

The Difference Between Them

The following was written by Del Jones' grandfather, Charles F. Thomas, Jr., who owned a coal mine in Colorado and supervised tunnel work on the Aqueduct and Hoover and Coulee dams.

Two men came out to the job one day,
Both signed on at the same rate of pay;
Each was started at similar work,
Not hard enough for either to shirk.
Dick was a husky chap, so was Tim;
Able to work with vigor and vim.

Tim dug in with a swing and a lift,
Hustled his work throughout the whole shift,
Whistled a tune as the hours crawled by,
No task was set that he would not try.
Always took pride in a job well done,
Even worked harder if left alone.

Dick was a loafer; hated to toil;
Dodged any task where fingers could soil.
Spent half his time watching the boss.
Moved so slowly they thought he'd grow moss.
Ev'ry ten minutes looked at his watch,
Stalled along making good work a botch.

First in the mess hall; loudest to grieve;
Last on the job but first one to leave.
Talked of everything under the sun;
Told the world how the job should be run.
Strong to complain and wail at his plight;
Criticized men who tried to do right.

Tim climbed the ladder, earning more pay.
Dick drew a timecheck, went on his way.
These chaps you've seen, rubbed elbows with them;
With lessons taught by each of these men.
Work and hustle throughout the whole day;
It's pluck, not luck, that gauges your pay!

Copyright Charles F. Thomas, Jr.