

CALLED OUT THE BRASS BANDS.

Strikers Make Preparations to Receive the Militia with Due Honor.

HOMESTEAD, Pa., July 11.—[Special.]—Ever since the word came that Gov. Pattison had ordered out the militia the Burgess of the town and the leaders of the strike have been working like harvest hands to get the vengeful mob that has ruled here for the last week under control.

Burgess McCluckie and Chairman O'Donnell were on the streets within an hour after the message that the troops were coming was received and they have not taken a moment's rest since. Their efforts culminated this afternoon in a mass-meeting in the rink.

It was not as large a meeting as they had hoped to see, for less than one-fifth of the 4,000 strikers attended. But the result was favorable to the end for which they have been working; that the militia shall be permitted to take charge of the mills without opposition.

A resolution was adopted without a dissenting vote that the strikers should go out in a body with brass bands and give the militia a welcome that will set at rest whatever fears may have been entertained of trouble.

The mass-meeting was called for 2 o'clock in an old frame structure known as the rink. It was here the Pinkertons were imprisoned and as the men gathered into the building they pointed out the dark stains on the floor where the wounded prisoners had bled.

"This," said one of the strikers, spitting a mouthful of tobacco juice at one of the black spots, "is where one of the dogs laid. I saw him and his hands were all torn in shreds." Others showed their contempt by scraping the spots with their feet.

While this was going on the anxious Burgess and Advisory committee came into the hall. A few minutes later Chairman O'Donnell of the Advisory committee called the meeting to order, and, to make sure of no mistake, said that Burgess McCluckie would preside.

McCluckie Made a Speech.

In taking his seat the Burgess made a speech strangely at variance with the views he openly boasted of less than forty-eight hours before. Saturday evening he returned from Harrisburg where he, with Chairman O'Donnell and others, went and begged the Governor not to order out the militia. On their return they announced with great pride that their mission had been successful and that no troops would be sent.

Notwithstanding this fact, the Burgess in his opening address said he was rejoiced that the soldiers were coming; that it was what he had been hoping for all along; that it would tend to help the men win the strike, and that the Governor had sent them because the Pinkertons were massing men to make another attempt on the mills. The soldiers were in sympathy with the strikers, and would not permit the unwashed hirelings to make another assault.

He further told the strikers to see to it that no word other than of welcome should be uttered upon the arrival of the troops.

The speech was well received by the vast majority in the rink. One dissenter arose in the gallery and said from the experiences strikers had had with the militia of Pennsylvania he did not think there was any excuse for welcoming them. He was not allowed to continue. Other speakers were called for and he forced to sit down.

The speeches were much the same in tone. The men were admonished that the eyes of the world were upon them, and that to gain the sympathy of the world they must refrain from riot and lawlessness. No one blamed them for defending themselves against the attack made by the Pinkertons, but the men now coming were representatives of the law to stand in the way of murderous intruders. All of them were told in these entreaties to let liquor alone, saying that it would ruin their cause.

"It would not take much," said one speaker, "to start a riot in this town. A turn of the hand or a thoughtless expression might result in the killing of hundreds of our fellows."

The men in the meeting seemed to realize the wisdom of the counsel offered and upon the suggestion of Burgess McCluckie a resolution was adopted that any person who, either by word or act, should offer insult to the militia should be ducked in the river.

While those in the meeting believed in extending a royal welcome to the State troops there were hundreds outside who were at variance with the suggestion.

Some of the Reckless Ones.

Every striker in the borough seemed to be on the street today. All the down-town thoroughfares are crowded and so were the saloons and grogeries. It is the only time since the fight of last Wednesday that there has been any great amount of drinking. But the disorderly element was out early and had been drinking heavily all day. Loud discussions mingled with oaths and curses, could be heard in and around every saloon in town. It was so while the Burgess and Advisory committee were talking for peace in the rink. But the vicious element wants no peace. It cares not for the opinion of the world. It does not realize that the behavior of the strikers in Homestead on the arrival of the militia will affect the interests of hundreds of thousands of toilers from Maine to California for better or for worse.

Dick Scott, who was for ten years on the Chicago police force, is one of the strikers. He was one of the officers wounded in the Haymarket riot, and also did duty during the Burlington strike. In speaking of the situation today he said it was critical in the extreme.

"If the leaders can only bring the men to realize the gravity of the situation and keep them away from the saloons we may pull through without much trouble," he said, "but the matter is resting on a balance and it would take but a straw to throw it either way."

The leaders are in a measure to blame for the fierce spirit that burns in the breasts of so many of the strikers. Three or four times a day they have received new information that the Pinkertons are mobilizing their forces with a view to seizing the mills. In their present condition of nervous excitement the very mention of the name of Pinkerton will cause many to start and make a motion as if to shoot. And yet at the close of the peace meeting Burgess McCluckie announced that a dispatch had just been received from a reliable source stating that the Pinkertons were making a concerted movement from all parts of the country. They were all headed towards Homestead, and there was no doubt but they meant to get into the steel works.

The effect was anything but soothing. The crowd rushed from the rink as if it expected to find Pinkerton armies possessed of every hilltop around the town.

The strikers who attended the mass meeting were soon mingling with the crowd spreading the news of the welcome reception that was to be given the militia upon its arrival. But the idea did not seem to meet with general approval.

