

and able representatives of the various organizations presented the boat with some beautiful and useful presents, as an acknowledgment of the honor conferred by the secretary of the navy in naming the great ship the "Texas." The silver service presented to the battleship Texas, is composed of five handsomely engraved pieces, all bearing mementos of early Texan history. Engraved on the large server is the Alamo, the ruins of a building which stands in the city of San Antonio, and in which Davy Crockett and other heroes were killed in defense of American citizens on what was then Mexican soil. On the large platter, is handsomely engraved the capitol building. One of the pieces is a candlestick with five tops and the others are in keeping with the above named.

A beautiful Texas flag for the mast head was given by the women of Texas. A smaller silver service was presented by the historical library of the state, as also life-sized portraits of Austin and Houston, two of Texas's pioneers and ablest defenders, for whom are named the capital and the second city in Texas.

Captain Glass responded to the various speeches, and in the course of his remarks said that representing the honorable secretary of the navy he accepted these beautiful gifts from the citizens of Texas to the first battleship commissioned in our navy. The history of the ship itself since she was put in commission for service in August, 1895, is most interesting, and at times has been exciting. The Texas was the first battleship built in this country; and while some mistakes occurred, all have been entirely corrected and she is today one of the soundest, most seaworthy and efficient war vessels under our flag, or any other in the world. She has arisen above all her mishaps, which would have ruined many other ships, resulting in many improvements each time. She possesses in a marked degree, the captain continued, the essential qualities in marine battle ships of steadiness of maneuvering and high speed. She can make more than nineteen knots an hour. In the trip from New York to Galveston she averaged 12½ knots the entire distance, and at the end of her journey she was in excellent condition for fighting. The powerful battery of the Texas and great armament of heavy armor she carries makes her a formidable opponent for any ship now afloat.

Elder Dalley accompanied me, and as soon as we set foot on deck took up a careful investigation of all interesting points. She plows about 13 feet of water, and stands about twice as high; is about 70 feet wide and over 300 feet long. The greatest gun is about 32 feet long, with 12-inch bore, carries a shot 12 miles to do damage, weighs 46 tons, takes 500 pounds of powder to charge it, at a cost of \$1,000 each shot. A smaller sized gun carries six miles, the loaded shell weighing 150 pounds. Ranging from these longer guns may be seen all sizes to some up in the mast not much longer than a rifle in length but having a bore of at least one inch. These guns are stationed all over the boat, from the masthead to the second deck. The large one revolves on the upper deck and can be adjusted to any

range, is covered with a revolving house of steel six inches thick—in fact, all the ship is steel except the captain's cabin, and that looks as though it was intended to be swept away sometime. The most remarkable weapon of all is the torpedo gun, which being charged with compressed air, aided with a few ounces of powder, tosses the dangerous torpedo into the water. The torpedo is about the shape of a large fish, is about three feet in diameter, fully fourteen feet long, head rounding like that of the nose of a fish, while the tail tapers off to a little wheel which, when in operation, propels the torpedo in a similar manner to that of the screw moving a boat. The center division is filled with compressed air so it will not sink, the front division is charged with the most powerful explosives. The gun is stationed at the bow of the ship, where an iron door opens out just above the surface of the water. When discharged this dangerous weapon of war darts to the water, goes under and travels in a horizontal line about six feet below the surface. It will travel this way about 600 yards aiming at the under side of a ship, the moment it strikes a resisting object it explodes, when it tears everything before it. The mariner explained how to avoid having the enemy pick these shells up and use them again. They have an arrangement whereby they take in a little water so that they sink. During the time of practice they are allowed to float by aid of the compressed air and are picked up again, every time a torpedo is fired and lost, it costs \$2,500 to the government.

There are two little engines for generating electricity, which not only lights up the big battle ship but supply four large search lights on deck, with a strength of searching fully five miles. Four boilers of 150 horse power each furnish steam, and two large upright engines of 600 horse power each move the great machinery. The coal stoker did not know just how much coal was needed daily, but said they used about 850 tons from New York to this harbor.

All the doors in the ship are plated steel and are made water tight so that in case of an accident to one part the water can be kept from the other rooms.

Once more on the ferryboat being waited to shore we could see the broad side of the great vessel, it being all white except a few simple decorations, and on her side near the top was inscribed U. S. S. Texas.

ANDREW KIMBALL.

RESERVOIRS AND LAWS.

KENSINGTON, Piute County, Utah,
Feb. 28th, 1897.

The amount of snow that fell on the mountains and hills, makes me think of the necessity on the part of the young generation of looking to the ways and means of saving that bounteous gift of nature, which the Arabs aptly call a Aaste Allah! i. e., the gift of God, and not let it run to waste more than we can help. In the years of plenty let us provide for years of scarcity.

There has been a good deal of reservoir talk these few years past. Some

have been made, some are being built, and I believe a good many more are on the tapis.

If I should not be deemed inopportune, I should like to offer some ideas about this subject in addition to what I wrote in the DESERT NEWS several years ago.

It seems to me that many people are a little too hasty in filling the reservoirs. They ought to give the dams time to settle down, and see whether they will not crack. Even rock or masonry dams will settle down some, although not so much as earth-made ones. Many times I have seen solid walls of masonry settle down and crack or bulge out either one way or the other.

As many reservoirs will be built in the creeks or rivers above towns or settlements, it would be well for the builders to be careful and watchful for much valuable property and even human life may be endangered or lost through a little carelessness in the building of the reservoirs. And they ought not to be filled more than one-fourth or one-third the capacity in the first year in the case of those dammed with earth and timber, while those built of masonry could be filled up to not over half. Then it can be seen whether they will stand; and if they should happen to break the damages would not be so great nor the break so costly to mend.

Moderation is good in all things, and especially so in the filling of reservoirs. It may also happen that some soluble element would be in the banks on either side of the dams, and hence the washout might happen there. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety as well as of liberty. And as human life might be in danger below many reservoirs, (to say nothing of valuable property), such reservoirs should be constantly watched; and I think it would pay to have a house built near, so a watcher could live there all the time to watch the dam and the water, and at the first danger shut out the supply and mend the break. "A stitch in time saves nine." If a garden or small farm could be added to the house so much the better, as it would lessen the cost of hiring the keeper.

The reservoirs could be turned into fish ponds and thus add to the revenue; and the keepers would be there to watch that the fish be not stolen by those not having a right to it.

I feel sorry that our legislators do not see fit to add the tax on inheritances and the income tax to the laws of Utah. I believe it to be shortsighted policy not to enact such laws. How long will the poor have to stand the burden of being taxed to help the wealthy to live luxurious lives, while the poor have barely to live from hand to mouth!

We in the country are looking for a law protecting us from big cattle and sheep drives from eating out all feed from our cows and working horses in the neighborhood of our settlements and towns.

I am sorry also that the Legislature cannot originate a law that will enable certain settlements to separate from certain counties and join themselves with whom they would have more power and benefit in common. I can instance the town of Coyote, in Grand