

consulting with Master, decided to investigate more closely. However, although the Niimara was opened flat out, we did not get near enough to read ship's name. Vessel was obviously British, however, and probably bound for Samoa or N.Z. We gave up chase after about 40 minutes - probably to the profound relief of the strange vessel who, in spite of our blue ensign, must have had grave doubts as to our good intentions. Compared description with Cummins, who sent it ashore for transmission by Cookson.

Returned Hull to pick up timber & sailed in afternoon.

SUNDAY, 26TH. JANUARY

No weather information.

Arrived Gardner just before lunch. Cargo unloaded, nails prepared & everything put under cover before Niimara sailed again at about 4:30 p.m. for Tarawa.

All well ashore.

MONDAY, 27TH. JANUARY

Total rainfall since we departed on Niimara has been .44 inches, probably on two days. Wind veered to S.S.E and stayed there. Force never more than 2.

All hands carrying cargo a.m. & placing in store. Work finished at 11 a.m. & remainder of day declared a holiday.