

Nathaniel Jacob's Diary Notes after leaving England, on his voyage on board "ORTONA" from Tilbury to Australia commencing Friday, March 8, 1907.

We left Penge, Beckenham, Kent, London, early in the morning for Tilbury Dock with brother Fred and nephew Charles Jacob. Very fine day. Had dinner on board consisting of soup, roast beef, haricot beans, potatoes, stewed fogs, and rice. Saturday, fine but cold. Many children on board and some babies have a good time crying. Posted a lot of post-cards and letters at Plymouth. Could not get off as the "Ortona" was a few hours late. 25 or more Jack Tars got on going to South Australia. "Ortona" is a fine mail steamer, the accomodation being very good. Mrs. Jacob a little so and so.

SUNDAY MARCH 10TH.

Saturday night heavy seas rolled a good deal. Many passengers sick and babies crying two hours at a time. We slept well and I went to breakfast but Mrs. J did not. She had a coffee and a dry crust with apple in berth and was a little sick once. However, she got up soon after and went on deck, and I secured some beef tea at 11 a.m. We passed several boats. There is no service today, the reason being that we are near the Bay and it is the first Sunday on board. God is good and we realise the same when we look on the mighty power of the deep briny. Mrs. J wishes Amelia was here and I'm sure she would enjoy herself, for her two daughters. Seagulls are following us expecting their dinner and it is only 11 o'clock. Passengers are for various ports and several are on their way to New Zealand, and are satisfied with that country from whence they came. We have a splendid deck room, there being a wide space from one end to the other. On Saturday between 4 & 5 o'clock we passed Eddystone Lighthouse.

MONDAY MARCH 11TH.

Sunday night we went to bed about 8.30 and slept well. Mrs. J heard one of the stewards in the middle of the night telling a man where to find his cabin. He had been drinking and today, Monday, he is locked up, having disturbed the passengers. It is a lovely day. The sea is beautiful and the weather much warmer. Both of us are very hungry and ready for meals.. We passed out of the Bay at 10 a.m. Nearly all well again and roll up to meals. Miles run 304 for the 24 hours and the day ending with lovely weather.

TUESDAY MARCH 12TH.

Up before six this morning and not a cloud in the sky and only a ripple on the water to be seen. We had Finnon Haddock for breakfast and it was so good that Mrs. J had a return. /

She is smiling all day and often wishes as I do that some of you were on board with us. Very calm today. Our dinner today was soup, boiled mutton, and caper sauce, potatoes, swedes, and boiled pudding and treacle. This morning we passed St. Vincents Lighthouse, and all day we are able to see Land, which is Portuguese Territory. We are continually passing ships on both sides.

The Notice Board, Noon today, is:

Lat. 37.05 N. Long. 9.02 E

300 miles run and we are 199 mile from Gibraltar. The notice is up Breakfast at 7.30a.m. Tender leave for Shore:- 8.a.m. "Ortona" off again 11.a.m. :- so we hope to go ashore tomorrow to purchase some fruit, oranges, tomatoes, etc.,

(Notes by E.L.J.) It will be interesting to some who read these lines to know that one of the stewards in the First Class was footman to Sir E. Trafford of near Marston Trussel, the family have gone abroad and let their Estate for a hunting box, hence his reason for being on the boat. It is his first trip and in talking, he said perhaps he would go to America for another trip on the Cunard Liner. He was told to apply to Sir Bache Cunard. I mentioned what a lovely place Neville Holt was and he knows Medbourne, and Fenny at Hallaton Hall, in fact all the places for miles around that part, because he has to travel with his Master. He was at Rockingham Castle Flower Show last July and it was lovely.

The Family sent the servants. He told me he received £40. per annum, 3 suits, and plenty of tips. I asked for the menu card and he gave me the breakfast and promised the Lunch and dinner ones.

A concert was held on the 3rd class deck, only poor. We did not go but went to our cabin and from there could hear the band on the second class deck, the concert, the babies crying, and the children sining hymns, the engine pumping, and the water rustling, so we had a variety of sounds to put us to sleep.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13TH.

We awoke about 5.45. Mr. J dressed and found we were at Gibraltar. The notice board was up for the boat to sail at 11.a.m. sharp, we sat down to breakfast at 7.30. Mr. J. went ashore by the tender at 8 and brought back oranges, onions, tomatoes, pumpkin seeds, and scent. A great many passengers went ashore. The harbour of bay is a beautiful sight and it makes one proud to think that England is possessor of such a mighty fortress. Distance run on March 13th was 199 miles.

One of the sailors pointed out a town belonging to the Spanish and that between that and Gibraltar is neutral ground. He also told us that a tram runs at the foot of the rock through a tunnel. We passed several vessels.

THURSDAY MARCH 14TH.

The sea was very calm and everybody well and at breakfast I had a game of quoits with several ladies. It was a little cold for in the distance there was snow on the mountains. In the evening a breeze sprang up and caused the boat to roll a little. I slept well and of course Mrs.J. was well. During the night could hear some very sick. An Officer told Mr.J that when nearing Marseilles it was very calm, and then suddenly for a very rough sea.

FRIDAY MARCH 15TH.

