

ARE YOU A SCIENTIFIC SHOVELER?

Scientists Have Taken Shovelers in Hand and Figured Just How Much They Ought to Lift, and What Kind of Shovels to Use.

How much material is one shovelful?

That's a serious question, for shoveling is an art. It isn't simply just taking up a load of dirt or coal or ore and transferring it from one place to another.

Careful investigations have resulted in the conclusion that men must use brains in shoveling just as well as in anything else.

Just to prove it—did you know that you could do more work in a given time if you took a load of 21 pounds on your shovel every time you dug it into a pile of coal, for instance, than if you took a larger amount? Of course, you didn't know—nobody else did, either, until recent experiments were concluded in one of the big steel plants. These proved it.

The person who hears this for the first time will probably declare that such a statement is absurd, because a shovelful of coal will weigh more than a shovelful of dry bones, for instance. But the investigators come right back with the statement that a shovel of different size or shape should be used for each kind of material—a shovel that will admit the taking up of a load of 21 pounds every time.

The men who investigated this subject found that the loads taken on the shovels in the plant where experiments were made varied from 3½ pounds to 38 pounds. They marveled at this variation and commenced a series of tests. Then they found that the proper load was 21 pounds of all materials, and before they got through they had equipped the plant with eleven different kinds of shovels to be used in eleven different kinds of shoveling.

They started in with a group of men who were taking 38 pounds to the load every time. By careful observation they found these men shoveled more material in a day at 21 pounds, and they didn't get so tired doing it. They also found that, whereas it cost between 7 and 8 cents per ton to shovel coal and ore at the plant investigated under the old conditions, under the new system the cost was reduced between 3 and 4 cents.

Add to this the cost of the clerical work necessary to keep up a system of scientific shoveling, and the total cost of the work was something like \$70,000 less than the cost under the old system.

The result is that the people who believe in scientific management are now preaching the gospel of scientific shoveling. The workman gets more money because most of this kind of work is piece work and he is able to do more than he did under the old system.

In the plant investigated, wages rose 60 per cent, while the men worked with greater ease.

Gabe—Jones has a wonderful constitution, hasn't he? Steve—I should say so. Why, he can read a whole patent medicine booklet and feel perfectly sound!

Little Boy (with swollen face)—Oh, dear! I wish I was grandpa, or else the baby. Mother—Why? Little Boy—Grandpa's teeth are all gone, and baby's hasn't come yet.