

THE BATTALION

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The Battalion Staff wishes at this time of good wishes and good cheer to thank the Bryan and College people, who by their cooperation and advertising have helped make our paper possible. We have tried various ways to stimulate the cadets in buying from those who advertise, and the Staff is hoping we have in some measure succeeded, for it is our hope to give "money's worth" for every inch of advertising in our paper. May your Christmas be indeed happy, and may our relations during the coming year be as they have been thus far this year—very pleasant.

THE STAFF.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

The Christmas spirit is fast making itself felt among the Aggies. On every side the conversation turns to the good times that we are going to have during the holidays. "Goot times"—it is the by-word of the age, while "eat, drink and be merry," is the motto of our present generation more than it was the motto of those who lived when it was written. We do not mean to condemn the desire for a good time, nor to still the effervescence of youth, but at this time, it is our purpose to define as nearly as possible the true Christmas spirit.

The real true Christmas spirit is a rare combination of sentiment which manifests itself in humility before, and reverence and holy respect for the Christ in whose memory we celebrate. It is also manifested by the offering of presents. To give with the idea of a gift in return is but to commercialize a beautiful custom. To give with the desire to cement the friendship of those you love and to help those in need because you love them is to emulate the life of Him who gave his all. Our parents feed us, clothe us, and send us to school. They do this not with the hope that you will return the favor, but with the sincere hope that you will sacrifice in order that future generations might receive the benefit. That is an example of the true spirit of giving. This should be the spirit that pervades the Christmas season.

Have a good time but in the more sober moments of the Christmas rush, think of the significance of Christmas and when you give do it with the true spirit of giving.

WE LOSE TO GAIN.

When the students return from the Christmas holidays they will face one of the greatest losses it has been their misfortune to experience since they have been at A. and M. Colonel Ike Ashburn, the well beloved "Ike" of the student body, has resigned as commandant, and his resignation takes effect on the first day of the new year. Thus it will be with sad hearts and a somewhat pessimistic outlook for the future that the students will enter upon their school activities for the remainder of the scholastic year.

Even now there is a great deal of speculation as to who will fill the vacant place and we have thought that we have detected a slight undercurrent of uneasiness running through it all as to how the change will affect the general scheme of things. It will indeed be very difficult to find a man who is capable of stepping into the Commandant's place and directing the activities of the College as thoroughly and efficiently and with so little friction as Ike has been doing.

The position which the Commandant occupies is a difficult one at best, but Ike has surmounted all obstacles and has been one of the best and most diplomatic commandants the College has ever had. The interior machinery of the College has been put to several severe tests and the strain upon the entire plant has, at times, been terrific during his administration, but he has always come out successful and smiling.

It is this last trait perhaps more than any other that has endeared him to

the heart of every Aggie. It has been said that he is a large man; he is. And in this big body he has a big loyal heart of gold, pure gold, and it is all being given in the interests of the A. and M. College. Ike never was too busy to listen to the troubles, personal or otherwise, of some student. He labored and fought that A. and M. might be the best school and have the best student body in the world. All his time and energy have been devoted to the furtherance of the wheels of progress and dealing out Solomon-like justice and advice to all. He is the embodiment of the universal friend, and his advice and wise counsel has been the cause of a change for the better in the lives of many students, and they all stand and call him blessed.

Colonel Ike Ashburn stands in a niche all his own in his particular field of work. He has no rival. He is as distinct and solitary upon his throne of achievements as Commandant as one could wish to be. He is not "primus inter pares." There are no "pares." He stands for that which is the cleanest, the most honest, and the most courageous in life. Time is the supreme critic and we fearlessly prophesy that in the year to come Colonel Ashburn—better known as "Ike"—will be remembered as the peer of all Commandants.

In all the darkness and sorrow caused by his resignation there is one ray of light and hope—what we lose as students we will some day gain as ex-students.

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