cursing etc. All is done, and the memory of it will gradually fade away and be absorbed into the mists of the past, even as the ripples from our propellers are swallowed up in the changing currents of the mighty deep.

I kept the mortality down to 24 which is considered very good from Montreal and my only regret is that I did not beat the Camming. Thus ends my third experience in this line as tomorrow we up anchor and away for the Cape Verde for orders to proceed from there to some port across the seas.

