

The Big Battleship "Illinois"

Very Superior Description of the Equipment and Appearance of War Vessel.

This is the Ship of Which a Utah Boy Has Just Been Made Commander.

On Sunday, July 23, a party of Westerners visited the Battleship "Illinois" at the Charleston Yards and while there the honors were done by the then Lieutenant Commander, Henry A. Pearson, a product of Draper, Utah, who a few days ago was made Commander of the vessel. The following is a very excellent description of what was seen on that vessel. The Republican is indebted to Dr. H. K. Merrill for the copy, which reads:

"It is hard to imagine a more interesting way to spend an afternoon than in going over one of the ships of the United States Navy. These enormous battleships are 450 feet in length and have eight decks. They carry 750 men and 35 officers. The ships draw 27 feet of water.

"One is immediately struck by the whiteness of the decks. Everything shines in the sunlight and every bit of metal is polished until it sparkles. The ships are built entirely of steel and painted white. The decks are three inches thick and the walls are from six to eight inches thick. We were told that the ship was undergoing a spring house-cleaning, but the necessity for it was certainly not apparent to an outsider. However, it was being carried on in proportions that would stagger the average housekeeper, as from three to four hundred men from the Navy Yard were being employed.

The Turrets.

"There is a tall turret at each end of a battleship and from each of these protrude the largest guns the ships carry. Two of them are in each turret. They weigh sixty-five tons each and take an eleven hundred and fifty pound shell. The turrets are built of steel a foot thick. This is to enable them to withstand the shock of being struck by shells from an enemy's guns. Very little impression can be made on steel plate of this thickness, as, of course, it is specially tested for this before it leaves the manufacturers. These guns are called thirteen inch guns. They can be raised and lowered at will and will also revolve. This is done by means of electricity. Fifty-two men are required to man these two large guns. The guns at the side of the ship are six inch guns and they take a much longer cartridge case than the thirteen inch guns, but the case is smaller round. On the upper deck are twelve still smaller guns, called six pounders. They look like toys in comparison with the big fellows. All are beautifully polished and make us wish that the so-called Gun Metal articles we buy in the stores resembled them in the least.

Guns and Ammunition.

"They also use the Magazine Rapid Firing guns. These take five cartridges in the barrel and five more in the magazine. As fast as the cartridges are fired, they are thrown out automatically and their places are taken by those from the magazine. Thus, a man is enabled to fire a good many shots without taking even the fraction of the time required to slip cartridges from his belt into the magazine. Colt's revolvers are also used on board.

"We were fortunate enough to have the unusual honor of being allowed to go down into the magazine, where the ammunition is stored. Here are many small steel rooms with heavily barreled

doors, some for bullets and some for powder. The powder is kept in bags of fifty pounds each, four bags to a case, and the steel cases are tightly fastened with nuts and bolts. Four bags of powder are required for one charge for the big thirteen inch guns. By the way, it would seem much more appropriate to an unenlightened observer to call these guns thirteen yard guns, so far as size goes. All the powder used is smokeless and we saw some small sticks of it that looked like transparent yellow cough candy. The powder smells overpoweringly of ether. Bags of wood of the same size as the powder bags are used in practice firing. In another small room near by are kept rows of bullets for the thirteen inch guns. These are immense things, fully three feet long, and fit into the large cases holding the two hundred pounds of powder. There were two hundred and forty of these on board. Down here are also derricks and shafts for raising the ammunition to the men who are loading the guns. These are sent up by a system of chains and cogs. Those for the thirteen inch guns are in the center at the bottom of the turret and those for the smaller guns are along the sides of the ship. The bullets that are called small and are used in the six inch guns weigh one hundred pounds each. At this time there were twenty-four hundred of these on board. All of these bullets explode like torpedoes when they strike after having been fired.

Electric Potato Parer.

"The main engine of the ship has a capacity of ten thousand horse power. All the electricity is, of course, made on the ship, and the Dynamo room is really beautiful and interesting. It is lighted by pale green lights. Three hundred and seventy-five horse power is generated. This electricity is used for a variety of purposes besides lighting; for instance, all the guns are worked by electricity and so is the steering mechanism. Even the potatoes for the men's dinner are pared by electricity. One of these machines will pare a bushel of potatoes in a minute, and this is none too quick, to judge by the size of the bins of potatoes which we saw portioned out for the next day's dinner. The bins were high and fully six feet square. There were other bins of like size filled with other vegetables. The icecream is frozen by electrical power.

"They make their own ice on board. It is made by the compressed air system instead of the ammonia. We went through the kitchen. Its walls were of heavy wire netting, so as to be as airy as possible. There was a very long range there, such as is used in a hotel. The floor was of tessellated marble and, like everything else about the ship, delightfully clean and white. For the men's meals, tables are let down from the ceiling. Every inch of space has to be used to advantage on a warship. They are now fitting up one room as a laundry.

"Everywhere on the ship, even way down below the water and around the engines, the air is noticeably fresh and clear. This is accomplished by means of a blower, which sends fresh air to every part of the ship.

Wonderful Instruments.