Very few at breakfast this morning. I went but was only able to drink coffee, So Mrs J carried my food into my cabin and I was able to lie in my bunk and enjoy a Yarmouth Bloater. At noon we were in the Port. A Tender of the Company took passengers free to the landing stage. We had about three hours ashore and went through a large stone arch into a square or terrace, we think, one of the best parts, but a very dirty town and the clothes are hung out of the windows or outside the doors. There do not seem any back yards. I saw a woman washing the dinner plates at a tap in the front street. A large number of mails were put on board here and when you see how they are thrown about it explains why so many packages are damaged. Seven of us took a small boat and were rowed back to the ship for the sum of sixpence (6d) rather than wait for the tender. I might say that the sea was calm or we should not have risked the small boat. On arrival of the tender the bell rang and away the "Ortona" went and when we got on our way it was still calm. Some bought Champagne at 4 shillings and sixpence a bottle, but we did not indulge, we felt very tired after the land walk so turned in early and slept well.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Lovely and bright, rather cold, because on our left there are snow-capped mountains. Everybody in good spirits as sickness a thing of the past. We enjoyed our breakfast of cold meat and tomatoes. Those snow-capped mountains are in Italy and Corsica (Napoleon Bonaparte was born it is supposed near these mountains). The land visible on our right is Sardinia. 12 o'clock (8 bells). These rang and instantly the fire bells rang. Stewards, firemen, sailors all scampered to their respective places, used the hoses etc., then all returned to their work.

We had visitors come to see us and we also paid many visits and went to places of interest. We had an invitation which we accepted, to look over the largest furniture factory in the southern hemisphere in which 250 hands are employed. Some of the machinery was revolving at the rate of 5000, 4000, 3000, & 2000 revs per min. but even with this improved machinery, they have orders that have been waiting 7 or 8 months for completion. Mr. Edson and his niece made us very welcome so that we spent a very pleasant time there and they killed two roosters while we were there.

MONDAY JUNE 10TH.

Left Kilkenny Station at 3.20p.m. for Largs Bay, Mr & Miss Edson accompanying us down. We said goodbye on the wharf and then went aboard the launch which took us over to the R.M.S. "OROTAVA" which left about 7.15p.m. She was full of passengers, so we were separated until we reached Melbourne at 9.a.m. Wednesday morning, The notice was up sail 12th June tonight 10.p.m. so we took a train to the city and sent off the postcards from the G.P.O. had some lunch and took a train to Mentone, spent an hour or two with Mr & Mrs Follett and then Mr Follett drove us out two or three miles to see Mrs. Campbell & Mrs Wedd after which we came back and had tea, then took train back into Melbourne, which was about 45 minutes, there we bought fruit back to Port Melbourne and got on board the "OROTAVA" which left at 10.30p.m.

THURSDAY JUNE 13TH.

We saw a large rock this morning which is called Skull Rock and it is very much like a mans skull, also many miles of rocks very high and also the Lighthouse on Wilson's Promontory.

FRIDAY JUNE 14TH.

It was very rough all through the night so we slowed down to three miles an hour, because the captain did not want to land the passengers late at night, and we expect to get in early in the morning.

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH.

We woke very early this morning by passengers getting their luggage out on deck about 5.a.m. Dressing bell rang at 6.a.m. and breakfast was at 7.30 a.m. and the morning was a very wet one which is not uncommon in Sydney.

Dinner was served 12.45. In the afternoon letter writing was the Principal occupation. As the post Office closed at midnight we posted our letters.

SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 17TH.

Paddy's Day so green ribbon was plentiful. Naples at 5.a.m. was the cry at the cabin door. About seven o'clock all the hands on deck for inspection. We were waiting an hour as the crew had to line up first, and the passengers afterwards. Mrs.J said to the Doctor as he passed nothing wrong with us but hunger. We want our breakfast so he said "Pass On" and soon we were at the table doing justice to Liver & Bacon. We went ashore by the second tender and on getting there a large number of guides were waiting to storm the passengers but we made our minds up to go on our own so escaped them. As we passed through the Customs House we saw a lot of emigrants waiting to be shipped to Canada. (They were Italians of course). Passing along we saw many places of interest and were favoured by being shown the King's Palace. He being away at ROME. It is simply lovely and we sat in many chairs, and Mrs.J popped into the Throne Chair. The lovely silk wallpapers are beyond description. The various colours of the marbel tables inlaid and the beautiful silk tapestry pictures are wonderful being just like paintings. The ceilings in every room were hand painted. One cabinet we saw was just like the NEW ZEALAND TOTORA KNOT. The legs of one table were of dark bronze, found in the ruins of Pompei. There was also a very handsome writing desk as large as a piano, given to the King by the people of Naples. In the Palace was a chapel, and also a theatre. The Grand Staircase is of solid marble. We went on the balcony of the Grand Palace where flowers were growing overlooking the sea.. From there we went to the Museum., but it was closed, and after a few hours round the town seeing the style and pomp of the rich, and the poverty and misery of the poor. We returned in time for tea by the boat. I omitted to mention that we went into the Arcade, which was the best we had ever seen. Everyone was tired, but many stayed up till Midnight when the boat left. The streets of Naples and footpaths from the lava, where there is much traffic are slippery like glass. It being Sunday, many of the best shops were closed, but business was still the rule of the day, still a great many were going and coming carrying their books to church and stopping on their way to make purchases. We should have done ourselves, had it not been Sunday. Oranges were very plentiful, but we bought nothing as we had fruit to last us until Port Said.

