

## A DAY OF HORRORS.

The Culmination of the Labor Troubles at Homestead.

## A BLOODY BATTLE AT THE WORKS,

Lasting From Four in the Morning Until Five in the Afternoon.

## THREE HUNDRED PINKERTON MEN

Bombarded in a River Barge by Cannon and Winchesters.

## FEARFUL DESTRUCTION OF LIFE

On Both Sides--The Striking Iron Workers Determined to Prevent the Pinkertons from Landing if it Costs Every Life, Make a Desperate Fight. The Rattle of Musketry, the Booming of Cannon and the Cries of the Dying and Wounded Only Cease When the So-Called Detectives Surrender Unconditionally--Dynamite and Burning Oil Brought Into Use. Appalling Situation of the Pinkertons--Imprisoned in Their Barge No Quarter is Given Them Until the Strikers' Leaders Plead for Them. Their Flag of Truce Shot Down Three Times--Their Awful Treatment After Surrender.

Pittsburgh, Pa., July 6.--Pittsburgh has had another experience with labor riots, and this time, as during the fearful scenes which were witnessed during the railroad riots of 1877, blood has been shed, life jeopardized and valuable property placed in danger. This time there was no destruction of property, but the mob was thoroughly well organized, well disciplined and had efficient officers at the head to conduct their operations. The force embraced all the men employed in the extensive plants of the Carnegie Iron and Steel Company at Homestead, some eight miles east of Pittsburgh, and a battle



which for blood thirstiness and boldness of execution has not been excelled in actual warfare, waged from 4 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock this afternoon, and only ceased when the force of Pinkerton's brought to the place to suppress the strike, unconditionally surrendered, leaving their arms in the barges in which they had been transported to the works.

The riot to-day was the culmination of the troubles which have been brewing at Homestead for the past month. The Carnegie company submitted a scale to govern their workmen in the steel plants and announced that it was their ultimatum. Their scale made a sweeping reduction in the wages of skilled men, and it was officially announced that unless the terms were complied with before July 1, the places of the workmen would be filled by others. This was followed by a preemptory refusal on the part of the company to recognize the Amalgamated Association of Steel and Iron Workers as such, or to confer with any committee of the workmen, short of an acceptance of the terms offered. The men stated that they would never submit to this proposed reduction and announced their determination to resist any effort on the part of the Carnegie company to start up their plants with non-union men. As both sides were determined, both proceeded to prepare for the contest, which culminated in such deeds of violence and bloodshed that were witnessed to-day in the big hive of industry on the Monongahela.

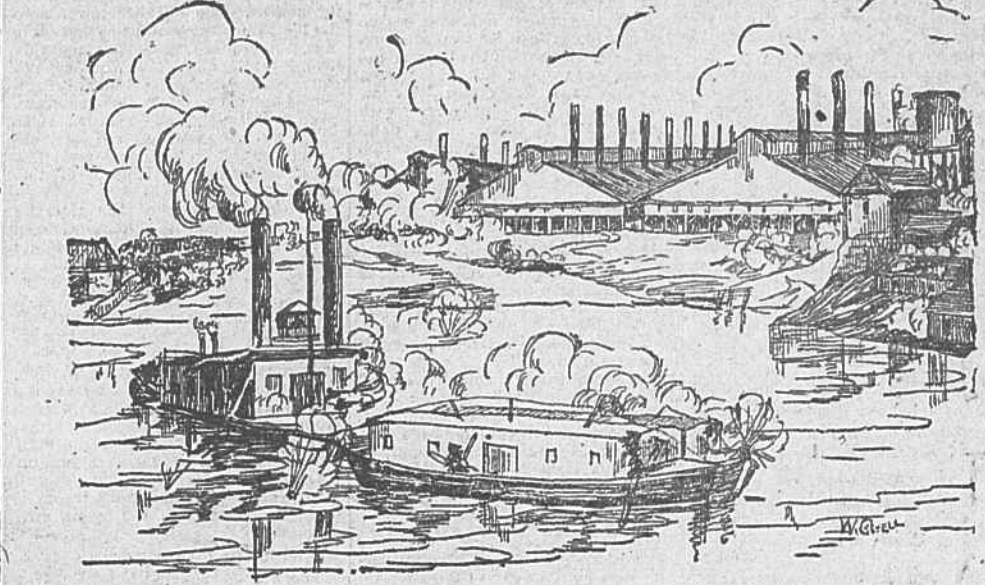
The contest was precipitated by the workmen at Homestead by hanging H. C. Frick, president of the company, in effigy, and in retaliation the company ordered an immediate shut down of the big works, two days before the time provided by the contract under which the men were working. The employees at once proceeded to organize for the defensive and the company erected a high board fence around the entire works, giving them the appearance of an immense stockade, the sides being pierced with port holes.

