

Shoveling away with his so-called \$7,500 shovel, Morgan insists, in the face of much ridicule, that it is really worth \$1.00; that the value placed on shovels is illusion; that a shovel is made to shovel with, and that is all it is good for.

Morgan scoffs at the idea that a shovel is anything more than an implement and he upsets the town's serenity by pointing out that the work of digging the lake is proceeding much more slowly than it would had Martin never launched his scheme. He denies the community is richer, or even better off, scouts common beliefs in Martin's genius and proves himself an all-around skeptic.

One thing that causes considerable discussion is Morgan's idea that the camp has actually been impoverished by the advance in shovels. He says that six thousand men are idle and bring no wealth to the camp because they draw no wages. He figures that had they worked the whole eight years, as the others had done, \$70,000,000 more would have been paid into the camp in wages, and the total wealth of the camp would have been augmented that much. He holds that shovels are valuable only for their productive power, whence is derived the true wealth of the camp.