MARCH 18TH.

We awoke Monday morning to find it very fine, sea calm, weather rather

cold, due to the snow-capped mountains on either side, as we passed through the Straits Of Messina which is a pretty sight, Scicily being to our right and Italy on our left. With the aid of glasses we can see the Verduere and the S mountains give a pretty finish to the hills in the foreground. We are just able to distinguish Mt. Etna but it is very hazy over same. About 10 a.m. this morning, we passed Stromboli, called the lighthouse of the Mediterranean, but could not see any eruption, as it was too misty and hazy. These parts must be very advantageous to residents of Italy and Scicily to spend their holidays in and also very pretty.

TUESDAY MARCH 19TH. (E.L.J.'s Notes).

This morning it is so lovely and calm that it makes us wish again that many of our relations were with us, especially those afraid of the sea but it is like everything else in life, when you have lade a start all fear vanishes. No one other than those who have seen it can realise in Mid-Ocean how grand the colour is, and as far as the eye can see is only to be seen a ripple on the blue ocean, no land being visible today. Plenty of sports on board today, of all kinds. For breakfast we had Finnon Haddock, which was very nice,. For dinner, soup, bacon & Rabbit, treacle pudding and wine if you liked to buy, but we always take water. In the evening I did a little washing, handkerchiefs etc., We went to bed at 9.30.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH.

This morning the sea is calm and lovely which seems to have been customary so far. There is just a nice breeze to cool the air. Very late for breakfast, not with mal-de-mer but with the effects of the air. Baggage brought on deck this morning. There is a lady & gent in this class with three children and a maid(IRISH) such a getup and the maid is a dirty untidy mortal. But the mistress is very ladylike but her dress is covered with grease. There are some very nice people on board, but we are enjoying our own company more than other, only it means you must be polite.

THURSDAY MARCH 21ST. (N.J's.Notes).

About 7a.m. we dropped anchor in Port Said, and as soon as possible the boat was besieged with Arabs in their little boats, selling trinkets of all sorts, cigars, tobacco, oranges. We had breakfast about 8 o'clock and then went ashore in small boats 3d each way. We bought three dozen oranges for one shilling very sweet and good, also some Maltese Lace paying half the price they were asking for it. We turned back to the boat in time for dinner about 11a.m. and sailed sharp at Noon having dinner at 12.30p.m. Here we took stock of our last coal before Colombo, so that the boat was very dirty and the sailors were very busy all afternoon scrubbing down and cleaning paint.

It was very interesting passing through the canal. Just at Sunset we had to tie up to allow two homeward bound boats to pass, it being the rule of the canal that they who are homeward bound have the right of way. The searchlight is very powerful and sends a light a long distance. We passed Ismailia during the night so we were not able to see it. Many of the passengers did not turn in until Midnight, having had too much to drink on shore and continuing it on the boat. One so-called Lady, an American Society lady was so drunk that she fell over on the deck and hanging on to two or three men and allowing them to help her to her cabin with their arms around her. She could not find the right cabin, but went in where four young men were gone to bed, saying this is number 125, but she appeared at the breakfast table next morning.

MARCH 22ND.

This day we anchored at Port Suez, but only stayed about half an hour to put off and take in mails and also vegetables. There is a nice cool breeze blowing, and the sun is very warm, and the sea is lovely and calm. We are only in Gulf of Suez as yet. Kippers for breakfast, Mackerel and Pork for dinner, potatoes with jackets on and parsnips, also rice and stewed apples. We saw in harbour several vessels, one of which was the "OPHIR" homeward bound. We also saw several sand and mud huts (with people living in them) intermixed with many palm trees.

SATURDAY MARCH 23RD.

Lovely morning, beautiful breeze. We can see land on both sides, having seen no fish yet. While we were having our Dinner one day before we reached port Said, some of the passengers saw two whales spouting. We have tongue pie for every meal, from a boy about twelve and his mother who are incessantly talking so loud one can hardly hear oneself speak, so they have been named tongue pie on that account. The awning is put up on the focastle now so it is nice and shady there. Ice cream is made each day now but that is not in our class. The children fare very well as they get many little things of the tasty kind from the engineers cabin.

SUNDAY MARCH 24TH.

Still warm and fine with a nice breeze blowing. Communion in the first class drawing room at 7.30 a.m. ; next service 10.45a.m. in the dining room: in the afternoon childrens service in the second saloon. In the evening on the third class deck just a short service and a lot of singing and at 8.15p.m. a service in the second saloon for the short time. After that hymns will be sung on the third class deck until 10 p.m. thus bringing a very pleasant Sunday on board ship to a very pleasant end.

We turned into the cabin and had a sponge down and slept very well.

As it was very hot we disposed of the clothes but a sheet. Passengers are feeling the heat, but it is not so bad after all, as we sit about and eat oranges that we bought at Port Said (3 doz 1/-) and they are sweet and juicy.

MONDAY MARCH 25TH.

This morning the sun is very hot with a light breeze but the sea is like a pond. We passed a large rock this morning on our left and several ships yesterday.

