

EIGHTY THOUSAND MEN OUT

THE BIG STRIKE AMONG THE IRONWORKERS IN FORCE.

CARNEGIES CLAIM THE TARIFF IS NOT A FACTOR IN THE DIFFICULTY—REPUBLICAN CHIEFS, HOWEVER, ADVISE SPEEDY SETTLEMENT.

PITTSBURG, Penn., July 1.—Eighty thousand ironworkers and their dependents threw down their tools early this morning when the last "heats" were drawn. When they will take them up again, and on what terms, is a question which time alone can solve.

There are over 100,000 iron and steel workers west of the Alleghany Mountains. One-fifth of this number are employed in the sheet iron, tinned plate, and tube mills. The owners of these withdrew their proposition for a reduction in wages, and work in their mills has gone on. Perhaps 70,000 more men are employed in other mills throughout the country, where owners as individuals made terms with their workmen.

The manufacturers demand a reduction of from 20 to 40 per cent. in wages; the workmen insist on a continuance of the wages that have ruled for the past twelve months.

Some hopes of an early settlement were entertained to-day, the Pittsburg manufacturers having asked for a conference with the workmen, but these disappeared when, after a few hours' talk, it was announced that nothing had been accomplished.

Another conference will be held next Wednesday. If neither side yields at the meeting a long and hard struggle may be expected. The workmen are hopeful that they will gain their point before long.

The several manufacturers who have withdrawn the demand for a reduction are situated in all parts of the West, and the products of their mills include every grade of iron. The workmen argue that if these manufacturers can afford to pay the wages that have ruled during the past twelve months there is no reason for a reduction in other mills.

They were strengthened in this view to-day by the fact that several additional firms made terms with their workmen, one in Kentucky, one in Ohio, and another in Pittsburg. The Pittsburg concern was the Carnegie Twenty-ninth Street mill. This signature was expected when the scale was signed at the Carnegie Thirty-third Street mill last night. It has no bearing on the fight at Homestead, but it helps the workmen in that experience has taught them that the manufacturers will not hold together after a certain proportion make terms with their workmen.

It is evident that there is no "bluffing" at Homestead. The fight there is to be to the death between the Carnegie Steel Company, limited, with its \$25,000,000 capital, and the workmen.

The Carnegie Steel Company gave formal notice to-day, through its Secretary, that the Homestead Mill is to be operated as a non-union plant and that no expense is to be spared to gain this point.

The Secretary said: "The mills at Homestead have been closed for repairs, and will remain closed for two or three weeks. About the 15th or 20th of July it will be published and posted that any of our old employes may return to work and must make application by a certain day as individuals. All who do not apply by the time stipulated will be considered not to desire to work, and their places will be filled by new men.

"It is in the work of giving new men the places of the old employes that will cause the real conflict. The strikers will offer no violence so long as the mills stand idle, but when new employes are brought to the mills the old men will seek to persuade their successors to leave, and, failing in this, will attempt to dislodge them.

"It will be easy to get new men into the mills, for one of the Vanderbilt lines passes directly through the property, and the men may easily be set down there.

"Only 280 of the 3,800 men employed in the Homestead Mills are affected by the new scales. The wages of only that number are changed, and the remainder are to receive the same wages as at present. But so strong is the loyalty of the men to their organization 'has nearly all of the employes have decided to fight for the 280.

"We made the scale to suit trade and mechanical conditions, and gave no thought to the political cause or effect nor to the tariff, and hereafter we will have nothing to do with trade organizations."

In addition to this the Carnegies put forth a statement in justification of its position. In this it is claimed that the reduction offered is due to trade conditions, and that with the improved facilities that have been supplied to the workmen they will be able to make as much money as under the old scale.

It is conceded that the proposed change in the time of the expiration of the scale from July 30 to Dec. 31 is not so favorable to the workmen, because they cannot fight so hard for what they consider their rights in Winter as in Summer; but it is argued that it is important to know what the cost of production will be before contracts are made, and that for this reason the change is made.

The statement of the Secretary has added to the bitterness at Homestead. That of the firm is regarded as a skillful juggling with figures. The workmen are convinced that an acceptance of the Carnegie scale means a reduction in wages of from 20 to 60 per cent. as well as the abolishment of their organization, and they are prepared to fight to the end.