Yesterday the Carnegie company announced their intention to proceed to get ready to make repairs, and the officials asked the sheriff to appoint deputies to protect their property. The sheriff sent a small squad of men up to the works, but the strikers assembled in force and notified them to get out of the town, as no disorder was intended and no damage would be done to any property. They even offered to be sworn in as deputies and to give bonds for the faithful performance of their duties as conservators of the peace. When this offer was declined the advisory committee, which had been directing the action of the workmen, and which had held the turbulent spirits among the workmen in check, was immediately dissolved and all the records of the committee promptly destroyed.

The developments to-day showed that the applications made for assistance of

the sheriff was merely for the purpose of covering what was intended to be a coup d'etat on the part of the Carnegie company in clandestinely introducing a body of Pinkerton detectives into the mill enclosure. The detectives had been rendezvoused some five or six miles below this city on the Ohio river, at which two model barges had been prepared for them. The barges were of the best build and were used in shipping iron rails down the river from the Carnegie mills at Braddock. The holds were filled up with bunks, cooking arrangements and other accommodations, and as an extra precaution, as if in preparation for the siege to which they were subjected to-day, were lined with heavy steel plates on the inside, while the whole deck was protected in a similar manner.

It was the intention that the men should reach the works about 3 o'clock this morning, but the guards which were on duty along the river got word of the threatened invasion of the hated Pinkerton men and prepared to receive



them. The barges were towed up the river by a tow boat, but long before the Pinkerton men reached Homestead, thousands of strikers had gathered on the banks of the river ready to give them a warm welcome. When the boats attempted to land, the workmen broke through the fence surrounding the mill and entrenched themselves behind piles of steel billets, prepared to resist the landing of the detectives.

By 4 o'clock in the morning an effort was made to land the detectives, but the strikers met them and a fierce battle was precipitated, both sides exchanging a heavy volley of shots. The detectives were all armed with Winchester rifles, but at the point where the attempt to land was made there was a steep embankment and they were compelled to go in single file, and were soon driven back to the boats by the steady fire from the shore.

The noise of the battle spread about the borough like wildfire, and thousands of men, women and children thronged to the river bank to witness the fight in progress. The Pinkerton men were determined to land and they poured volley after volley into the ranks of the strikers, many of whom were stricken down by the bullets, some of them being fatally injured and others killed outright.

As the battle progressed, the strikers took up a position behind a breast works hastily constructed of steel rails and billets and from this place of safe refuge were able to pick off the detectives as soon as they appeared on the deck of their boats. In the meantime Captain Hein, and Superintendent Kline, of the Pinkerton men, were disabled and the fire became so fierce that the crew of this tow boat hastily cut loose from the barges, and steamed up the river, carrying as many of the wounded as they could reach to Braddock from which point they were sent down to the hospitals for treatment at Pittsburgh. Seven of the force were carried to their homes at Homestead, and the dead being taken to the morgue and undertaking rooms in the town. The news of the riot reached Pittsburgh as early as six o'clock in the morning and



thousands of mill workers, all of whom are now idle, pending the conference in the scale, congregated in the streets, while hundreds of others, armed with guns and revolvers, and well supplied with ammunition, took up the line of march to reinforce the strikers.

As soon as day broke, the strikers secured a small brass cannon and planted it within a steel billet embrasure, so as to command the barges which were moored at the bank of the river. At the same time a force of more than a thousand men took up a position on the opposite side of the river and also planted a cannon which they protected with a breastwork of railroad ties. The fire from both sides was kept up, the barges having been pierced along the sides. Shortly after 9 o'clock the cannon were trained on the boats and for several hours an awful bombardment was kept up. The stout oaken

timbers forming the sides of the boat were splintered, but the heavy steel plates on the inside prevented the balls from penetrating the interior. Many of the strikers, however, were expert marksmen and they sent shot into the port holes in the boats and inflicted terrible injury to the imprisoned men.

When it was found that little impression could be made by the cannon on the boats, an effort was made to fire the barges and thus compel the detectives to leave the vessels, or suffer the horrible fate of being burned alive.