E.L.J.'s NOTES.

About noon a splendid breeze blew up and cooled the air.

N.J.'s NOTES.

We omitted to mention that a large bird flew on board called the Hoopbe very pretty and with a long beak and a top-knot like a parrot, with pretty stripes on same also on the back. We just passed 12 large rocks, called the Apostles which are very barren. In the afternoon we noticed streaks of red in the water: several on board wondered if that was the reason it is named the RED SEA. Then we passed between two large rocks one with a lighthouse on it, and these are called Hell's Gates and we next pass into Arabian waters. We turned in about 8.30 p.m. and were able to sleep very well, as we are near a canvas ventilator.

TUESDAY MARCH 26TH.

We got up on deck just after 6.a.m. to notice the breeze is still blowing. Breakfast at 8.a.m. Yarmouth Bloaters, fat and good. The Second sitting for meals have their food on deck now. There are two prices for cutting hair on board vis: 2d, and one shilling but I have not patronised either yet. Several boats have passed either side, the sea looks lovely tossing up its foam as far as the eye can reach. Tea stewed Tripe and potted meat.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27TH.

This morning we are travelling eastward with a strong breeze and passing a very large island on our right. Probably this is SOKOTRA. Only a flying fish to be seen at present. The sunsets are magnificent surpassing any paintings we have seen.

THURSDAY MARCH 28TH.

The breeze is still fresh, we are blessed with many blessings. God is good all the time. Several of the children are not well, it being too hot for them, so the doctor is kept very busy. We heard today that it was not the "OPHIR" of this company that we passed on March 22nd. We pass one of the Cos boats every Saturday and tomorrow week we pass one "OPHIR" between Colombo and Western Australia. They only leave ports once a fortnight, but we meet one every Saturday, and on Mondays we pass the P & O's boats. There are two firemen on this boat that were on the "OMRAH", also three stewards and two passengers. The Butcher comes from Barking, his name is Balham. There are not many boats to be seen today. This afternoon there are a lot of sports such as, putting on the Donkey's tail, sack race, wheelbarrow races, threading the needle race, and in the evening on the second class deck a fancy dress ball was held. The first and second class being united for same. They started before 8.p.m. and closed before 12.p.m. The third class had a concert.

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29TH.

Breakfast: hot cross buns and ling fish very good. On the first class deck there is a childrens service at 11.a.m. and one for the adults at 12 noon and at 2.p.m. The young clergymans name is Percy. S. Wyram, very High Church. There is a swimming bath on board, the third class using it on Wednesday and Saturday. It is made of canvas and six or seven swim in it at a time. Salt water is used and it is filled and emptied each day. Flying fish are plentiful today.

SATURDAY MARCH 30TH.

Lovely morning with breeze blowing. During the night there was a heavy shower of rain, which made those sleeping on deck in the open take up their beds and move to shelter. Many porpoises and flying fish were to be seen today. At 2.10p.m. The Orient Cos "OROTAVA" passed us very near and homeward bound. We cheered heartily and they returned the compliment. I think she is bringing home a very large number of passengers. Fire Drill at 12 noon. All the crew scampered to their places. In the evening the band played and dancing was indulged in very freely. It was so hot that some called for the electric fans to be turned on. The flying fish look as they skim along the surface of the calm water and then bob under like so many mice running along a floor and then suddenly disappear into their holes.

SUNDAY MARCH 31ST.

This morning at 5.30 a.m. we passed on the left side of the ship an island known as "MINIKOI" which is five miles wide and twenty miles long and covered with coconuts. It is very hot today.

There was service in the first saloon at 10.30 a.m. but no sermon. In the afternoon Sunday School service with address and singing. Service was also held in the third saloon at 6.30 p.m. They had Samkeys Hymns which were sung with great force. and at 8.p.m. a service was held on the second deck in which the Captain and Mr. Wyram took part. The singing was good. There was nearly two hours of incessant lightening, magnificent, the like of which I have never seen before. I forget to say we had a very heavy downpour of rain about 5.a.m. and that it was very hot last night so that we could scarcely sleep and we are off eating meat now owing to the heat.

MONDAY APRIL 1ST.

We just sighted land, and hope to be in Colombo about dinner time. We were told a few days ago that we would be in Colombo at daybreak. I forgot to say that we passed another island on our left. The Indian Ocean is today like a calm pond. We anchored about 12 noon and went off by the first free tender. We saw the Governor's residence and went to the gardens adjoining. Bought some fruit and biscuits, sat down and enjoyed it opposite the post office, after which, we posted 12 letters and postcards. The P&O is a beautiful large and airy building. Next we went for a drive as far as the fruit market and bought seven pineapples for a shilling, 4 large mangoes (a delicious flatfruit) for threepence, 12 oranges for ninepence. Then we rode in a trap four of us pulled by an animal called a Brahmy Bullock, which the Brahmins regards as scared: this ride cost 3d each. We again had a nice rest in the gardens, and then went down the street into a nice arcade and had a lovely tea roll and cake, which refreshed us very much and a cost of 8d each, the place kept cool by electric fans. Next we went into a nice shop of which there were many and bought some silk and a few little curios after which we took a rickshaw (3d each) down to the Pier. A very heavy storm came on before we left the pier but we reached the boat at 7.p.m. to find it in a dirty black state, as they had been coaling. Soon the decks were washed and we steamed off about 11.p.m. but there were many Natives selling bananas, coconuts pineapples, 1d each and oranges at 14 for sixpence, cigars etc.