There was no disturbance at Homestead to-day, save a dispute between the manager for the Carnegie Steel Company, Mr. Potter, and a workman. It ended by Mr. Potter kicking the workman and running for his life.

The workmen have the mill and the whole town in a state of siege. Committees have been appointed to patrol the river stations and all entrances to the town. Night and day their beats will be patrolled and official reports sent to the Advisory Committee.

The first reports from those in command of the different points were received this evening, and it was shown that not one outside workman attempted to enter. A large number of skiffs have been secured to patrol the rivers on either side of Homestead, and the steamer Edna is at the command of the men.

The Chairman of the Strike Committee said to-night: "We now have our organization perfect. We will be in touch with every city and hamlet in the United States, and will be enabled to hear the moment a train of men for the mill leaves other cities. The Advisory Committee has visited all the saloons and requested that the sale of liquor be restricted and that mobs be not allowed to gather.

"The saloon keepers have complied with our request, and if called upon to do so will close their places. One of the first acts done by our committee was the cutting down of all the effigies which for several days have graced the telegraph poles."

The only counter-move thus far made by the Carnegies has been to increase the force of watchmen in the mills. It is reported to-night that an attempt will be made before morning to land 300 mechanics in the mill by the river entrance in order to make necessary repairs. The strikers, to prevent this, have the river bank lined with 600 men, and any attempt of the mechanics to land will provoke an ugly fight.

While the Carnegies and other manufacturers insist that their demand for reduced wages has nothing to do with the tariff, the whole matter has become the liveliest kind of a political question in this locality.

"The Leader, a Republican paper, said editorially this afternoon concerning the Carnegie statement, which is believed to have been proposed by H. C. Frick, President of the Carnegie Company, and edited by Joseph D. Weeks:

"The Manufacturer is out to-day, and contains Mr. Frick's editorial, presumably strained through the mathematical filter which Editor Weeks keeps on hand for such emergencies.

"The Frick-Weeks editorial is elaborate. It begins with 'unmeasured regret,' and winds up with 'justified in asking a reduction.' Between the Weeks exordium and Frick peroration are inserted extensive tables of figures tending to exhibit the justification for a reduction. Sifting out the wheat from the chaff, the argument conveyed is found to be this:

"Improved machinery has made the output greater in proportion to the number of men employed. The earnings of the men have increased accordingly. Hence, the men being entitled to no share of the increased profits, despite the Republican doctrine of mutuality between capital and labor, wages must be reduced.

"The fact that throughout the entire Frick-Weeks' article the fruit of increased producing power is treated negatively or as a species of unknown quantity without any bearing on wages suggests willful insincerity and evasion.

"Editor Weeks, who, by the way, is at present seeking an appointment as wage statistician for the United States Government, is to be congratulated on the present exhibition of his fitness. The man who can so juggle with figures as to make it appear that the greater the product of an establishment the less are the earnings is entitled to a medal made of the very best brand of leather in recognition of his marvelous skill as a statistician."

It was quietly hinted to-day that manufacturers in this city have within the last twenty-four hours received telegrams from leading Repub-

licans at Washington asking that for the success of the party this Fall the wage question be settled as soon as possible.

The import of the telegrams was to the effect that the trouble over the wage question might cost the Republican Party the Electoral vote of Ohio.

This is believed to have led the manufacturers to ask for to-day's conference, and it is reasonably certain that its failure is a source of great disappointment in high quarters.

On and after to-day the iron and steel works formerly conducted under the firm name of Carnegie Brothers & Co., Limited; Carnegie, Phipps & Co., Limited; Allegheny Bessemer Steel Company, and the Keystone Bridge Company at the Edgar Thomson Furnaces; the Edgar Thomson Steel Works, Duquesne Steel Works, Homestead Steel Works, Lucy Furnaces, Keystone Bridge Works, Upper Union Mills, Lower Union Mills, Beaver Falls Mills, Sciota (ore) Mines, Larimer Coke Works, and Youghiogheny Coke Works will be carried on by the Carnegie Steel Company, Limited.

None of the details of the transaction in forming the combination will be made public by the firm at present, and they will wait until the troubles at their works are settled before filing the papers of record.

The capital will be \$25,000,000. The company will have in its employ upward of 40,000 men.