Hoses were procured and oil was sprayed on the decks and sides of the barges. While this was being done barrel after barrel of oil was emptied into the river above the mooring places, the object being to allow it to float against the boats and then ignite it. This terrible deed was attempted several times, but the boats did not burn, and then the mob became infuriated and hurled dynamite bombs at the vessel with great effect. The situation

of the detectives was such as to appal the stoutest heart. The men had been left cooped up in the barges at the mercy of the infuriated mob. The tow-boat had left them, and they were so encompassed by the maddened army of strikers that no succor could reach them. Three times they ran up a flag of truce, but as many times it was stricken down by bullets fired by the strikers. Then it became evident that the ammunition of the besieged detectives was either exhausted or they were too much worn out to continue the fight, and for nearly two hours before the end of the struggle was reached not a shot was fired.

Towards dusk efforts were again made to burn the boats with their living freight and they would doubtless have succeeded had it not been for the interposition of the leading officers of the Amalgamated Association who went to the scene of the war in the afternoon. Through their efforts it was agreed to allow the detectives to surrender but this was not secured without the greatest objection on the part of the men, many of whom have lost friends and acquaintances during the day. Besides, as in all such outbreaks, there were thousands of turbulent characters attracted to the place, and as they owed no allegiance to any organization, could not be controlled. They wanted to see the carnage go on, and it was not until some of the strikers pointed their guns at the outsiders that a hearing was obtained.

At five o'clock the Pinkerton men hung out another white flag, and this time it was respected and a committee of strikers went aboard to prepare terms of capitulation. They guaranteed safe conduct for the Pinkerton's provided they left their arms and ammunition behind and agreed to leave the place under guard. The detectives had no alternative and promptly accepted the terms, some of the men saying that it was the first time they had ever submitted to such a humiliating surrender.

When an inspection of the boats was made, it was found that at least seven of the Pinkerton men had been killed and twenty or thirty wounded, many of them so badly that they will die. As they were brought from the boat they presented a terrible appearance. Many were besmeared with blood, while all of them showed signs of exhaustion from the long confinement in the close quarters between decks.

The most shocking and dastardly deeds, however, were committed while the prisoners were being escorted through the streets by the guards appointed by the strikers. An angry mob lined the street on both sides. As the men passed by each in charge of two deputies, the mill men and their friends kicked them and threw some of them down. The unfortunate detectives begged for mercy. Some of them had pistol shots in their heads and three were seen that had their eyes shot out.

Several were shot in the shoulders arms and legs and could scarcely limp along. Blood was running down their shirts and they fairly yelled with pain. Fully thirty injured men were taken to the town hall. One of them had his eye punched out by an umbrella in the hands of a woman. Sand was thrown in their eyes and they were hit with clubs and other missiles. Many were knocked down with clubs, tramped upon, and some were too weak to walk when they started for the town hall. The mill men used the stocks of their rifles and struck the detectives over the head and shoulders, inflicting serious, and in some cases, perhaps, fatal injuries.

As the procession reached the Amalgamated Association building, the detectives had to remove their hats and salute the flag. When they removed their hats men and women hit them with umbrellas and sticks and abused them in every way imaginable. There seemed to be a determination to kill the prisoners and it was with the greatest difficulty that the demoniac crowd could be restrained. The men were finally lodged in the opera house, where they were to be kept for

the night. Thousands, however, gathered around the building and the wounded men were kept in a constant state of terror, and it was long before their wounds could be dressed.

After the prisoners had been removed from the barges the rioters had their revenge. They carried oil into the holds, poured it over the bedding and furniture and then set them on fire, first securing them so that they could not float down the river and cause damage at points below. When the flames broke through the decks the cheers which rent the air were deafening, and the noise could be heard miles away. The hills on either side of the river were literally crowded with people, who could witness from the high points all that was transpiring on the battlefield and be out of range of the deadly bullets.

The day was one that will be remembered with horror by the people of the borough as well as the citizens of the entire county, who for the second time



will be called upon to pay the enormous amount of money entailed in the shape of riot losses.

## CAPT. HEIN'S STATEMENT.

He Says There Were 300 Pinkertons "Picked Up in Chicago and New York." PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 6.--Capt. F. H. Hein, who had charge of the Pinkerton men at Homestead, was brought to the Homeopathic hospital in this city at noon, with five companions who were wounded. The list of Pinkerton men at the hospital is:

Fatally injured--J. W. Kline, shot in the head; death expected any moment. Injured--Capt. F. H. Hein, shot in left leg; bullet extracted and will recover.

Russell Wells, shot in right shoulder. J. G. Hoffman, shot in right leg. David Lester, shot in head; seriously injured.