TUESDAY APRIL 2ND.

After sleeping well we went up on deck about 7.a.m. to find no land visible. After 9.am. a fishing boat with sails lowered was sighted and we stopped to see; they rowed to our ship and the gangway was lowered and one old man came up with his chart and said they (five of them were in the boat) had missed their way owing to the wind. He wanted to know where Karachi, on the Indian Coast was. The chief Officer said we passed it about 5 o'clock this morning. As they had no water and there was a cask in the boat this was filled with water., and they were given sugar, tea, biscuits, bread etc.

We steamed off and they rowed back to their boat. It was fortunate that they were in our course because these steamers scarcely ever meet a vessel here. At Colombo, we received two letters, one from Will and one from Mr. Johnson, sending us a hearty invitation. Expected a letter from Manchester but there was none, as usual there is a lovely breeze today, and we expect to cross the line in two days time.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3RD.

Still very warm; beautiful sunrise: sea like glass reflecting the sky in it. Last night we watched the sunset, which was beyond description.

THURSDAY APRIL 4TH.

Crossed the line this morning. The Policeman woke us at 5.a.m. to see the sunrise and the variations of colours and changes in the sky, it was marvellous. Baggage was brought up today for the last time before reaching Freemantle. The Board reads Lat 00.13 N Long 84.50 E 337 mile in 24 hours. A very good concert was held in the first class deck which was patronised by the first and second class passengers. Two professionals took part and the Butchers assistant gave an item. He is a ventriloquist. Most of the songs were comic and all the performers were gentlemen.

FRIDAY APRIL 5TH.

Wind very strong this morning making the waves look lovely., and although we are well, many people are sick. Saw a number of porpoises today and the spray is coming over the boat and the weather is colder. Fish for breakfast and dinner, We had a taste of sweet baked potatoes brought on at Colombo . When raw they taste like coconut. Lat 8.53 S Long 92.19 E run of 351 miles for 24 hours.

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH.

We slept well last night and this morning although there is a breeze blowing the sea is calmer. Our pineapples wont keep for a short time. They gave us a taste of lovely oranges at Colombo and then gave us sour ones which seem to be half oranges and half lemons. We also took some sweet potatoes in and they taste like coconuts raw and are very nice when baked. There was a third class passenger in a two-berth cabin with his wife who was sleeping in the top berth and he was dreaming towards morning that a brown dog rushed out and he kicked at it, but to his surprise it woke his wife, and him also as he hurt his toe against the iron rail and he had to bind his foot up, and he does not want to kick any more brown dogs, or dream about them. The band played tonight on the second and there was a concert. They are collecting for the sports to be held on Monday, there is to be one prize for each sport. I will now explain about the bells ringing :- 12 o clock 8 bells, : 12.30 1 bell: 1 o clock 2 bells: 1.30 3 bells: 2 o clock 4 bells; 2.30 5 bells; 3 oclock 6 bells; 3.30 7 bells; 3.45 one bell rings to warn the men that the next watch starts at 4 o clock, 8 bells and so they go on day and night each four hours as above explained.

/.

SUNDAY APRIL 8TH.

Strong breeze blowing, beautiful fresh morning, few sick service in the first saloon at 10.45, only a few present, Sunday school in second class saloon 2.30p.m. On the third deck 6.30 to 7.30 singing with an address by a missionary from India, until 8.p.m. when the supper bell rang. At 8.15 there was service in the second class saloon conducted by a Church of England Preacher.

MONDAY APRIL 8TH.

Had a good nights rest, as the weather is nicely cool, I bought a box containing birds and butterflies, Indian collection, very nicely got up in a glass case. I will give a list of the ship's company; 12 Engineers; 12 greasers; 24 firemen; 18 trimmers; 60 crew; 4 boys; 95 stewards; 401 Passengers; 35 fires, not counting those in the galleys, cooking food for the passengers and crew. A third class passenger caught a butterfly on board the ship flying about. I have just written three letters, which we shall post at Freemantle on Thursday.

TUESDAY APRIL 9TH.

Had another good nights rest, and each day is getting cooler. We are both well and dried ur washing yesterday, will be washing once more before leaving. All the passengers seem to be in good condition and well. There are three concerts on board today, so I suppose we shall have a lively time. All awnings are taken down and also the ventilators that admit of the air going down below in the tropics. We saw a few hundred porpoises this morning. Lat 21.08; S. Long 103.35 E. Coal consumed every 24 hours is 100 tons. This means that SOME coal is put on the fires.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH.

There is talk that 50 go off at Freemantle. Warm last night but a good headway is maintained and a good breeze is blowing. Now we are in Lat 29.25 S and ** 112.25 E run of 359 miles which leaves us 235 miles from Freemantle to which we hope to get early tomorrow. Please god if all goes well .. We have so much to be thankful for. Farewell to R.M.S. "ORTONA" Programme of third class concert start 1d. 7.p.m. sharp.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Selection THE BOHEMIAN GIRL | R.W. FLYNN |
| 2. HOWS THAT Song | D. BROWN |
| 3. ALL WALKED OUT AGAIN Song | F.W.SPENCER |

In fact there were 15 items on the programme.

