

## The Engineer's "If"

*With apologies to Kipling.*

ROBERT ISHAM RANDOLPH, M. W. S. E.

If you can swing an axe, or wield a brushhook,  
     Or drive a stake, or drag a chain all day;  
 If you can scribble "figgers" in a note book,  
     Or shoot a range pole half a mile away;  
 If you can sight a transit or a level,  
     Or move a target up and down the rod;  
 If you fear neither man nor devil,  
     And know yourself and trust the living God.

If you can wade a swamp or swim a river,  
     Nor fear the deep, nor yet the dizzy heights;  
 If you can stand the cold without a shiver  
     And take the Higgin's ink to bed o' nights,  
 If you can turn a thumb screw with your fingers  
     When every digit's like a frozen thumb;  
 If you can work as long as daylight lingers,  
     And not complain, or think you're going some.

If you sight thru tropic heat's refraction,  
     Or toil all day beneath a blistering sun;  
 If you can find a sort of satisfaction  
     In knowing that you've got a job well done;  
 If you can be an Eskimo and nigger  
     And try to be a gentleman to boot;  
 If you can use a "guessin'" stick to figger  
     And know a coefficient from a root.

If you can run a line where you are told,  
     And make it stay somewhere on the map;  
 If you can read your notes when they get cold,  
     And know that contours mustn't ever lap;  
 If you can line a truss, or tap a rivet,  
     Or make a surly foreman come across;  
 If you can take an order, as well as give it,  
     And not have secret pity for the boss.

If you can climb a stool and not feel lowly,  
     Nor have your head turned by a swivel chair;  
 If you can reach your judgments slowly,  
     And make your rulings always just and fair;  
 If you can give yourself and all that is in you,  
     And make the others give their best, too;  
 If you can handle men of brawn and sinew,  
     And like the men and make 'em like you, too.

If you can boast a college education,  
     Or, if you've a sheep-skin, can forget;  
 If you get a living wage for compensation,  
     And give a little more than what you get;  
 If you can meet with triumph and disaster,  
     And treat them without favor, nor with fear;  
 You'll be a man and your own master,  
     But, what is more, you'll be an ENGINEER.