

# THE BATTALION

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All undergraduates in the College are eligible to try for a place on the Editorial Staff of this paper. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors who are interested in journalism for its own sake, are urged to make themselves known to some member of the Staff.

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### REPORT ON THE EXCHANGE STORE OF THE A. AND M. COLLEGE OF TEXAS.

At a recent meeting of certain elected seniors with the President, Commandant, and Deans of the College, the President appointed a Committee, composed of Dean F. C. Bolton and two members of the senior class, to investigate the prices quoted on articles sold by the Exchange Store, its financial status, ownership, and other questions that have been hazy to the minds of the student body.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Chatham and with the approval of the President, the Committee was taken to San Antonio and Austin in order that a complete comparison of quality and prices of articles sold by the Exchange Store could be made with like articles sold at retail establishments, at the Post Exchange at Fort Sam Houston, and at the cooperative store in Austin, which is operated for the benefit of Texas University students. Like comparisons were made locally.

The articles listed in the Committee's comparison gave a complete representation of the Exchange Store's stock, and the comparison, based on both quality and price, showed the following figures:

Retail prices on all articles listed was 21% in excess of prices charged by the Exchange Store; Post Exchange prices 5% in excess of Exchange Store prices; and University Cooperative store prices 13% in excess of Exchange Store prices. It is interesting to note that the Exchange Store is lower in prices than the Post Exchange at San Antonio, operated by the Government for the benefit of the soldiers, yet the Post Exchange has a volume of sales amounting to well over a million dollars a year. The Exchange Store has sales amounting to approximately one hundred thousand dollars a year. Though the purchasing power of the Post Exchange is much larger than that of the Exchange Store, yet their prices are higher. Here another point may be added. The profits of the Post Exchange are divided among the different organizations according to peace strength of each organization and the amount of stock in the Post Exchange owned by the organization. At present the Exchange Store owes approximately \$18,000.00 on the store in which it is now situated and as soon as this is paid in full it will be recommended by the Manager of the Exchange Store, Mr. Chatham, to the Board of Directors that half of the net profits of the Store be turned back to the students and the other half be kept on reserve. This reserve is necessary to the business.

The following is an article written by Doctor Bizzell and published in the January 31, 1917, edition of the Battalion. It sets forth the purpose of the Exchange Store, its ownership and the manner in which it is conducted:

"There seems to be a wrong impression among some of the students regarding the ownership of the Exchange Store, and the manner in which the store is conducted, and for this reason the following is published:

The Exchange Store of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas was established in September 1909 under an order adopted by the Board of Directors June 9, 1909, which reads as follows:

"It was moved and carried that the President of the College be authorized to make such arrangements as are necessary to supply the students with articles of wearing apparel required by the regulations. He was further authorized to supply in that Exchange small articles required by the students as in his judgment will be advantageous to them and to the best interests of the College."

This action was taken as a result of a communication from the Faculty of the College to the Board of Directors, setting forth the necessity of a store to be conducted on the Campus for the benefit and convenience of the student body, and for the purpose of reducing the cost of necessary articles. Previously to the opening of the Exchange Store the College operated a book store, selling the students their text-books, drawing instruments, drawing material, etc. The book store was under the control of the Treasurer and directly under a bookkeeper employed to keep accounts. But this arrange-

ment proved a failure, and at the time of the opening of the Exchange Store September 1, 1909, the store was insolvent to the amount of \$2,796.94, notwithstanding the fact that all books and supplies were sold at regular retail prices.

There were no hats, shirts, or any kind of regulation wearing apparel handled. Such supplies were sold by the Bryan merchants, who came out on the campus at the beginning of the session, each with a small stock of wares to sell to cadets, and endeavor to supply the needs of the students as best they could. The results, however, were far from satisfactory, as each merchant was afraid to buy heavily on account of competition, and the result was, that a large number of students were without the necessary supplies until late in the session. Still another disadvantage was that nearly all the regulation articles varied in color, shape and material. After the opening of

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