THURSDAY APRIL 11TH.

Reached Freemantle 6.a.m. Fine and we had a lovely day. Mr & Mrs Johnson and three children (Edna, Keith & Fraser) met us at Freemantle with Mrs Prior, Mrs & Miss Campbell, and Will and we journeyed by "ZEPHYR" which

/.

came down from Perth to meet the mailboat "ORTONA" . Up the River Swan to Perth which was far better and more appreciated than the train journey would have been. We arrived an hour ahead of the mail contract time. i.e. to Freemantle.

The R.M.S. "ORTONA" left Gravesend at 1 p.m. on March 8th and after a fair passage down the channel arrived at Plymouth at 1.p.m. the following day, and after embarking passengers proceeded at 5.p.m.; fine weather was experienced across the Bay of Biscay and Gibraltar was reached at 6.a.m. March 13th . Sailing at 11.a.m. she arrived at Marseilles 1.p.m. March 15th where she received 208 bags of mail and a number of passengers departing at 5.30 p.m. Entered the Bay of Naples 6.a.m. March 17th and took on board 4,047 bags of mail for Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand and sailed at 1.15 a.m. the following day, arriving at Port Said 8a.m. March 21st where she landed a number of passengers en route for Cairo. After coaling she entered the Canal at 6.30 p.m. but had a rather protracted passage through and did not reach Suez until 9.35 a.,m. March 22nd. Proceeding again at 10.15a.m. she passed by Perim 11.p.m. March 25th, and Cape Guardful at 10.a.m. March 27th. Experienced moderate N.E Monsoon and strong adverse currents arriving at Colombo April 1st. Received a quantity of tea for Australia and New Zealand, and embarked a number of passengers, proceeding at 11.p.m. same day. On April 2nd in Lat 4.45 N & Long 81.00 E. Observed a dhow showing distress signals, and stopping found she was the dhow "HARRIPAOSA" 25 days out from Nicobar to Karachi . Supplied her with water and provisions and proceeded. The S.E.Trades were met with in Lat 4.00 S. and were of a moderate fresh character. The ORTONA sailed shortly after 1 o' clock yesterday afternoon with local mails and passengers whose names were published yesterday.

MONDAY APRIL 15TH.

We went from Perth to Pickering Brook Station, Upper Darling Ranges, up the zig-zag railway and Mr. Johnson and I went to fruit garden belonging to Mr. Owen, where we saw Permison fruit, Loquats, Oranges, Maize Lemons, Pears, Fig Trees and Sugar Cane but no Lercerne which could grow to great profit Peaches, Apricots, Nectarines, Almons, No Mango which grows in Queensland and Colombo to Great Profit. I have been told they bear fruit in three years and they are valuable in hot weather for shade for man and beast, and the fruit is very rich. I think Western Australia is a very pretty country taken as a whole, and the state should be very important before long. The native bush and shrubs give it a cheerful appearance as there is much sand around Perth. In the country both sides of the line, Gum, Jarrah, and many other native trees make a pretty sight to the eye for many miles. Macrocarpa Hedges would do well as breakwinds and would give newly planted homesteads a settled look, also every farmer should try lucerne for the benefit of all animals, fowls, etc. and his pocket.

/....

A good service of trams in Perth. Governor of Western Australia is Sir Frederick Bedford.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17TH.

Left Perth, train from Freemantle 8ft above sea level, to Perth 12 miles from Freemantle and 38ft above sea level 22m Midland Junction 44ft 24m, Bellvue 57ft; 26m Swan View 268ft; 31 m from Parkerville 677 ft; 37m LiOn Mill 883ft; 41 m Chidlows Well 980 ft; 48m Woorooloo 724ft; 52m Warribee 798ft; 67m Karrijine 922 ft; 59m Bakers Hill 959 ft; 63 m Clackline 756ft; 67m Mokine 613ft; 72 m Spencers Brook 520ft; 73m Spring Hill ; 76m Burlong 495ft; 78m Northam 490ft; Arrived 19.40 a.m.

THURSDAY APRIL 18TH.

Eastern Railway Burges Siding 548ft above sea level 85m; Mackeys Crossing 577ft; At this station were two men a two women three children aboriginals, who wanted to get in the train for free ride to York., but the Stationmaster dare not take them without an order from the Government. Arrived York 90 m York 579ft above sea level at 10.17 a .m. Mr. E.Roberts Yatheroo sold a bullock, 5 years old weighing 256 stone. Mr. Patterson, Pinjarrah , on the way to the caves has 40 acres Fig Trees growing for feeding pigs and calves . 96m Hicks Siding 611ft; 101 m Gilgering 607ft; 104 m Dale Bridge 639 ft; 108m Edwards Crossing 647ft; 110m Beverley 649ft.

FRIDAY APRIL 19TH.

11.27 a.m. 118m Mt. Kokeby 667ft; 126m Youraling ; 130m Brookton 736ft; 136m Westbrook 865ft; 142m Pingelly 975 ft; 153m Popanyinning 962ft; 159m Yoranning; 165m Cuballing 1109ft; 174m Marrogin 1114ft; arrived.

