

# A Labor Day Greeting

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*Marteleur (Metalworker)*, by Constantin-Emile Meunier, 1884; this cast dedicated at Columbia University, New York, 1914.



*Samuel Rea*, by Adolph A. Weinman, ca. 1910. Just west of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. entrance to Pennsylvania Station, at 32nd St. Rea was responsible not only for supervising the building of the magnificent Pennsylvania Station (completed in 1910), but for the whole project linking the Pennsylvania Railroad's Jersey City terminal with Manhattan, which included construction of railroad tubes under the Hudson under the East River to the sprawling railroad yards in Sunnyside, Queens. It was one of the most massive engineering projects of the early twentieth century, matched only by the construction of Grand Central Terminal a few blocks away.

## The Thinker

Back of the beating hammer by which the steel is wrought,  
Back of the workshop's clamor, the seeker may find the thought.  
The thought that is ever master of iron and steam and steel,  
That rises above disaster and tramples it under heel.  
The drudge may fret and tinker, or labor with lusty blows,  
But back of him stands the Thinker, the clear-eyed man who knows.

For into each plow or sabre, each piece and part and whole,  
Must go the brains of labor, which gives the work a soul.  
Back of the motor's humming, back of the belts that sing,  
Back of the hammer's drumming, back of the cranes that swing,  
There is the eye which scans them, watching through stress and strain,  
There is the mind which plans them--back of the brawn, the brain.

Might of the roaring boiler, force of the engine's thrust,  
Strength of the sweating toiler--greatly in these we trust.  
But back of them stands the schemer, the thinker who drives things through,  
Back of the job, the dreamer, who's making the dream come true.

--Berton Braley