

PROFESSOR M. J. GOLDEN, NOTED EDUCATOR, CALLED BY  
DEATH.

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In the death of Michael Joseph Golden, for years a member of the Purdue University faculty, which occurred December 18, 1918, at his home, 320 State Street, West Lafayette, Ind., this community and the professions of engineering and education lose a noted educator and highly esteemed citizen. Professor Golden retired as an active member of the faculty in 1916, after rendering extraordinary service since 1884. He was beloved by students, faculty and alumni, and, although he was a strict disciplinarian, he was ever eminently square in his dealings with the student body, to whom he was familiarly known as "Mike." That in the university community Professor Golden was not fully appreciated by the freshmen was a result of intent on the part of upperclass men to inspire awe and even fear in the hearts of the first-year men. This was possible in some measure because of Professor Golden's manner of speech to his freshmen classes, which was well designed to inspire respect for things good and true, and to discourage the habits of inattention, indolence and dishonesty. Even these students, however, soon learned that their interests were his interests, for he was in sympathy with all student activities and took prominent part in many of them.

He believed in practicing what he preached. He was always ready and willing to help those who helped themselves and needed help, and on the other hand he believed it was the right and privilege of every student to be allowed to get his own education.

He took advantage of every opportunity presented by critical situations in the activities of students to urge them to dealings of justice, honesty and courtesy among themselves and with their opponents. He was one of the staunchest advocates of athletics Purdue had, and his brilliant personality and keen sense of humor made him a figure much sought after in all gatherings of students and alumni. He was for years a member of the board of insignia of the athletic association. Probably no other individual in the university community wielded so widespread and so effective an influence for the better things in the university life of the student as did he.

None knew better than his colleagues his professional ability, his kindliness and his generosity. His was a character of strength. No adjectives are required in such a description. He was honest, frank

and fearless. He was loyal to his family, to his friends, to his Alma Mater, and last of all to himself. His feeling of loyalty to Purdue weighed heavily against flattering offers which would take him away.

So he remained, striving with all his energy to make his department in the university do its work so well that there was no other anywhere doing it better. His constant aim was to co-ordinate the work of practical mechanics with the needs of the employers of engineering graduates. In this problem the interests in contact are many and varied, so that progress was necessarily slow; but every line of work in the department reflects his effort, which was tireless.

Professor Golden was a Canadian by birth, having been born in Stratford, Can., November 17, 1862. He received his early education at Lawrence, Mass., and was for some time a special student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. For one year he was instructor in mechanical drawing at the high school at Hyde Park, Mass. He came to Purdue in 1884 as instructor in shop work. In 1894 he received his degree from Purdue University as a mechanical engineer. From 1889 until June, 1916, he served as professor in practical mechanics at Purdue, and has been Director of the practical mechanics laboratory since 1907. In shop management and shop experiments he was intensely interested. On one trip east for a short period of time he began making experiments with ball bearings, and he is said to have been one of the first experimenters in that line. Upon his return these experiments were continued here, and valuable conclusions resulted from the data received from them. Keen appreciation of manufacturing conditions, fine perception and good judgment prompted Professor Golden in the development of his department, which increased in size and effectiveness under his guidance, becoming a model of its kind. His course of shop lectures was perhaps the best and most comprehensive in existence and proved of almost inestimable value to the young engineer; so much so that it is indeed seldom but that a returning alumnus speaks of his indebtedness for this work.

His last notable work was in connection with the instruction in mechanical drawing. This work was developed to such a state that the results were highly satisfactory to both students and instructors, and by it the efficiency of this part of his department was very considerably increased. His educational work was more far-reaching than was generally known. He was the author of texts used in correspondence-school instruction.

He spent a great deal of time in research, in collaboration with his sister, Mrs. Bitting, investigating microscopically the structure of wood. For this work he designed and built much special apparatus. His talents in photography lent themselves well to this work, the results of which

are highly appreciated by investigators as well as commercially. Professor Golden's appreciation of the beautiful in nature and in art was greater than usually is the lot of the layman. Among those who have received most generously of his most willing aid, and who mourn him most sincerely, are the Sisters of St. Francis of St. Elizabeth Hospital, where he lectured and taught, planned and advised, taking of his own time unselfishly for this work.

In June, 1916, Professor Golden was granted a leave of absence because of ill health, and he retired from the faculty in 1917. Professor Golden was a member of the Theta Xi fraternity, Indiana Academy of Science, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Naval Engineers, and the Manual Training Teachers' Association of America. He was a devout member of St. Mary's Church and was for many years chancellor for the Knights of Columbus, relinquishing this post because of ill health.

Since his retirement in 1916, he had devoted his time to traveling, in the hopes of benefiting his failing health. Professor Golden is survived by three sisters: Miss Josephine Golden, 320 State Street, West Lafayette; Miss Helen Golden, professor in mechanical drawing at Purdue, and Mrs. Katherine Bitting of Washington, D. C.

Professor Golden was the author of "A Laboratory Course in Wood Turning" and "Pattern Making Notes," both used in the university as texts; "Shop Lecture Notes," which were so used for years; "Pattern Making," which he wrote for the International Correspondence School, and "Molding," which he prepared for the same school. Besides these he has written brochures and pamphlets descriptive of "Purdue University Shops," "Tests of Ball Bearings," and other engineering papers.