

# THE BATTALION

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Any criticism that may be found in this Battalion is engendered by no bitterness whatever; it is intended to function solely in a constructive sense.

### COLLEGE COOPERATION.

The primary purpose of every man that comes to A. and M. should be to work. Certainly, the purpose of this institution is to give its students an opportunity to work. With this thought continually before us, we may profit by a little serious thought. The best physical work can never be done under compulsion. A thousand times more men in this state and times more men in this state have applied to normal effort. The ideal school would be the one in which the student would not get out of the institution, but would be the student realized that it was to his best interest to study. The nearer a college approaches this standard, the more successful it will be. Two important elements enter into the attainment of this: first, the attitude of the student toward the authorities, and, second, the attitude of the authorities toward the student.

If the student is to have the correct attitude toward the men in authority, he must give some attention to their view-point. Without some appreciation of their problems the cadet is almost certain to develop a spirit of opposition to regulations. Before he condemns the men who place certain restrictions upon him, he must, in fairness to all concerned, consider the reasons for such restrictions from the view-point of the college. The blind and silly state of mind wherein the student imagines that those in charge are intent on inconveniencing him is worthy of a ten-year-old boy. We are men with fairly mature reasoning powers and judgments. It is unbelievable that, as such, we can be sincere in thinking that the President of this college, or any of his associates, are so little, so narrow, so blind to, and unconcerned with the welfare of this institution as to do anything that is not for the best interest of the student body, the most valuable asset and the sole reason for the existence of this school. He who believes Prexy is "down" on the student body is either a fool or an idiot. That attitude is ruinous. Our part, as students, in the building of a greater A. and M. is to do the reasonable thing and put our faith in the fairness and honesty of the intentions of the authorities. The time

is come to stop the unthinking criticism of the men who are serving us. Loyalty, to the future of this college demands that the student body judge the directions of the policies of A. and M. with fairness, tempered by logic and understanding. It is only by so doing, that we can do the best work.

The other side of the problem of advancing the efficiency of A. and M. is found in the attitude of the authorities. Without any attempt to dictate concerning matters entirely under their jurisdiction, we believe that some good may result from a frank expression of the views of at least the Freshman Class. Any attempt to consider specific cases is unwise, for the differing circumstances attending each would necessitate a separate discussion of the peculiarities of that case. We have had good expressions from the student body concerning the abolishment of guard duty, the granting of passes, and other special instances. We believe that all of them may be covered in a discussion of the general principles that the authorities might apply to problems affecting the Cadet Corps. This, then, is intended to be a very frank article. We men who come here feel that we have advanced somewhat beyond the irresponsibility of boyhood. We are not men of maturity, by any means; but our four years at college are the years of our life in which, more than in any other, we develop faster toward the maturity of manhood that is to be permanent. We know, too, that development of any faculty or ability depends largely on the exercise that we give to that ability. If, then, in this developing state, we are forced to rely on the judgments of others in regard to much of our personal activity, we shall not develop, while here, a sense of responsibility for our actions. If we are considered as boys unfit to judge of our actions, we shall not act as such. It is a natural sequence. Colonel Ousley, in his address to us Sunday, very truly said that the worst effect of army life is to be found in the dulling of the sense of individual responsibility and initiative. The A. and M. of a few years ago is, in a way, a good example of this. We were "hell-raisers" when we did get loose because we were denied so much of personal freedom we were here. More serious than this is the thought of the at least temporary setback that was given to our powers of initiative. Perhaps the cadet corps today is not fully prepared to profit by a relaxation of many of the restrictions of the college, but we can become prepared to profit by such a relaxation only by experience in doing without regulations of personal actions to a constantly increasing extent. Let us feel that you consider us capable of deciding some things for ourselves, and we shall not take undue advantage of any laxity that you may give to us.

There is yet another matter that should be discussed frankly. There is at present a lack of cooperation between the Corps and the faculty; it may be of the abnormal conditions of this year. At any rate, it exists. We see the problem from the stand point of the student and we believe the authorities will appreciate a frank expression of our feelings. A sense of democracy is born and instilled into every true American. The college, in its relations with the student body, cannot properly be compared to the state, in its relations with its citizenship. We cannot ex-

pect a representation in the governing body of the college in proportion to our number. We know that we are not fitted to deliberate with mature men. We realize that even our thoughts expressed here are colored by our outlook as students. But we do think that there should be some channel by which our sincere and thoughtful opinions could be brought to the attention of the men who decide. For, whether or not our opinions would be of weight, we would still have the satisfaction of knowing that our point of view had been set before the authorities. There is a world of difference in the state of mind of one who knows his side has no hearing and one who knows that the powers-that-be have set before them his opinions. This is the principle that we wish to set forth. Some form of student's self-governing association that could give the existing attitude of the corps when called upon would probably be the concrete expression of this principle. We believe that the matter is worth some consideration.

