

# THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

OMAHA, THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 7, 1892.

NUMBER 19

## BLOODY BATTLE

Terrible Struggle Now On Between Pinkerton men and Homestead Strikers.

WORKINGMEN SHOT DOWN LIKE DOGS

Between Twenty and Thirty Men Killed and Wounded in the Fray.

AND STILL THE AWFUL WORK GOES ON

The Detectives Try to Land But are Three Times Repulsed.

HELD AT BAY BY FIVE THOUSAND MEN

Driven Back to the River Barges on Which They Arrived.

THEN A CANNON IS TRAINED ON THEM

Their Vessel Riddled With Scrap Iron and Many are Slaughtered.

THREE FLAGS OF TRUCE SHOT AWAY

Frenzied Strikers Refuse to Give Quarter to the Imprisoned Invaders.

SURRENDER OF THE PINKERTON MEN

They Throw Down Their Arms and Are Allowed to Come Ashore.

BEATEN AND ABUSED BY EXCITED PEOPLE

Their March to a Place of Safety Beset by Many Dangers—End of the Battle Against Armed Invasion—Scenes and Incidents.

PITTSBURG, Pa., July 6.—Pittsburg has had another experience with labor riots and this time, as during the fearful scenes witnessed during the railroad riots of 1877, blood has been spilled, life jeopardized and valuable property ruined in dancer.

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 the operations. The force embraced all the men employed in the extensive plants of the Carnegie iron and steel works at Homestead, and a battle which for bloodthirstiness 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 Pinkertons 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.

### Cause of the Troubles.

The riot today 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 plant and announced that it was their ultimatum. The scale made a sweeping reduction in wages of skilled men, and it was officially announced that unless the terms were complied with by July 1 the places of work would be filled by others. This was followed by a peremptory 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 they would never submit to the proposed reduction and announced their determination to resist any effort on the part of the Carnegie company to start up their plants with nonunion 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 today in the big ring of industry on the Monongahela.

### Prepared for the Struggle.

The contest was precipitated by the workmen at Homestead by hanging H. C. Fricke, 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 defense 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 town as no disorder was intended and that no damage would be done to any property. They even offered to swear to the faithful performance of their duties as conservators of the peace.

### Refused the Workmen's Protection.

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 today showed that the applications made for assistance from the sheriff were merely for the purpose of covering what was intended to be a coup de main 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 six miles below the city on the Ohio river, at which point two barges had been prepared for them. The holds of the barges were filled with bunks, cooking arrangements and other accommodations, and as an extra precaution, as if in preparation of the siege to which they were subjected today, were lined with heavy steel plates on the inside, while the whale back deck was protected in a similar manner.

### When the Battle Opened.

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 by an umbrella in the hands of a woman. Sand was thrown in their eyes and they were hit by clubs and other missiles.

When the boats attempted to land the workmen broke through the fence surrounding the mill and, entrenching themselves behind piled up 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 Winchesters, 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.

Moved Down by Bullets.

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 struck down by the bullets, some of them being fatally injured and others killed outright.

As the battle progressed the strikers took a position behind a breastwork, heavily 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 the boats.

Cut Loose from the Barges.

In the meantime Captain Hein and Superintendent Kline of the Pinkertons were disabled, and the fire became so fierce that the crew of the 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 place they were sent down to the hospitals at Pittsburgh. Seven of the force were thus cared for, while the strikers who fell wounded were carried to their homes in Homestead, the dead being carried to the undertakers establishments in the town.

News of the riot reached Pittsburgh early as 6 o'clock in the morning, and thousands of mill workers, who are now idle pending the conference on 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.

Erected Barricades.

As soon as daybreak the strikers secured a small brass ten-pounder cannon and planted it within a steel built embrasure so as to command the barges which were moored at the river bank. At the same time a force of 1,000 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.

Shortly before 9 o'clock the cannon were trained on the boats, and for several hours an awful bombardment was kept up. The iron cast timbers forming the sides of the boats 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 after shot into the partitions of the boats and inflicted terrible injury on the imprisoned men.

Attempted to Burn Them Out.

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 compel the detectives to leave the shell or suffer the terrible fate of being burned alive. Hose was procured and oil sprayed on the decks and sides of the barges. While this was being done, barrel after barrel of oil was being emptied into the river above the mooring place, the object being to allow it to float against the boats and then ignite.

The terrible deed was attempted several times, but the boats did not burn and the mob became infuriated and buried dynamite bombs at the vessels with great effect.

The situation of the detectives was such as to appal the stoutest heart. The men had not left the barges and were cooped up at the mercy of the infuriated mob. The toads had left them and they were no longer supplied with ammunition, tools or food.

An Unknown Pole, shot in the knee; unconscious from loss of blood.

Fred Hein, chief detective, shot in the leg. Russell Wells, detective, shot in the leg. J. G. Hoffman, detective, shot in the knee. George W. Rutter, Homestead steel worker, shot in the hip and dangerously wounded.

Lawrence Laughlin, steel worker, thigh broken.

An unknown pole, shot in the head and ankle sprained; not serious.

Fred Hein, chief detective, shot in the leg. Russell Wells, detective, shot in the leg. J. G. Hoffman, detective, shot in the knee. George W. Rutter, Homestead steel worker, shot in the hip and dangerously wounded.

Andrew Sutler, Joseph Zesido, Wallace Murray, John Kane, Charles, an unknown man, Miles Laughlin, Captain Henry, John Cain, shot through the leg. Andrew Schuyler, shot through the knee.

Called for Aid.

Reasons Why State Troops Were Not Ordered to the Scene of Trouble.

PITTSBURG, Pa., July 6.—Upon the receipt of the governor's telegram, refusing to interfere with the strikers, he was exhausted by the county officials. Sheriff McCleary wired back the following dispatch:

Hon. Roman E. Patterson, Governor, Harrisburg: After a personal visit to Homestead works yesterday my mind was greatly assayed concerning the terrible condition of the Homestead mills and I called a meeting of the militia to guard the works.

The militia, however, were not available.

Mr. Patterson wired to the governor:

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