"They will find that the Philadelphia companies won't get a warm welcome," remarked Dave Hannan, a vicious looking steel worker, as he stood in a crowd in front of the Amity House. "I was with the strikers in '77, when those companies shot us down like dogs, and I know a lot of fellows who have been waiting for fifteen long years to get back at them."

Want to Confine Them to the Mills.

The opposition to allowing the troops to enter the town seems to be general, though there are many who would not object to them at the mills. Merchants, hotel-keepers, and men of all professions protest against bringing the militia into the borough.

"Let them stay at the mills," said J. D. Lloyd, proprietor of the Mansion House, "there is where they belong. The Burgess and the Council are competent to govern the town. There is no disturbance here nor at the mills for that matter, but it will be an insult to our town to let them enter."

However true this might have been the fact remains that in this borough from 2,500 to 3,000 men possess Winchester rifles, muskets, or shotguns, to say nothing of the revolvers constantly carried around by hot-headed men.

Let the fire once break out and there is no doubt that it would result in a battle, with 3,000 workmen filled with hatred and revenge on one side and the regular militia of the State, made

up largely of youths of little experience, on the other. While arms and ammunition are in the possession of the strikers no men have appeared on the streets with guns today, and the external appearance is less warlike than usual. But the armed pickets are still patrolling their beats around the outskirts of the town, the mill is still surrounded and will be until the troops come and take possession.

Like a Legal Decision.

For a people as steadfast in the principles of trades-unionism as are the men at Homestead, their reception of the intelligence of the coming of troops was a remarkable feature of this latest move in the strike. To every one of the leading strikers the announcement was like a legal decision declaring to a property-owner that he has not a clear title to realty he had paid for. These men believe implicitly that they have not been fairly treated, that no one should take their places in the mills, and that they have a right to prevent it. Right or wrong, that is their belief; and, considering all this and knowing that with the coming of troops they are powerless to longer prevent the operation of the great mills by other and non-union men so long as troops remain, they received this news with stoical men almost heroic.

As soon as the news was confirmed a meeting of the Advisory committee was called. There was no waiting until the morrow. Immediately men were called from their beds, and at 2 o'clock this morning the situation was discussed. It was decided at once to offer no opposition; to welcome the army and offer every hospitality. But there underlies all this a determination that warrants the positive statement that even if under cover of the militia men are put in the mills they may not stay there.

The strikers know the army cannot stay here permanently, and they know that as soon as it is called to vacate then again their power is supreme, and such methods as are deemed advisable will be pursued to cause the new men to leave the mills. They are afraid, however, that along with the new men Pinkerton guards will be taken into the property, in which event they realize the additional task of regaining possession. This condition was outlined by Crawford, one of the brainiest of the leaders, who spoke his own as well as the sentiments of the men.

"We hope ultimately," he said, "notwithstanding Mr. Frick's repeated assertions that he will not treat with us, that he will at last find it best to make one or two concessions, which we have asked for."

"But suppose he will not do that?" was asked.

"Then," and a determined look came into his face, "then we will renew the fight, for those mills shall not be run by non-union men. If the Amalgamated Association loses this fight its power is gone. We all realize this to be a fact, therefore we admit that the troops only delay the actual contest."

Aid from the Outside.

Not only were all the workers on the streets today but in addition there were thousands of men from Pittsburg and other cities who were visibly more excited than the men most deeply concerned. These visitors were all union men and deeply sympathize with the strikers. They talk strongly against the company and their inflammatory speeches have had a disturbing effect.

As the time for the supposed arrival of the troops approached the excitement increased, but late in the afternoon the report that the troops would camp at Brinton tonight and that they will not be here until tomorrow, changed the aspect of affairs.

Hugh O'Donnell said: "We have ordered our people to receive the military with that courtesy and true loyalty due the State; to show by our actions that we are law-abiding citizens and that we will lend our assistance in maintaining the dignity of the law."

No one can now talk on the future further than to say that no violence will occur while the militia is here. We expect that non-union men will be taken in the works while the army is with them, but we can attend to them after the troops go."

Burgess McCluckie said: "I will receive the militia with all the courtesy at our command. It is unnecessary to say more, except to refer you to my proclamation."

Request of the Militia.

The Advisory committee and Burgess McCluckie have been in a state of great uneasiness lest the troops come into Homestead before daylight. They claim to have information that men sent here by Frick are preparing to raise a disturbance on the arrival of the militia, in order to create feeling against the strikers. In order to prevent trouble of this kind the following telegram was sent to Gen. Snowden at Blairsville:

The citizens of Homestead respectfully beg that the troops enter our town by daylight. Many strangers are here tonight, for whose action we cannot hold ourselves accountable. We guarantee a most cordial reception to the troops from our people.

HOMESTEAD CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

There is reason to believe that the committee does not fear violence so much from strangers as from strikers. There is a large number who are bitterly opposed to allowing the militia to take possession of the steel works. Aside from these a contingent of about 200 arrived from the mills of South Pittsburg during the afternoon. They are all known to be hard cases and have the reputation of being fighters. These men came here with the express purpose of taking a hand in any trouble that may occur. They have an old score against the militia for injuries done during the strike of '77.