

#### Needs of A. & M. College.

The following letter taken from the Dallas News of Feb. 16, was written by H. L. Hutson, a former graduate of A. & M.:

Houston, Tex., Feb. 11.—In the report of the board of directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College there are two appropriations asked for which should receive special consideration, not only from the Legislature, but from the people who pay for these appropriations. It is probable that no investment which the State will be asked to make at this session will produce more valuable returns than these two, if they are used wisely.

They are the appropriation of \$75,000 for an engineering building or buildings, to house the large and growing departments of civil, agricultural, mechanical and electrical engineering, and the addition of \$10,000 to the maintenance fund, to provide for "the large increase of students," and "to establish a new department, that of metallurgy and mining engineering."

I doubt, however, if there are many who understand the importance, the vital necessity, of these investments, at this time, and I wish to set forth a few facts to demonstrate to the people of Texas the peculiar need there is for them to provide at once for the training of their own sons in these engineering branches.

Texas, we all know, is a land of great undeveloped natural resources. That is no news to any Texan. We say, we need only capital to develop them, but that is only half the truth. Brains, skill and technical knowledge, scientific training and expert mental investigations carried on with an eye to local conditions, are what we need, far more than money, to apply to our problem of developing our native wealth.

From Laredo to Texarkana, for example, stretches a broad belt within which may be found coal, lignite, shale, pottery clay and other valuable minerals in great variety and abundance. In places, this belt has been scratched, and a few flourishing industries sprung up. But the men who own these valuable mineral lands are, as a rule, ranchmen, farmers or merchants, who are entirely without technical knowledge and are at the mercy of speculators who come from the North and East and who exploit them in various ways, either by undervaluing the deposits and getting the land for a mere song, or by persuading the owner and his neighbors to invest in expensive equipment to work a meager or inaccessible deposit; or by the thousand and one other ways in which the foreign exploiter may take advantage of local ignorance.

We know nothing about mining or machinery; worse still, we know nothing about the engineer we consult. We do not know what reputation he may bear in Europe or in the North, and he is a long way from home. Unless he intends to stay in this region, he may not be as careful as he would be in matters more likely to affect his professional standing.

Could these land owners consult engineers whom they have known personally for years, or whose reputation in this State was at stake, they would be saved from some of these pitfalls. But the Texans who have had a mining engineering education are few, and as they have had to go out of the State to get it, it frequently happens that they do not return, finding employment elsewhere.

Yet they are needed, and badly needed in Texas. Even where these minerals are mined, they are mined wastefully, and this, too, because the owners do not know how to improve their rule-of-thumb methods, and there is no one to teach them.

I talked recently with one of the few Texas mining engineers who educated in Michigan, has come back

to his home and is now employed by business men of his region who have known him from boyhood, to report on mineral lands which they plan to develop. He told of a lignite mine on which he had recently made a report, which had been in operation some time, yet had never been surveyed. When the owners found it necessary to put in a ventilating shaft, they decided on his location "be guess an' be gorrah," and after having sunk it to the level of the mine, found that they failed to strike the entry, and were obliged to dig a side entry to the air shaft, locating it by rapping on the stratum of stone which happened to form the floor!

We all remember the thousands of dollars lost in the early experiments in the Texas oil fields. Prospecting for oil seems to be a game of chance, but mining for coal and similar deposits has become an exact science, since by means of test holes and surveys an engineer will determine not only the amount of the deposit, but the cost per ton of mining and placing on cars at the nearest railroad.

The history of the world shows that every county which possesses an abundant supply of fuel becomes sooner or later an industrial country. Texas will prove no exception to this law of development, and the need for engineers trained in mechanical, electrical, metallurgical and architectural knowledge will be as great in the near future as it is today for civil engineers. It is well known that, for some years now, the Agricultural and Mechanical College has not been able to supply the demands made upon it by the railroads and irrigation companies for graduates in the civil engineering course. The same thing is now true of the electrical engineering course, so recently established there, and all these departments have been so hampered by the grudging parsimony of the State that I for one am almost ashamed to claim it as my alma mater when I meet men from other colleges who have visited this junkshop, as one of them characterized its mechanical laboratory.

