

spent more money for food. Pressure on the shovel market was redoubled and the price rose again because of increased demand.

As shovels became more costly, debts increased. This was because workmen had to give bigger mortgages in purchase, or pay more of their wages to use a shovel. With the adoption of the bean tax, shovel tenants began to pay as much as one-fourth of their wages in order to use a shovel. SO WAGES, INSTEAD OF BEING \$5.00 PER DAY WERE NOW \$3.75, the sum left to the workman after he had paid his shovel rent.

Martin was elated. He figured the tax on José Vasquez' beans had increased the value of shovels and the wealth of the camp by several million dollars. The results were quite gratifying, he thought.

Joe Miller thought it over, too. He could see that the wealth of the camp had been increased, but his shovel rent had also been increased, which meant that his wages had fallen, and it cost more to buy beans. It had a catch somewhere.

A few troubled souls doubted. Some even suspected that Morgan might be right in claiming that they, not José Vasquez, paid the tax. Martin assured them that this was impossible because tax remittances were signed by Panza, Vasquez' agent. Even if they did pay, he argued, there was no cause for complaint because the enormously enhanced value of shovels had produced more wealth with which to pay.