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Ross Hall

## JUNIOR HORTICULTURAL TRIP.

(Continued from 1st page.)

country the expense is not very great. The North Texas students were surprised at the low rate of wages which prevails in Southwest Texas. Sixty five cents a day seems to be the average wages for Mexican labor, though in some places it can be secured for fifty cents.

Kingsville was the next point visited. Bananas were seen growing luxuriantly. At Mr. Hoffman's farm orange trees about four feet tall were bearing fruit. Mr. Hoffman irrigates with well water. He has a flowing well, but he uses a pump to increase the flow. He has many acres of onions. His neighbor, Mr. Alexander, was harvesting and packing carrots, when visited. On account of the dry weather his crops were small, but it had not been irrigated and had received no rain. Mr. Alexander has a reservoir which covers nearly two acres.

After leaving Kingsville the party returned to College by way of Corpus Christi, Kennedy and Houston. Alvin was on the schedule, but it was not visited because transportation was not available. All the students are very well pleased with the trip.

## THE GLEE CLUB CONCERT.

The Glee Club has definitely decided upon April 20th as the date for the concert in the college chapel this year. On Friday night the 19th they will give a concert in the opera house at Bryan. Miss Hettie Smith of Bryan has kindly consented to assist, and the Mandolin and Guitar Club will give at least one number. The program will be an attractive one—the result of a year's hard work. On April 28th the Glee Club goes to Ft. Worth to attend the festival of the Texas Federation of English Singing Societies, of which it is a member.

Read about the Blue Serge Special in Parks' & Waldrop's ad. in this issue.

## COURSE IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING SUGGESTED BY AN ALUMNUS.

The following clipping is taken from a very interesting short story written by H. L. Hutson of the class of '96 for the Galveston-Dallas News. It is full of sense and should put those "higher up" to thinking.

"You think, then," said the English tourist, "that having fallen heir to a land only half finished, and being unwilling to wait half a million years to let nature complete her work, you Texans can finish the job yourselves?"

"At least we can co-operate with nature," assented the banker who sat beside him. "I have heard it stated by men of scientific training and practical experience that if the land owners would spend on drainage one-tenth the amount they are putting into canals and levees for irrigating rice they could raise any of the crops raised elsewhere in the Southern States."

"But," objected the cotton buyer, "where are they to get the cheap labor necessary to dig the ditches and drain the land?"

"Yes, cheap labor is the great need of this country now," agreed half a dozen voices.

"We can use cheap labor, or any other kind, to advantage," the first speaker admitted, "but I tell you what we need more than labor, more than capital, more than any other class of men or means of development, is engineers."

"If this new drainage law proves effective," spoke up another man who had been listening in silence so far, "Texas will be able to use at once a score or more of trained irrigation and drainage engineers."

"Maybe so; but," the Houston cotton buyer protested, "I still insist that when it comes to digging ditches we can get along better without the engineers than without the common laborers."

"And I can prove that you are mistaken," rejoined the engineer. "When a farmer undertakes to ditch a piece of land with common laborers and without the supervision of an engin-

eer he will probably move three times the dirt, at a cost of more than three times the money necessary to accomplish the result he wishes. If he were prudent enough to have the work laid out beforehand by a competent engineer skilled in drainage work he could afford, if necessary, to pay three times as much for his labor and still spend no more money, and you know 25c or 50c a day extra will soon bring all the labor we may need from other States."

"I was glad to hear you say," said the man who had alluded to the drainage law, "that your engineer, to be of use to the farmer, must be skilled in drainage work. We need specialists. Many a good civil engineer with years of successful railroad work behind him has made costly mistakes on his first irrigation or drainage work."

"Yes, I believe the State Agricultural and Mechanical College should offer a special course in agricultural engineering, and not only teach the students how to get water on and off the lands, but also how much different crops require and when it should be applied."

"Well, we do need a new breed of engineers," the other agreed. "I am manager for a canal company, and our engineer, a man of ten years' experience in railway work, made the mistake of supposing that a scant growth of tall grass would not affect the flow in a canal!"

"But don't you overestimate the amount of work to be done when you talk of needing a score or more of hydraulic engineers each year?" questioned the Englishman.

Several men laughed softly. "Underestimate the amount of work would be more like it," said the engineer. "Here are a few of the jobs we have to do in the next ten or fifteen years:

"The Brazos, Colorado and Rio Grande Rivers need levees for about 100 miles of their length. Undoubtedly the total minimum flow of these rivers, as well as that of the smaller ones, will be used for irrigation. So far there are but two or three plants on the Brazos, Rio Grand and Guadalupe; yet the Brazos is said to flow one-third more water than the Colorado, which must have twenty large canals.

"The bayous and lakes along the coast need to be made navigable for light-draft boats, as well as the rivers the Government is now at work on."

"Each of the larger cities of the State—save one—has a water problem."

"The whole territory shown on the Sunset Route maps as the 'rice and oil belt' needs to be divided into drainage districts, ditched and drained."

"And this work," said the banker, as the other paused, "should be done by our Texas boys, trained in Texas schools, rather than by outsiders."

"It should, and it would be if our boys were given the chance to get the necessary training," the engineer agreed. "But it is training that counts in this work; and it's going to be the man of trained energy and capacity, whether outsider or Texan, who will be most welcome in South Texas among the men who are helping old Mother Nature create a land for folks to live in."

Husband (arriving with his wife at the station just as the train steams out)—There! If you hadn't taken such a fearful time dressing we shouldn't have lost that train.

Wife—And if you hadn't hurried me so all the way we shouldn't have such a long time to wait for the next one.—Megendorfer Blatter.

Lieschen—Mother, can angels fly?

Mother—Yes, child.  
Lieschen—Then I suppose Nurse can, too, because papa called her "angel" the other day.—Ulk.

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