

THE BATTALION

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IN THE SPACE OF FIVE YEARS.

One issue of The Battalion for 1910-11 contains a cartoon representing a cadet with his feet resting upon his desk dreaming of things to come. In his dream he sees a new Library Building, a Y. M. C. A. Building and an electric interurban stretching away to Bryan. The cartoon is labeled "The Dreams of an Optimist."

But lo! What the cartoonist then considered wild dreams are now prosaic facts. A. & M. has been remade within the last five years.

Five years ago a large part of the corps was living in tents stationed along the side of the main driveway. Since then three large fireproof dormitories and six other handsome and substantial buildings have been erected and the tents are now but a tradition.

The two things for which the corps has so long hoped—an electric interurban and a Y. M. C. A. Building—are now realities, and one can hear the honk of the car at almost any hour and see the hospitable lights of the "Y" Building from his window any night. The great problem with which campus and corps has so long wrestled—lack of social life—is now solving itself.

We are even beginning to acquire a few luxuries; before commencement we shall be enabled to desert the muddy road and take to concrete sidewalks.

The faculty has been strengthened by the addition of new and capable men, the moral tone of the corps has visibly improved, the equipment of the departments has been greatly improved, the number of courses has increased, the entrance requirements have been raised and the hours of class work decreased, and the faculty

and cadets are now working in harmony.

The prospects for the next five years are even more encouraging than the accomplishments of the past five.

TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS.

"These are the times that try men's souls," wrote Thomas Payne when this nation was in the throes of the birth of freedom, and the words are particularly applicable to these times of war and rumors of war.

And in these trying times the heart of the nation should go out in sympathy to the lonely man at the White House who has a nation's peace and prosperity resting in the palm of his hand.

Since freedom was born in America and baptised in the blood of heroes, the United States has not faced a greater crisis than now confronts the nation. A hasty word from the lips of Woodrow Wilson would plunge the United States into the vortex of the hell which now curses almost all Europe.

It is the task of Woodrow Wilson to safeguard the rights of American citizens and to keep the honor of "Old Glory" unsullied. At the same time he owes a duty to humanity. He must, if it be within the bounds of human possibility to do so, keep the United States from taking part in the great struggle.

And on every hand he is being urged by the loud-mouthed patriots who fiercely favor war and then stay at home to protect the women and children, to guard jealousy the honor of this great nation. These critics boast of the glory of the nation's past. They call upon the names of George Washington and Andrew Jackson. They despair because the warlike Roosevelt is not President for just a little while.

Such talk is not becoming to true Americans. All who love this nation and its traditions should bless the stars of destiny that Woodrow Wilson is President. And in these trying times all patriotic Americans should extend to Woodrow Wilson their best wishes for the success of his policy of strict neutrality.

Not only is he entitled to the sympathy of all Americans, whether political differences exist or not, but he also should be taught by the nationwide approval of his course that the citizens of this country rely fully upon his honesty, upon his patriotism, and upon his love for humanity.—Exchange.

"LET TEXAS FEED ITSELF."

Active Campaign to Arouse Interest
in Diversification.

"Let Texas Feed Itself," is the slogan of a movement which has started in Dallas and Fort Worth and which is backed by the commercial interests of those two cities.

This movement is not to be confused with the former movements designed to insist upon a reduction of the Texas cotton acreage. Rather it is a whirlwind campaign in which the bankers, merchants and land owners of Texas will be frankly told exactly the situation as it appeals to the men behind the movement and informed of the necessity for the Texas farmer raising on his farm every product possible for the support of himself and the feeding of his animals. Having given heed to the first essential of supporting himself as nearly as he may, it is believed this will accomplish the desired result in making of cotton the cash money crop which

will represent in a large part a surplus, since money realized from the sale of the cotton crop will not necessarily have to be spent for food for man and beast which is bought outside of Texas.

It possibly will surprise many well informed Texans to learn that the last United States census shows that on 92,000 farms in Texas there is not a single dairy cow; 124,000 farms are without a hog; 60,000 are without a chicken; 306,000 raise no forage; 369,000 raise no sweet potatoes, and that 27 out of every 100 Texas farms raise neither hay nor forage.

