

HUNTRESS, ALOE, ERICA.

Information has been received relating to the condition of these steamers, which are owned by the Union Government of South Africa. These vessels have been used for bringing cargoes of sleepers from Australia for the Government Railways, and are generally chartered outwards from Natal for cargoes of coal. It is stated that steel, instead of wooden sleepers are now being employed for the railways, and consequently the steamers are bringing cargoes of rice, etc., from the Far East, to South Africa, Mauritius and Réunion.

The *Huntress* put into Singapore in April last with a cargo of rice, which had to be discharged to facilitate repairs. 39171/1930

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