

THE BATTALION

Published every Friday night by the Students of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

FRESHMAN STAFF

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GREETINGS.

We have no apologies to make concerning this issue. We have done the best we could under present circumstances. Having endeavored to publish a class paper that would be of interest to and about the Freshman class, and at the same time to have a paper that will be of interest to all its readers.

We don't expect to please every reader, for even all critics don't agree. "To err is human," and we don't claim to be other than human, and hope our readers are not.

The staff wishes to thank those who gave their assistance, both literary and financial, in making this edition what it is.

Thus, we put before you the Freshman edition of the 1917 Battalion.

GIVE THE AGGIES BLACKSMITHING.

It doesn't lie in the sphere of a Freshman to step forward and criticize the college curriculum. But viewing it as one who has lived some twenty-four years on the farm and had about twenty-five years of farm experience, I must admit that there is one course that is of very little practical benefit to a farmer. This course is the wood-shop work.

After a farmer gets his buildings constructed he seldom has any occasion to use a plane or a saw. But how often does he have to sharpen a plow point, weld a broken brace on his harvester. A day seldom passes on the farm but what he needs to know of the principles of forging.

He may be right in the middle of the grain field when a piece breaks. He must stop, go to the shop and lose a half day just get this piece welded. A Texas thunderstorm comes up and he loses several hundred dollars, and all from the fact that he didn't know the principles of blacksmithing. Why not give the Aggies blacksmithing instead of the wood-shop? Let them have something practical; at least, let the forge-work be optional with the wood-work.

AGGIE.

ADVERTISE A. & M.

Fellows, we want a full thousand for the San Francisco trip, don't we? Well, if we get that number, everybody has got to do some tall rustling for "fish" this summer.

And as there are more of the Freshmen than any other class, it is more up to us. Let's go home and get busy from the first. Start in to persuade, and if that don't work bully, then knock it into them, or anything to get "fish."

Don't half scare them to death by lies of eating worms, etc. The writer got some of that stuff from an old boy and it didn't have a good effect. Tell them we get good "cush," go on a hike, and what ever else you can think of, that they might think would be fine. Whatever you do, don't knock the school. Of course, you cuss it here, but confess up, to yourself, that you do have a tender spot way down in your heart for the old place.

Help "Old" Ike Asburn out. He is doing all in his power, but personal contact with prospective students has the best effect of all. So let's all go home with the firm resolve to get at least one "fish" apiece and carry out the resolution.

Patronize the advertisers of the Battalion, fellows. They have proven to be your friends and have shown their willingness to help us where they can and as much as they can. Now "to keep a friend is to be one," and we all need friends; so let's give them our friendship in our patronage.

ADVANTAGES OF THE TWO-YEAR COURSE IN AGRICULTURE.

To begin with, it might be well to say that many people have a mistaken idea of the two-year course in agriculture, in believing it to be a sort of "dumping-ground" for those students who, because of their intellectual inability, cannot take the regular four-year course in agriculture. That was not what the course was intended for at all. When the two-year course was arranged and outlined for publication in the catalogue of this institution, it was intended that it should meet the practical needs of young men who had had practical experience in farming and who wished to spend not more than two years in learning the principles of successful agriculture, with the intention of returning to the farm and making practical use of what they learned. To this end the course was arranged so as to be highly practical, excluding the more technical work, which is required in the four-year course and which is necessary for those students who wish to prepare themselves for the more scientific and technical work in agriculture.

There are two great advantages that the two-year course in agriculture offers to young farmers who can not spare the time required for the preparations necessary to take the four-year course and then spend four years in college.

One of the advantages offered is the opportunity to get away from home and become one of a great student body. A fellow derives great benefit from his association with college students, even in two years' time, which will be of great value to him in his future life. College life affords valuable experience and supplies something in a man's life which can come from no other source, something he cannot afford to miss, and the two-year course in agriculture makes these advantages possible for many fellows who can

spend only two years in college, and gives them an opportunity to prepare themselves for future usefulness.

The other advantage which I wish to mention is the advantage of studying and learning, under men who know, the underlying principles of agriculture. This is the chief reason for taking the course, the desire to learn how to be a successful farmer, and this desire is met in the two-year course in agriculture. By close application to his work a fellow can get these principles of agriculture in this course in one-half the time required for the four-year course, and with the experience he had before taking the course he is prepared to make a success of farming. Of course, what a fellow gets out of this course depends

upon the energy and enthusiasm he puts into it, but the same will hold true in regard to any course. The fellow who has had the advantages of the two-year course in agriculture, combined with farm experience, has a firm foundation for success in his chosen occupation.

ROBERT L. MAY.

We noticed in the last issue of The Battalion three Freshmen challenged any three Sophomores to a debate. This shows the Freshmen are far enough along that they do not fear any of the Soph. class.

"Oh, sir, catch that man! He wanted to kiss me."

"You should worry, there'll be another one along in a minute."—Exchange.

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