Texas buys over \$300,000,000 worth of food products every year from farmers outside of Texas. Of this amount \$54,000,000 goes for pork and \$52,000,000 for corn, wheat, oats and hay.

It is to correct this drain that ways and means are to be discussed by representative business men with the bankers, business men and land owners of the State with a view to inducing Texas to feed itself as nearly as it may.

A party of Dallas and Fort Worth business men, representing this movement, will arrive at College Station February 3 for a conference and discussion of this matter with local bankers, business men and land owners.

"SKY" BOETTCHER, THE INDOMITABLE.

"Anybody else? Peanuts, popcorn, chewing gum and candy!" Such was the incessant cry of "Sky" Boettcher of Houston, when he appeared on the campus last fall as a cadet. "Anybody hungry? Hershey's? Yes. How many?" Wherever there was a crowd, "Sky" could be found. Always he had a ready reply for any shaft of wit, but he never forgot that his business was to sell candy.

At first many were inclined to look upon him as a nuisance, especially when at ball games he got between them and the players on the field, but his persistence and energy were so remarkable that his critics made inquiry about him and learned that he had set in to go thru the four years of college with no money whatever and no assets but his indomitable will to succeed. Their attitude then changed from that of censure to admiration. One of his cries during the football season showed this purpose of his: "Peanuts and popcorn! This is strictly an educational feature!"

Boettcher is a remarkable example of how a cadet who is really in earnest about getting an education can find at this college a means of support while he gets it. Surely no more uninviting prospect can be imagined than was his when he entered last fall without money, influence or dependable occupation, and took up the task of winning a living from money spent by the corps for luxuries in a year, when the cadets could so ill afford any luxuries. But "Sky" has done a land office business, so much so that some accuse him of now being richer than he will admit.

While it is possible that he may go thru college without holding any ranks or receiving any class honors, when he comes to graduate few of his classmates will be as well equipped for life as he, or will have attained the greater honor which he will have achieved if he accomplishes the task he has begun.

The Forum

Concerning Ourselves.

Saturday night, February 20, the writer had the pleasure of attending a smoker given by the Press Club in honor of those men among our visitors who are connected with college publications.

This is a means taken of unloading a little pent-up emotion that would have been out of place in seeking expression among our visiting fellow students.

Does it mean anything to you to know that the majority of these men who were called upon for a speech frankly admitted that they came here shaking in their boots, expecting us to act like cannibals? Does it mean anything to you to learn that the people over the State who do not personally know us think we are a bunch of "roughnecks," not considerate of the rights and liberty of others?

That is just what is being brought home to us, and the hard part of it all is the fact that the opinion strangers have of us is not without foundation.

You, possibly, have not been instrumental in bringing about this state of affairs. It may have been started years ago by someone's thoughtless, rowdy act, and you inherit the good (?) name and the traditions. Does such an inheritance fill your heart with pride?

We must face the issue squarely and do all we can to create a friendly feeling toward the college where such feeling does not exist. If you are not to blame for it, certainly a large responsibility rests upon you to show the people by your actions and words that this place is worthy of the best manhood of Texas. We want to look back upon our Alma Mater with pride, not shame, in the years to come. Else it means nothing to us.

The faculty, the costly buildings, the equipment, the grounds are all a credit and a help to us, but we have the making or the marring of our own destinies and our college. What is your sheepskin going to be worth to you? Are you willing to let a few thoughtless ones cheapen it by some act of vandalism or rowdiness? Is it not going to be worth your while to do all that lies in your power to make this college worthy of the respect and admiration of your home folks? The eyes of Texas are certainly upon us.

Incidentally, these boys were unanimous in their praise of our hospitality. We have made a good impression. They found us to be human like themselves, and a clean lot of fellows. They seemed glad to find that they had been laboring under a wrong impression. Keep this good word going. It means our very existence and will command respect and attention. A FELLOW STUDENT.

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