The Legislature should not forget that Senator Tillman of South Carolina in his recent visit to the college declared that, compared with the technical college of his own small State, its starved condition was a disgrace to Texas. H. L. Hutson.

#### Bug-Hunters' Trip to Waco.

The following students of animal husbandry, Edsall, North Van Zant, Gilbert, McLeod, Chambers, Burns, A. C. Smith, A. J. Blackaller, Catter, McKil, McCowan, Jones, C. E., and Evans, in company with Profs. Marshal and Burns, have just returned from Waco where they were the guests of Mann Bros. on "Wildair" stock farm.

The object of the trip was to inspect the farm and stock, thereby getting some idea of the real thing as done by successful breeders in this state.

By leaving College Friday afternoon the night was spent in Waco. The next morning at 8 o'clock Mr. Mann had a large tallyho with big stout mules and a jolly driver waiting to carry us out through the refreshing morning air into what appeared to be an ideal farming country. And I think I am safe in saying that every "Bug-hunter" had his aspirations raised and his mind broadened as we drove merrily along the smooth roadway taking note of and making impartial comparisons of farm homes and also of farming methods. The climax was reached however, when we reached "Wildair" farm and drove in through the large automatic gates at the front up to the old-fashioned homestead in the grove of great oaks.

The rest of the forenoon was spent in looking through Mr. Mann's splendid herd of short horn cattle which are now in preparation for the Ft.

Worth stock show. Mr. Mann discussed at length his methods of breeding and feeding cattle—the cattle shown being ample proof of the fact that he knows his business. One of the best calves shown us was a roan short horn steer which he has lately presented to our department of animal husbandry here.

We were then called in to partake of a fine turkey dinner served under the direction of the charming personage, Mrs. Wesley Mann. Needless to say every boy made a record.

After dinner we took a turn through horse barns, seeing such horses as old Alcy Wilkes, the sire of the famous trotting horse (Wainscot) which Mr. Mann raised and sold for \$10,000. Wainscot has since lowered the trotting record in Europe and is now in Italy. Wildair farm continues to raise the same kind. Mr. Mann then had a nice lot of jacks brought out and delivered an interesting lecture on the care, selection, and breeding of jacks, besides touching on the conditions relating to the production, demand and market of the Texas mule. We then inspected the farm machinery, including such machines as feed grinders, gasoline engine, and up-to-date wheat harvesting machinery. Everyone was impressed with the neatness and precision of system prevalent everywhere.

'Twas with regretful hearts that we mounted the tallyho at five o'clock for our homeward journey, each man feeling that he had learned more in the day than could have been gotten from books of theory in months.

C. M. Evans.

#### ATHLETICS.

At a meeting of the athletic council Saturday night it was determined that we shall have a track team at the inter-collegiate meet at Waco in May. A committee was appointed to elect a captain of the team, but, so far, they have chosen no one. The council made R. H. Sandifer assistant student manager of the college baseball team.

Last Monday orders for baseball uniforms, gloves, bats, etc., were sent out. The team is expected to be in uniforms and practicing with the new outfit by March 1st. Coach Spencer will arrive on that date and regular practice will begin.

The following men are trying for their respective places on the team:

Pitchers—G. A. Smith, Huff, Bivins, Dabney.

Catchers—Wessendorf, Hamilton, W. G. Moore.

First Base—Cornell, DeWare, Beall.

Second Base—Black, Hornsby, Filgo.

Third Base—Kelley, Ellinger.

Shortstop—Huweiler, Jennings, Robson.

Outfielders—Milligan, Crockett, Stewart, Bittle, Moellenherndt, McDaniels, McElroy.

It is too early in the season for definite baseball schedule, but games with Baylor, Texas Christian University, Austin College, and Southwestern are certain. The season opens with Baylor, two games being played on our diamond, March 29th and 30th.

A trip out of the state for the team is possible. Games will probably be played at New Orleans with Tulane, at Baton Rouge with Louisiana State University, and in Mississippi with both the Universities of Mississippi and the Mississippi A. & M. College.

Since a trip out of the state for the team and an interesting season is assured we suggest that the corps furnish the team with coats. Every man could contribute twenty five cents and help supply the players with a dozen good coats. Besides adding to the comfort of the boys, the coats would improve the appearance of the team away from home.

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