FRIDAY APRIL 19TH.

I then took the mail cart to the Narrogin experimental farm , my friend Joe Bronson being sick could not go, so I was on my own. I had but three hours, but what I saw I term a failure in this way. The breeding pigs were not to my mind up to much. I saw some young Berkshire Boars very good. One sow I was told had but one pig and that ought never to be. I saw some silage that was partly rotten through want of care exercised in the making. I was told that they were buying Lucerne chaff from the other States at £10 per ton and that ought not to be. They should grow it themselves. There were egg laying competitions on and I am told it has proved very successful, but daylight was gone, so I made tracks on the road for my hotel. Not having been there before and being by myself, I had to go about 5 miles down the dark and lonely road. I would very much liked to have seen some fowls, vines and trees, which I believe are a great success. Tobacco growing has been a great failure. It was planted in too dry a spot to be a success. What surprised me was the absence of any lucerne , mangolds, swedes, turnips and kale.

/...

There was an excellent soak of water, sufficient to try all these with great success in my opinion. Suffolk punch horses seemed very poor I must say I was disappointed in what I saw and also what I could not see. The soil seemed good. There are about 40 young men principally from England here. They pay £2.10.0. per annum, and work on the farm and I cant see that they are learning very much. I saw them drilling a crop in for early green food, composed of barley, oats, and wheat with phospheric manure about 50 acres to the field. There has been no rain for 4 to 5 months worth speaking of. I am told wherever the wood Jam Wood grows well the land is good. Theye are not trees with large bodies being about 15ft high bushy tops. The wood when cut smells like raspberry Jam and I suppose that is why it is known as Jam Wood. The soil was good wherever this tree was seen growing by the different orchards. A remarkable feat is that Jam wood hedges put down 50 years ago are still good today, as white ants will not eat them, nor will they rot with water. They are about as thick as a mans leg. White ants will eat almost any wood except Jarrah, Jam Wood and about two others of which I forget the names just now. Sandalwood is another very valuable wood in Western Australia. A large trade in this commodity has been and is still done with China in the last twenty years, as it is used in connection with Chinese Religious ceremonies in the temples known as Goss Houses, also for fancy wood boxes. Many farms can be bought for 25/- to £3/-/- per acre, partly cleared for wheat growing, the farmers get about 15 bushels to the acre, and the price paid for large lots of this being about 2/6d a bushel, in ordinary seasons. What about the English farmer growing wheat, I never saw a mangold, swede, turnip, kale or lucerne in any of the fields, but they should all be grown in this hot country by irrigation or otherwise, and would be profitable for man and beast. A£150000 is paid yearly by the estate for "the gentelman pays the rent" in paddys land called Grunter or Pig. I am told still more than that is paid away for eggs. These two industries would be very profitable in a land like Western Australia., which possesses nearly one million sqause miles, three quarters of this being in the north west cannot count there being about three thousand white people there.

SATURDAY APRIL 11TH.

Left Narrogin after a good look around the country from the Wednesday til Saturday, at 2.15 p.m. for Perth. Bro, Johnson, manager for Albany Bell of Perth pioneered the way, and we lost no time but when the daylight was gone travelled from placeto place. He is a fine man for a trip being up to date in all things. We saw Bro.Pond Northam a friend of Bro. Johnson's and he took us out for many miles drive before lunch. We arrived back for lunch and had a good time of what his wife had provided, rested ourselves and horse, which was a good one and then went for a few more hours drive, for which we felt very thankful to Bro Prond who made our visit to Northam very interesting.

/...

This proves what a good friend is worth who trusts in God and Jesus Christ, Our Saviour. Northam and the surroundings is a great wheat growing country,. When returning home from our drive with Bro Pond we saw in a field near the road, a brick monument to the memory of John Norrell, Mr Jones and Mr Kiddy , killed by blacks. Mr. John Norrell was the pioneer of Northam I am told. Next we saw a large cemetery, divided into three parts. We saw a Mr.Edmonds who came from Gawler, South Australia, and had dinner at his place, then rode in his trap to an auction at a farmers place who was 83 years old and selling up.

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH.

Mr.Edmonds gave us some Sandalwood Seed, quite round about the size of a large marble and solid. He also showed us how they grow just alongside others so that they get the shade of their neighbours, or they would perish in the open. Mr.Edmonds has just sold a 50 acre farm at £5.0.0. per acre and was on about another place about 25 acres, plenty of water, a cow, two children and an industrious wife. They make their own butter, and grow their own eggs, fruit and vegetables. He has been over from Gawler for seven years. I was told there is up in the North West a bush or a plant called milk bush which serves the cattle for drink and they get fat on it. Some Americans have been over to get a large quantity of it for their own country, because of its wonderful qualities. Mallett bark for tanning is @ £4.0.0. per ton. We spent a week out at Bro.Priors place at Midland Junction about 10 miles from Perth, and he drove us out to some gardens.

THURSDAY MAY 1ST , 1907.

