
HUNTRESS DELAYED AT SINGAPORE

TO BE REPLACED?

OLDEST OF UNION'S THREE VESSELS

The Huntress, one of the South African Government's three cargo vessels, put into Singapore on April 17, where she will be put in dry dock for complete examination. The vessel's cargo of rice has been offloaded to facilitate the inspection. It is probable that extensive repairs will be necessary.

Since the adoption of steel sleepers and wooden sleepers made from local timbers the three Government vessels have considerably altered their trade. They were used at first almost exclusively to bring Australian sleepers to South African ports. They are now engaged on tramp work in competition with the privately owned steamers. A short while ago all of the three vessels, the Huntress, the Erica and the Aloe, were in Durban together, where they loaded cargoes of Natal coal for the East.

The Huntress is the oldest of the fleet, and it is understood that steps are being taken to dispose of her and obtain another craft in her place, and that this is part of the work that Captain Stephens, the Nautical Adviser to the Government, will carry out on his present visit to England. Captain Stephens, when interviewed by a representative of "The Natal Mercury" prior to his departure, declined to state the nature of his business overseas.
