

GITTIN' UNDERWAY

In th' early dawn ere th' doors unlock,
Then it's crick, crick, crick, an' it's
 crock, crock, crock
An' it's ho an' hi fer th' blocks ter talk
In th' early dawn e'er th' doors unlock.

Then it's ho na' hi fer th' dreams ter die,
Fer th' crews an' th' bunks ter say good-by,
Fer th' yawn an gape, fer th' stretch an' sigh,
In th' early dawn ere th' cocks crow high

Then it's ho fer doublin' th' Woolsey smocks,
An' twicein' th' toes in th' home-knit socks,
An cuddlin' th' ears up under th' locks,
An' haulin' down tighter th' souwes' chocks.

Then it's ho fer housin' th' rubber boots,
An' firmin' th' heart in th' stiff oil suits,
W'ile the cuddies blaxe, an' th' coffee goots,
An' th' windlass creaks, an' th' horn it hoots.

Then it's ho fer grubbin' an' hi fer drink,
Then shadder th' gangway an' meet th' brink
Ter shape out th' course an ter careful think
In th' early dawn w'ile th' stars still blink.

"Block ter talk": the hoisting of the sails.

"Woolsey smocks": flannel shirts.

"Souwes' chocks": the flannel-line lappets that are attached to the sou'westers.

"Housin' th' rubber boots": pulling them on.

"Cuddies": forecandle.

"Windlass": it is located forward the foremast, and is used in weighing up the anchor.

"Horn": the hand foghorn.

"Shape out th' course": making the ground by chart and compass.

"Sou'wester": a broad-brimmed oil-cloth hat with ear-lappets lined with flannel.

Clarence Manning Falt, *Wharf and Fleet*, 1902, Gittin' Underway, p. 37-38