Cooperation is the essential quality possessed by every successful effort on any body of individuals. Cooperation will make a greater A. and M. for those who follow us. We call upon the Corps to realize the position of the authorities; we ask the authorities to consider us as developing manhood. We have faith in the inherent fairness of every cadet at A. and M. and we believe that you will not build your house on a foundation of sand when you make that sense of fairness the foundation for your dealing with us.

We are glad to see that our college has decided to follow the example set by most of the other colleges of the country in providing a Freshman Class. It has been the custom of large universities to require either fifteen units from an accredited high school, or to require the student desiring entrance to take the entrance-board examination.

A person who has not had the equivalent of four years of high school work is unprepared to take up college work, especially engineering, as engineering offers probably the hardest courses of higher education. If a man spends four years in a standard high school, he should, on graduation, have 16 units, as he will have carried at least four solids each year.

As long as colleges maintain low requirements for entrance they will encourage the high school student's obtaining only just enough credits to enter; and the result is that a large number of students who are unaccustomed to the long steady grind of studying fail to pass in the required number of hours work and have to be dropped from the roll. Think of the unhappiness, not only to the student, but also to his parents and friends, when he has returned to his home—a failure. And in many instances it is no fault of his, but is the direct result of insufficient preparation. A house without a suitable foundation cannot endure, and a college man's foundation of knowledge is the four years he spent in high school. "The honors we grant mark how high we stand, and they educate the future"; and it might also be said with equal truth that the entrance requirements of a college mark how high it stands, and also mark out the standards of

scholarship to be expected from its students. We are proud of A. and M. and we want our Alma Mater to stand as high, if not higher, than any other school of its kind. This is the first step towards it.

### TO OLD A. AND M.

Now that the year is drawing to a close and we are very near ready to lay aside our books, our rifles, and our numerous cares, we can stop a moment and reflect on the history past and gone. The class of '22, although it may have been somewhat Bolshevik, has stayed by the ship. We love old A. and M. as no other thing. It is our school, and we intend to do our best to keep up the old "pep". We can well remember the day we first looked upon it with wonder and astonishment. Our greenness was only surpassed by the grass, but it was not long before, with the "kind" assistance of the Sophomores, we were imbued with the A. and M. spirit.

At the first "pep" meeting the "fish" were here to a man. No "boning" light could be seen from some basement window, and we fairly "raised the roof." '22 did not fail to hear the call from the athletic field. It is a well known fact that the "fish" composed a goodly part of the football team in the dark days of the S. A. T. C., and on more than one occasion kept the name of the good old school from dragging in the dust of defeat. We hope to do even more next year. Every man must bring back someone with him.

We are going to have new and better equipment. With two new buildings in construction and three contemplated, we are going to be

Every man must do his best, and, when he comes home this summer talking about school, tell him about old A. and M., tell him what we have, and what we do. Give a boost to your school, and as the curtain rises in September, let it open on one of the greatest years in the history of the college.

It is with a feeling of gladness that the Fish have noticed the gradual change of the upper-classmen's opinion toward them. For a long time we have felt a little on the outside of things, and, as it has always been our earnest desire to be good Fish, it has been a matter of much concern to us. It appears that the feeling was first born during the period of the S. A. T. C. at College, and we can not wholly blame the old boys. We came to this school under conditions never before experienced by any Freshman Class. There were many of our number who never intended to take a college course, and were here only as soldiers in the army. Of course difficulties arose. These men were in the army, and some could not and other would not enter into affairs with true college spirit. Gradually an antagonistic feeling arose between the new and old boys. This feeling was further strengthened by the new arrangement of companies after Christmas. We were criticized, sometimes justly, and then again unjustly. But this could not continue. The men that stayed through the period before Christmas and then came back to complete the remainder of the term, showed their mettle in so doing. We