

ALUMNI ORGANIZE IN LAREDO

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secretary and treasurer. Mr. Ed L. Ayres was elected chairman of the entertainment committee and appointed as his assistants Mr. L. V. Shinner and J. J. (the original Doe) Rollins.

Old time were discussed and many interesting tales were told of the old fish days there.

It was decided that the Club meet every fourth Friday of the month and discuss old times, and in that way keep up the same spirit which prevailed at the institution ever since its organization.

Mr. Matthes is press reporter for the club and promises to correspond with us relative to the club's activities. The Battalion appreciates this interest and hopes to hear more in the future from these men.

FIRST BANKER-FARMER CONFERENCE OPENS WITH MANY FARMERS AND BANKERS PRESENT

The first conference of bankers and farmers ever held in the South and the third one ever held in the United States, began at this College yesterday morning at 9:30 in Guion Hall when F. M. Law, President of the Texas Bankers' Association arose and said: "The first Banker-Farmer Conference is now in session and we hope that it will prove to be the most important occasion in behalf of the agricultural and livestock industry of Texas."

He then introduced President Bizzell as one of the foremost men of Texas, and he made the opening address. To save time Dr. Bizzell read a paper which he had prepared on "The Relation of the A. and M. College to the Banker-Farmer Conference." In this paper he said:

"In the early history of banking institutions in this country, and indeed, until very recent times, banks were organized to meet the requirements of industry and commerce rather than agriculture. When we consider the radical differences between the credit needs and the conditions of agriculture on the one hand and commerce and industry on the other, we can readily understand why agriculture has suffered at the expense of these other agencies of industrial development. . . . Agriculture is and always will be the most important enterprise of Texas. It behooves every commercial and social agency in the state to contribute to the prosperity of farming as a means of promoting the general welfare of all our people. Bankers, least of all our industrial groups, can afford to be indifferent or unsympathetic with this basic industry.

"The time is propitious for a frank exchange of views between those responsible for production and those responsible for providing financial credit. The farmer needs to know the credit resources of the nation and the factors that enter into a sound credit policy. The bankers need to know, better than he has known, the credit resources of the rural sections, and the differences between the financial operations of commercial enterprises and agricultural endeavor."

He concluded with a statement of the place and purposes of this Institution in Texas, saying that the A. and M. College represents the farmers and stock raisers of the state in a very definite way and represents neutral ground both for the farmer and for the banker, and

extended an invitation to those attending the conference to feel very much at home, to go and come as they pleased and to make every possible use of what facilities the College had and what entertainment College people could offer.

Idea of the Conference.

Mr. Law told of the origin of the idea for having the Banker-Farmer Conference here at this time.

While he and Colonel P. L. Downs, Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture of the Texas Bankers' Association were attending the commencement exercises at this College last spring, Colonel Downs suggested that it would be a fine thing if they could have some kind of a meeting of the bankers of Texas on the Campus it would be of value both to the bankers and to the College. Mr. Law liked the suggestion but decided it would be better to have a joint meeting of both farmers and bankers. Nothing more was said until several weeks later when Joseph Hirsch, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers' Association was telling of a wonderful meeting that he attended in Wisconsin and of another in California of bankers and farmers. So successful had they been, he said, that they were made annual affairs in those states. Mr. Law and Colonel Downs then called the meeting of Texas Bankers and College representatives held in Houston in January at which time plans for this conference were definitely worked out.

Mr. Law said that he was surprised in urging bankers and farmers to attend this conference to find that there was a certain amount of indifference, but he said, "My hat is off to Dr. Bizzell and the authorities of this College for the whole-hearted way in which they have promoted the conference. Dean Kyle, S. C. Hogle, T. O. Walton and Dr. Bizzell came to Houston and told us that all facilities of the College were open for anything that could be done. So I find that not only in the time of my student days at A. and M. were the students willing to do their best, not only in the World War did they do more than was expected of them when they sent out that challenge that A. and M. had sent out more men from this College and from her former students in comparison to her size than any other college in the United States, but the students here have offered to give up their beds in the dormitories and sleep on the ground under shelter tents to allow their banker and farmer friends to sleep on a bed under a roof."

Speaking further Mr. Law said that he believed if any banker of Texas was not keeping in touch with the agricultural and livestock industries, he was blind to his own selfish interest. The object in coming here he said, is to come together and see if there is any better way, any more profitable way any more economical way that things could be done, and then to go home and do them that way.

He emphasized his statement that the farmers ought to be better business men, saying that if they would keep a set of books and keep in mind their finances and liabilities they would get much further with the bankers. He spoke very optimistically of the prospects for the future.

"My hat is off to the country banker," he said. "He is here. The city banker ought to be here, and after he hears of this meeting he will be sorry that he was not here.



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