

THE BATTALION

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DEDICATED TO— BY A SYMPATHIZER OF A. AND M.

It is really amazing
That a "Fish" can't stand hazing!
There's some fault with his raising—
Was he petted and humored?
(Well, so it is rumored.)
Now he's grown "sissyfied,"
Where's his manhood, his pride?
When his "cush" disappears,
He almost sheds tears!
Some hard spansks in his youth
Would have taught him this truth
A. and M. is now teaching.
Lessons which are far reaching—
Better take a few spansks
And remain in the ranks—
That the soft spots in life
Are gained only through strife—
If warm friends you would make
You must give—you must take.

Editor's Note:—A dear old lady sends this to The Battalion and has expressed the sentiment of the school and many Texas citizens in a most pleasing manner.

EVIDENCE.

We do not assume to know the nature of the report the committee investigating hazing conditions at A. and M. will submit. The Saturday morning hearing at College Station, however, seemed to give rise to the opinion that the committee will propose no paddling of future Freshmen and a pledge to this effect to be signed by every student entering A. and M. In regard to the turn the queries of the committee members took at this hearing we wish to review the situation as we have understood the evidence. Witnesses at the College consisted of Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. None knew of brutal hazing and all considered that the results of paddling were good. Especially was this true in the case of the Freshmen called before the committee. Each one gave every indication that the processes were enjoyable occasions and one testified that he had requested a Sophomore to administer a paddling in order that he might retire for a good and restful sleep. The president of the Freshman Class stated that hazing had been beneficial in his case and in all instances coming under his observation. The president of the Senior Class, a man twenty-five years of age, a war veteran, a reserve officer, a student who entered A. and M. in 1915 and who considered A. and M. as a "second home" expressed his opinion that hazing was necessary and beneficial and he knew of no instances where it had reached brutality. The president of the Junior Class when asked if he would be willing to cooperate in abolishing hazing, stated that he would be willing "to cut off his right hand if it was necessary for A. and M.", but that he considered hazing beneficial and knew of no brutal incidents. The Sophomore president held similar opinions and felt that his class would endorse his statements unanimously. In the face of such evidence from men who have done something for A. and M., who have proven their capabilities and judgment, who have been at the College long enough to form real opinions in regard to conditions here, does the evidence of men who remained at A. and M. for periods ranging from one day to four months bear much weight? If a man resigns from college with 122 demerits when 125 bring expulsion, does his record support his opinion of the College? If a man leaves school before registration is complete and scores of men are on the campus who may never become bona fide students, is he in a position to state facts concerning conditions during the college year? Is there not a possibility that these men might find the isolated A. and M. location, the barracks life where every man is his own "housekeeper," the democratic spirit where the senator's sons and the illiterate workman's sons are free and equal, displeasing to them? And if such is the case, would they have any justified reasons to offer for leaving the college? Would it not be easier for them to give some cause that brought sympathy—hazing for example? There may have been instances when hazing has gone to excesses. We have never known of such a case, however, and are as yet unconvinced. The weight of the evidence seems to bear with such hazing as is practiced at A. and M. for the Freshman Class members claim their most ardent "hazers" as their best college friends and know that within the bounds of reason lie no requests too great to make of them.

ET TU, BRUTE!

The Daily Texan states that announcing the hazing investigation at A. and M. was like notifying the butcher on Monday of sanitary inspection on Tuesday and finding a clean shop. Which goes to show that the author of the editorial was unfamiliar with the character of the A. and M. student. Does the Texan think a man called before the committee would make false statements? Has a witness denied hazing of a certain nature? The A. and M. students maintain that hazing practiced by them is not brutal or humiliating and the entire Freshman class upholds the fact. The committee probably learned more about hazing during the brief stay at College Station than in the entire proceedings of the investigation at Austin. It is certain that they found no evidence of brutal or humiliating hazing and they did learn the A. and M. viewpoint. Nevertheless, we hardly expected this from the Texan.

"BULL PENS."

We hardly expected to see the day when this term would head an editorial. In our opinion it is yet unworthy. But the prominence given the expression in the hazing investigation hearings entitle the term to a definition as applied locally. Two Seniors might compose a "bull pen." So might any other two students of the same class. Any group who meet casually or purposely for conversational calisthenics are duly entitled to the honor of composing a fully ordained "bull pen." The evidence by certain witnesses in the investigation has indicated that the term is applied to the occasion of a Freshman's initiation. Such is not the case. The term is not original with A. and M. students, nor has it been limited to any definite assemblage, much less a meeting for the initiation of Freshmen.

"FISH KILLERS."

The gleeful tenacity with which Senator Parr hangs on the term "Fish Killer" has brought this innocent appellation more publicity in thirty days than it has ever received in the 44 years since 1876 when the college first opened its doors. The immortal "Teddy" with his phonetic spelling did no more towards impairing the use of Noah Webster's latest edition than has the Senator from Corpus Christi with his interrogations in the hazing investigation. It seems that Senator Parr considers the "Fish Killer" as some skillfully designed instrument of torture originated by the A. and M. cadet in his desire to produce a characteristic weapon on plane with the Philippine bolo knife and the Australian bushman's boomerang. The facts of the case are that the "Fish Killer" is merely a name applied to a six-inch rule, an architect's scale, or any similar apparatus used in initiation of Freshmen. No specifications have ever been given for the name. In fact, it has never received general usage at the College. The term is merely in accordance with the custom among cadets for giving a code name to everything. Military Science is known as "Bull Ticks", the commandant is known as the "Bull," dessert is known as "Cush", bread is called "Gun Wadding", water is termed "Sky Juice", a demerit is known as a "Ram". A man may "flunk" a course, get "busted" from his rank, "canned" out of college, or "carried out in a gale" in conversation! Hundreds of such expressions are in the vocabulary of a cadet. Is this any cause for complaint? Every baseball enthusiast has scores of terms at his command which sound like Greek to the uninitiated. Every man in the service returned with an increased vocabulary of army terms. West Point and Annapolis students have such a fund of localisms that an outsider might find difficulty in understanding their conversation. Is such terminology criminal?

THE JUNIORS.

We believe that the entire student body appreciates to the fullest extent the recent sacrifice made by the Junior Class. It is inspiring to know that such unselfish love for A. and M. exists within an entire class. The incident will become one of the traditions of loyalty at the old school and will tend to remind future classes of the extent to which Aggies will go for A. and M. Further comment we will not make, but The Battalion feels that this has been one of the most praise-worthy actions of the year. Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors, salute the Class of '22!

THE NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD.

"Can it be possible that the brutes now employed and who have been employed for years as guards at the Texas penitentiaries, received their first training in thugery at A. and M. College?"—New Braunfels Herald.

"It seems that a lot of roughnecks have gotten into A. and M. College and hammer to their heart's content every new pupil that enters. A legislative investigation is now in progress. How would it do to lock the doors of the institution until this very undesirable riffraff can be gotten rid of?"—New Braunfels Herald.

Hall more than 2,000 stars, and more than fifty are Gold. Yet, editor of the Herald, these men received their training at A. and M. And at a time when hazing and not paddling and singing tobacco can songs. Of course war records are out of date. We do not wish to live on the past. But the present student body consists of many of these same men, and many more of the same calibre—they are all Texans from Texas homes and two years or ten years do not change the spirit of A. and M. Possibly this means nothing to the New Braunfels Herald. If such is the case A. and M. means nothing and the Herald's questions deserve no answer.

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