

THE BATTALION

Published every Wednesday night by the Students' Association of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

Subscription Price \$1.75 per Year.

ALL ADS RUN UNTIL ORDERED OUT.

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Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized October 18, 1922.

THE SMALL MATTER OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

You have read in this column several lengthy discussions regarding the destruction of some of A. and M's old customs and traditions, with the one thought in each that we should do our best to oust the modernists who are disrupting our peaceful existence. But now is the time to consider a few of the old customs, study them and see why they should remain here indefinitely. If the traditions cannot stand the test of logic, then the adherents of them should discard the misfits at the first opportunity. It will be the purpose of The Battalion to apply the test of logic to as many of A. and M's customs and traditions as possible and through the medium of this paper try to show the results to those most vitally concerned.

This week let us consider that small matter of personal property and how one of the old customs apply. As long as we can remember, it seems that personal property has meant little to the average cadet. The intimacy in which we are forced to live might be given as the cause of this but there is no excuse for tending towards a state of communism. When one considers the sacrifice and energy spent in accumulating that personal property, one will realize that it should belong to the owner and to him alone.

The unlocked door is an invitation to enter but why thoughtlessly pick up a book from the table without saying something to the owner about it. Of course as long as we have been here it has been done, just another custom that we have assimilated. The borrower makes a mental note to return it the next day but on the morrow it slips his mind. He repeatedly forgets such things for the loss means nothing to him.

And again we enter our friend's room and search among his private papers for the note book that was loaned last week. The disorder and inconvenience to the owner is forgotten for the moment and his property rights overlooked. How true it is that intimacy breeds contempt if this can be traced to that source.

It might be a custom that personal property rights be overlooked but the thing is that it is not right. Therefore, let us correct an old habit; gage our conduct so that our friend need not lock his door to protect himself from the unthoughtful borrower.

STONE WALLS IN THE PATH OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Time was when a young man in order to learn a trade, hired himself to a master for small pay. The master in order to protect his interests, guarded the tricks of his trade jealously and it was only in spite of the environment that the young man learned anything at all and even then simple conceptions were shrouded in deep mystery. Even today there is something of magic, suggested by a piece of blue paper in connection with engineering, whereas it is merely a cheap process of duplication. Such treatment lost to the world forever, many men who would have been competent tradesmen but the stone wall was too thick to get through.

Then there arose the technical school with its scientific teacher, a man not only acquainted with fundamental technical principals but endowed with an enthusiasm to impart information. His personal experience with the heart breaking drudgery of the old slow process of acquiring a little information increased his determination to protect the rising generation from needless hardships. He, therefore, built up encyclopedias of information and lecture courses. The apparent royal road to learning stimulated young men and the acquisition of knowledge became their dream. Production was forgotten. Many a strong, vigorous dynamic youth, became a perpetual learner of scientific rules and formulae, developed by others. The stone wall was now provided with a scaling ladder but there was more interest in climbing than in getting over.

The modern program of training provides real experience and the study of science together. Productive work in the shops is made the background for the understanding of fundamental principles. The ambitious young man

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of today will cast his lot with an industrial concern that believes in promotion as well as production, and provides an opportunity for him to study his productive experience in the light of fundamental principles.

NEW RECORD SET BY JUNIOR INFANTRYMEN

Machine Gun Range Firing at A. & M. is Stimulated and Encouraged by Army Officials

P. H. Blackburn of Dallas, a junior at A. & M., recently broke a long established machine gun record of the college with a score of one hundred and seventy-five out of a possible two hundred at the one thousand inch range. The entire junior infantry class is firing a prescribed machine gun course for qualification. This course is the same as prescribed by the War Department for regular army troops. It was while Blackburn was firing his score for record that he broke the A. & M. record—and, it is reported, approached closely a regular army record. His target was unique in its perfectness, all shots being fired equally into the twenty-five two-inch scoring spaces.

The record was formerly held by I. M. Bethel of Hext, a member of the class of '25, who made a mark of one hundred and seventy-four at summer camp last year.

It is also reported and of great interest to note that A. & M. College is the only R. O. T. C. school yet allowed by the government to fire this

course. The cost of ammunition alone is over eleven thousand dollars. The interest that the government is showing in this test is manifested by the fact that during between terms an ordnance officer was sent to A. & M. to go over all the guns to see that they were in good condition.

The class here has an average of one hundred and forty and five-tenths out of a possible two hundred and Capt. Ware, the instructor in charge of the infantry juniors believes that every man will qualify as at least a marksman. The government gives a badge to each man who makes a score of above two hundred and twelve out of a possible five hundred. The remaining ranges will be fired in the near future, and undoubtedly Aggie-land will soon blossom forth with a bevy of qualification badges.

IN A FRESHMAN'S EYES

(From a Volume of Worse)

A Senior stood on a railroad track
The train was coming fast,
The train got off the railroad track
And let the Senior pass.

—Helz Belz.

Try to see through things and see things through.

WHEN

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