Visiting Bro.BerrysGarden. Bro.Prior has two sons Fred & Percy. We were made very welcome, in fact, we did as we liked most of the time. I painted several things. We have to go back to Bro.Johnsons at Perth as we go by the mail steamer next Thursday 9th May per R.M.S. "ORUBE" I drove Mrs.Prior, Mrs Jacob and myself to a large orange grove owned by Mr. Moore of Western Australia, full-bearing, and also saw Persimmons, Plums and Pomiloesa tree which has fruit colour of lemons but four times the size, bitter, yet sweet. We also saw Olive trees, the largest I have ever seen, quite a grove of them. A funny thing about the oranges is that they look ripe with so much sun, but when the rain comes they turn green again, and grow much larger. There were lemon tree also,. One melon they gave us grown without watering weighed 34 lbs, and we saw about 3/4 acre of muscatel grapes, the yield which was about 5 tons but the grape crop varies from two to twelve tons according to variety. Close by Midland Junction we saw the famous Houghton Vineyards & wine cellars owned by C.W. Ferguson. I was in their cellars and saw a great number of casks of 1000 galls and one of 1500 galls. They are the best wine makers in Western Australia at present and take all the prizes. I tested some of their wines, Frontene, Hydred Port, and Claret which were all very good.

/.....

We left Midland Junction on the 2nd May, arrived in Perth about 12 noon called at Mclean Bros & Rigg for Will, my son, Then went to Albany Bell's shop for lunch. Had a good look round the city and then went to Mrs. Johnson for tea.

FRIDAY MAY 3RD

Went with Mrs Bell for a drive to Pineapple, a very nice piece of land, Mr. Bell has recently bought 15 acres, where they intend to build a future home. The ground cost £100.0.0. an acre. We went to Mr. Bells for tea.

SATURDAY MAY 4TH.

In the morning went with Will and Mrs. J to Woodlupine to look at some land but did not buy, returned to Perth for lunch. After we met Mr & Mrs Johnson and children at 2 p.m. near the wharf; took a ferry steamer and crossed the river and went to the zoo. which is a very good collection for such a young country. We went home to tea and in the evening went into the city, and the streets were thronged with people, usual thing on a Saturday night.

SUNDAY MAY 5TH.

Went to North Perth Church in the morning and after dinner Mr. Johnson Keith Johnson, Mrs. Jacob & I went to Queens Gardens which has been made out of a pughole, but it is now beautifully laid out with flowers, and shrubs. Then we took the car to Kings Park which has a drive seven miles long in it. The highest portion Mt. Eliza has a view overlooking the city and Swan River and surroundings. Then we went to Mrs. Bennets, where Will lives, and which is very comfortable. At night we went to Lake Street Chapel.

MONDAY MAY 8TH.

In town having a good look round, and Tuesday had a good time on a bike.

WEDNESDAY MAY 8TH.

In the evening Mrs. Johnson invited several friends for tea and the evening was spent pleasantly in singing etc.

THURSDAY MAY 9TH.

Mrs. Prior came to dinner then we all went into Perth but returned home to tea leaving "Lochiel" about 8.p.m. to catch the "Zephyr" which left Perth at 9.p.m. for R.M.S. "ORUBA" lying at Freemantle wharf; Mrs & Mrs Webb were on board waiting to see us. We turned into bed about midnight and soon after the vessel steamed off.

/.....

FRIDAY MAY 10TH.

A beautiful morning, calm, and we both got up to breakfast. This is a dirty old boat and the food is served up very rough, but our cabin is everything we could wish for., large , light and airy being fitted up with electric light.

SATURDAY MAY 11TH,

A lovely fresh morning, with a dreaded bight as calm as a pond. About noon yesterday we passed the Leuowin. The people are rough.

SUNDAY MAY 12TH.

Weather so far has been good and a splendid passage. Service in the saloon at 10.45 a.m. and in the afternoon at 3.p.m. on the third class deck conducted by the two missionaries who have spent a month in Perth and who are on their way to South Australia.

MONDAY MAY 13TH

Nice breeze this morning but sea very calm. We expect to be in late this evening, the run for the twenty four hours being 347 miles. We have just sighted Kangaroo Island at 1 p.m. All going well we shall be in tonight. Dropped anchor at 10.45 p.m. in Larg's Bay and a launch came alongside bringing passengers for the "ORUBA" and to take mail and passengers off to the shore. Left the "ORUBA" soon after 1.a.m. and arrived in Adelaide about 2.a.m. and went to the Hotel near the station. We went to bed and got up next morning about 7a.m. and paid 6 shillings for 4 hours rest. We then went by train to Kilkenny and then went to Mr.Edson's Senr. Williams Road, York and found him in bed. Miss Edson met us at the door, all well.

TUESDAY MAY 4TH.

Received a postcard from Mr.Colebatch expecting us to go and stay with him but we had already arranged to stay at Mr.Edson's so went to town and saw him and made arrangements for him to drive up to York and take us over to his place at Millar Street, North Unley. Wednesday & Thursday we spent calling on old friends, and Friday morning our missing box turned up. In the afternoon Colebatch came down with his horses and trap and took us out to North Unley where we spent a very pleasant time. Monday started a month's holiday for him so so on Tuesday we went up into the country to his son's farm at Watson Park Milang. I may state he is a widower, has a five roomed house and batches for himself, so he left us in the house with full charge, to do as we liked.

/.....