

Texas Technological College

TEXAS TECHNOLOGICAL college can now answer its critics. Indeed, it has done so already, and with a gesture that can not escape drawing notice to its chief reason for being, which is that of providing technological training in the textile arts.

The incident which will gain Texas Tech less attention, possibly, than its football team but which should acquaint the country with its serious purposes as a college is this: Recently in Washington Amon G. Carter, Fort Worth publisher and first chairman of the board of directors of the college, presented President Roosevelt with a suit of clothes woven in the college plant from wool grown by Texas Tech's own herd of sheep.

This is not an instance of getting the Navy's goat but of shearing Tech's sheep, for the technological college raises its own sheep, produces its own wool and weaves its own woollen fabrics in the admirably practical course of educating its students in the textile arts. Equally practical methods are applied in textile training where cotton is the raw material.

When the proponents of a technological college for Texas were hard at it to accomplish the establishment of such an institution by the State the very telling argument was advanced that Texas is the greatest cotton producing State and, likewise, leads all others in wool and mohair. Yet its woolens were coming from Boston and its cotton goods from New England and, later, the South Atlantic States. So far as that is concerned, they still are to a great extent. But that is not the fault of Texas Tech.

At the outset it was claimed by the sponsors of Texas Tech that trained technicians in textiles were needed in Texas to attract the textile mills to this State. When the mill drift set in from New England to the South, Texas had no school comparable to Georgia Tech. The migrating mill owners of the East offered the objection that textile technologists were lacking in Texas. That, of course, was seized upon among other arguments to advance the cause of a technological college, and Texas Tech was established in 1925.

Remarkable advance, in the face of unexampled obstacles, has been made since that date. For a time it appeared that the school would drift into an academic rut and become just another college, not a technological institute. Happily, that drift has been stopped. Texas Tech teaches textile crafts now as well as the huddle and the triple threat.