"We were shown the small instruments that are so important

on board of a ship. The Sextant is used to determine the angular distance between objects, and at noon, a ship at sea gets her latitude by taking the sun's latitude with it. The Stadometer, like the Sextant, has a scale of miles and a pointer, and a system of concave mirrors by whose reflections the ship's distance from an object can be determined. The Chronometer is also of great importance, as it gives the correct time. When a ship is in port, this is frequently compared with the Observatory time at Washington. We saw the large charts by which a ship steers her course. Every lighthouse and every small buoy is marked on these and the depth of the water at a distance of every few feet is also given.

"On deck we saw the steering compasses, for there were several of them quite near each other. Near these was a glass covered table to hold the chart. Here were also the searchlights, which throw such tremendous rays of light so far over the ocean. The ship's bell was interesting to see. It was inscribed "Illinois 1893," and was about two feet across.

"High over the deck was a big crane for picking up and lowering the small boats. The large anchors weigh fourteen thousand pounds each. They drop to the very bottom of the sea and catch in the mud and sand, and never drag unless in an exceptionally severe storm and heavy sea.

"We went up on the Bridge, that name which is so suggestive to landmen of admirals and great victories, and felt highly honored at being permitted to stand there. There are two small places still higher than this, where a man can go to direct the firing of the big guns during action. From here he can tell if the shots are going too high.

"An interesting trophy exhibited was a large gold cup which had been put up as a prize by a British Admiral for racing. These races have been rowed several times, but the men from the "Illinois" won each time.

Much Silver.

"The silver service used by the officers was presented to them by the State of Illinois, as is customary when a battleship is named for a state or city. This is solid silver and exceptionally beautiful and heavy. There are ever so many pieces, including beautiful candelabra and punch bowls. As we were a party from Idaho, we immediately thought of the fact that the new Battleship "Idaho" has just been launched, and as Idaho is a great silver producing state, we all agreed that we were sure this ship will receive one of the most beautiful and valuable sets ever presented and also that it will be specially made from native silver.

"The captain's quarters on a battleship are surprisingly spacious and beautiful. He has a reception room the size of a large hotel parlor, several small reception rooms, private offices, a library, a smoking room and so on. All are beautifully furnished, equalling in every respect the most expensive hotels in the country.

"After an hour's hustling about, scrambling up and down ladders, during which time we felt we had heard more information than we could ever absorb we heard the following astonishing statement, "It is a pity you had so little time and have seen so little of the ship!" One thing was certain, we had seen more of the ship than we could have learned to find our way about in a week's time."

EXCURSION NORTH AUGUST 10TH.

The usual low rates to Idaho points with long limits. See any O. S. L. agent for further particulars, or write D. E. Burley, G. P. A., O. S. L., Salt Lake

Abe Majors.

Continued from Page 1.

the prison, Majors entered Waddell's open cell and began a murderous assault upon him. The guards interfered.

Majors came into notice in 1889 by committing a robbery at Ogden. Captain Brown of the Junction City police force gained a clew of his whereabouts and, with an armed force, took up the chase. The chase led into Boxelder county and "Abe's" brother was shot in it. A few minutes after Majors's brother was killed "Abe" shot and killed Captain Brown. Majors was captured, tried and given a death sentence. He got a second trial through his mother and was given a life sentence.

Majors recently led an attempt at escape that failed. He was knocked from the prison wall while trying to get over. His mother, an aged and broken-hearted woman, has been trying to get her son pardoned, but she is not likely to have her desire fulfilled on account of his conduct.

Waddell is serving a twenty-year sentence for burglary, committed at Ogden about six years ago. His chance to recover was said to be favorable late Tuesday night.

Has Terrible Record.

Second to Harry Tracey, Majors is considered the most desperate criminal the Utah State prison ever held. For the killing of Captain Brown he was tried twice at Logan. The first time he was sentenced to death and chose shooting. In the meantime his mother came to Logan from her home in California and through pleadings for her boy, obtained for him a second trial, arousing public sympathy. This time he was found guilty but the jury recommended mercy. Judge Hart, before whom the first trial was held, sentenced Majors to the State prison for life.

Pending Major's removal to the State prison here he made an attempt to escape from the Cache county jail at Logan by sawing the bars of his cell away, and was nearly successful. When discovered Majors had almost sawed a hole large enough to pass through to liberty. The saws were passed to him from the outside by some of his many friends.

October 9, 1903, Majors, with Edward Mullen, a 15 year old prisoner; Nicholas Haworth, who is serving a life sentence for killing a man at Dayton; James Lynch, who killed a gambler in the Sheep Ranch joint on Commercial street; Frank Connors, serving a grand larceny sentence; Frank Dayton and Waddell made a daring attempt to escape from the State prison, but failed. They were seen as they were scaling the walls and Dayton was killed and Mullin, Waddell and Lynch were wounded. Two guards, Wilkinson and Jacobs, were wounded, the former being shot through his leg and the latter through his arm. Wilkinson was confined to the hospital five months and the Legislature voted him \$3,000 for his good work in stopping the prisoners. Altogether, the attempted escape cost the State of Utah \$9,000.

How Majors got the knife with which he assaulted Waddell is a mystery to the prison authorities, but it probably was passed to him by another prisoner. Following his becoming rather a model prisoner, it also is likely that the vigilance over him may have relaxed.

PACIFIC ISLANDERS EXCURSION TO LAGOON

August 14th. Round trip from Logan. Adults, \$2.50; children \$1.30. Returning train leaves Farmington 4:24 p. m., August 14th, or regular trains of the 15th may be used. Proportionately low rates from other stations. See agents for further par-

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