Another man was shot in the arm, but he left the hospital and the authorities did not know his name. Captain Hein, one of the injured, has been in the employ of the Pinkertons for many years and has had charge of



men at several large strikes. He was always considered a very conservative man. When seen in one of the rooms at the hospital this afternoon he said: "I had charge of these men, and they were picked up in Chicago and New York. They were a very fair lot of men. They numbered 200 all told and I gave them strict orders not to shoot until they were fired upon. When we proceeded to land about dark, the whistle blew and immediately the strikers commenced to come. To protect ourselves we had to return the fire. Seven or eight of our men are hurt, but I do not know their names."

Captain Hein stated that he did not know much about the strike but he had been ordered to take charge of the men and protect the property and he did the best he knew how. "The odds were against us," said the Captain, "and it was hard to do anything. I regret very much that any shooting was done."

Chicago, July 6.--William A. Pinkerton was in no amiable frame of mind to-day and declared that he had resolved to say nothing for publication regarding affairs at Pittsburgh. Incidentally he remarked: "We held off until the last moment on this business, but our company having done Carnegie's work for years they insisted that we supply the watchmen."

Mr. Pinkerton denied that he was recruiting for 500 additional men to send east. He said: "We are not recruiting men and don't expect to. We have enough in service to answer all calls." A Rumor Denied. PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 6.--The story that the G. A. R. and Sons of Veterans of Homestead had turned over their arms to the strikers and that two cars of ammunition and arms had been sent from this city is denied by the Amalgamated officials.

## HOW IT ENDED.

The Leaders of the Strikers Plead for a Cessation of

## THE HOSTILITIES AT HOMESTEAD,

But the Men Prepare to Burn the Two Hundred Pinkertons.

## AT LENGTH ANOTHER WHITE FLAG

Goes Up and It is Respected--The Prisoners Mobbed on Their Way to the Refuge and One Hundred of Them Seriously Injured--The Story of the Carnage as Told to the Outside World by the Bulletins During the Day--The Scenes and Events at Homestead--Action to be Taken by Congress in the Matter.

HOMESTEAD, Pa., July 6.--After a lengthy conference of the Amalgamated leaders, a meeting of the locked out men was called at 4 o'clock. It was attended by 1,000 men, many of whom carried muskets.

The national officers of the Amalgamated Association made a strong appeal to the men while the cannons roared outside. The big form of President Weihe loomed up, and heavy and all as his voice was, he was almost unable to be heard. He pleaded with the men to withdraw and assured them that the barges containing the deputies would immediately be removed. Assistant President Garland then took a position on the top of a furnace and at the top of his voice said: "Men, for God's sake and your families sake and for your own sake listen to the pleadings of cool-headed men. We have positive assurance that these deputies will be sent away and all we want is the statement that you will not do any more firing."

P. H. McEvoy, vice president of the Mahoning and Shenango valley district, said: "There has been an awful slaughter of human life here to-day, and by all means further sacrifices should be avoided. I am a stranger in the town, but from to-day's action I know full well that if you continue doing as you are, the state militia will be ordered out before dark and you will be defeated. In case the militia comes, you will lose ten men in every instance where you have so far lost but one. You have gained just achievements over Frick, and now aren't you willing to allow those boats to return?"

"Yes we will if they will show the white flag," was the reply of the excited men. At this juncture President Weihe again attempted to address the crowd, and instantly there was a loud report and with one accord every man rushed pell-mell to the scene. Even while the appeals were being made strong hearted men were endeavoring to pump oil on the barges. It was useless to continue the meeting and it adjourned.

An hour later, while the men were waiting for nightfall to burn the barges and the men in them, Hugh O'Donnell, the leader of the strikers, grasped an



American flag and mounting a pile of iron made an impassioned speech for mercy for the Pinkertons, lying like caged wolves in the barges. The extraordinary power of O'Donnell over the strikers became manifest at once. A few people demurred and cried out, "Let's burn them." But they were silenced. "Let us turn them over to the sheriff and make information for murder against them," said the leader. This was received with cheers, and when a striker waved his hands and asked the Pinkertons to surrender there was an immediate response from the boat. Capt. Hein, the leader, had fled. Many others escaped when the Little Bill steamed down the river, and the remainder were terror-stricken. They were mostly green men in labor troubles and expected to be killed. In an incredibly short time the leaders of the strikers came on deck. Then began a strange scene. The strikers crowded the boats, capturing the rifles and stealing and looted everything. They were mad with rage. The first man taken off the barge was dying--shot through the side, then one by one the strikers followed in charge of an alleged guard, each man carrying a valise. The guards carried winchesters taken from the Pinkertons. Six Pinkertons were reported as killed. Many were dangerously wounded.

The guards took the men a mile to a rink. There were 200 of them, and probably two-thirds of them were beaten brutally by the time they reached the improvised jail. They were compelled to run a gauntlet, composed of men and women. They were knocked down with stones, struck with clubs, kicked almost to insensibility and otherwise maltreated. When they reached the improvised jail, medical attention was needed by a large number. The

men were generally glad, however, they were not killed. None expected to leave Homestead alive. They claim that they were miserably misled, and that they came from different towns, were strangers to one another, and had been told that they were wanted as watchmen. In proof of this each guard wore a badge with the inscription, "Watchman, Carnegie Steel Company, Limited." They were hustled in the rink absolutely terror-stricken, fearing a lynching from an

immense crowd of people gathered outside. There seems little danger of this, however, as they are guarded by fifty of the locked out men armed with Winchesters. A COOL PINKERTON MAN. Among the scenes and incidents attending the surrender and landing of the discomfited detectives from the barges, one especially worthy of note shows the bravery and coolness of one Pinkerton man. As he reached the river bank with his companions they were assailed from all sides by the angry crowd. In a shower of stones and missiles of all kinds this man separated himself from the others and begged for a hearing. In the silence which followed he said: "Fellow Citizens:--When I came here, I did not understand the situation, or I would never have come. I was told I was to meet and deal with foreigners. I had no idea that I was to fight American citizens. I am a member of the Junior Order, and I appeal to you for permission to leave and get myself out of this terrible affair." The crowd cheered him and he proceeded unmolested. During the looting of the boats and in the great confusion, two men accidentally shot themselves--one fatally. When the crowd had searched out every article of value, kept what they could use, and destroyed what they could not and after inspecting every corner of the late man-of-war of their enemies, and noting every device for defense and offense, they slowly began to disperse. After a time, and when but a few stragglers remained on board, the retreat of the rear guard was hastened by the cry of "fire." Some one in that mob had set fire to the model barges which for fifteen hours had been the shelter of the Pinkertons, and which had withstood the assaults of 5,000 men. They burned rapidly and soon nothing but the charred and steaming hulks of those vessels of war remained. A complete list of the killed and wounded was not obtainable at midnight. As far as could be ascertained 12 workmen and 9 detectives were killed and 18 workmen and 21 detectives injured in the battle. In addition to this at least 100 detectives were seriously injured by the strikers while on their way to the jail this evening.

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THE DAY'S BULLETINS. How the Story of the Riots Was Told from Hour to Hour by the Associated Press. PITTSBURGH, July 6.--The labor troubles at Homestead between the workmen and the Carnegie Steel and Iron Company terminated in a riot about 5 o'clock this morning, in which ten or twelve of the workmen and five or six armed Pinkerton men, who attempted to land inside the high board fence surrounding the steel plant, were injured. The people of Homestead had been advised that a force of Pinkerton men were on their way up the river on the model barges. As soon as the information was received a general alarm was sounded, and amidst the most intense excitement thousands of people were soon gathered at the river bank and as close to the Pemickly railroad bridge as they could get for the high fence. For two hours before the boats arrived 5,000 or 6,000 persons awaited their coming on the river banks. The mills have a landing for boats within the enclosure of fence, and at first it appeared that there would be no way to prevent the Pinkertons entering the mills. Shortly before the boats reached Homestead a horseman riding at a mad gallop, spreading the alarm that the Pinkertons were coming. As the boat steamed toward the landing it was impossible to longer restrain the crowds. With a whoop and a yell of derision an onslaught was made on the fence. Soon 100 feet of the enclosure was torn away and 1,000 men were at the landing. As the Pinkertons landed they opened fire and two workmen dropped in their tracks. This enraged the crowd and they bore down upon the Pinkertons with resistless force, driving them back to the boats. In all about a dozen men were wounded, several of whom are likely to die. When the boats approached the landing the first man who came forward to disembark advanced with a Winchester rifle ready to fire on the crowd. As he went to step off he discharged his weapon. This was the signal for a general fight. There was a rapid exchange of shots from both sides. When the smoke had cleared away it was found that the following workmen had been shot: William Fry, probably fatally injured. Michael Murray, dangerously injured. Andrew Sourier, seriously injured. John Kane, badly hurt. Harry Hughes, wounded. An unknown man was taken to his home some distance from Homestead, evidently badly hurt. After the first assault had been made the boats pulled out in the stream and no further attempt was made to land.

THE SECOND FIGHT. At 8 o'clock another attempt was made to land the officers from the steamer Little Bill. The officer in charge announced to the crowd of workmen assembled on the bank that