

DISCOUNTING HIS ASSERTIONS.

At this writing there is no open sign of trouble to be made at Braddock by the Knights of Labor or other union men, nor do we believe they design to create a breach of the peace. Yet, notwithstanding the apparent calm, it is certain that the manager of the Edgar Thomson works has taken steps which create the impression of expected war. Whether the manager's forebodings prove to be well founded or not there is one feature connected with the resumption of work at Braddock that is worthy of attention.

The sentiment of Mr. Carnegie, as head of the Edgar Thomson works, so far as given to the public prior to last week, was that he did not care whether the men accepted his terms or not, that there was no money in the steel rail business in Pittsburg anyway (though there might be at Chicago), and if the Braddock mill should remain closed down till January, 1889, or even 1899, he would not be disturbed. It seems as our recollection serves us, that Mr. Carnegie was quite emphatic on that point, yet now we find him turning the Edgar Thomson into an arsenal instead of a library, and garrisoning the works with extra police, special deputy sheriffs and Pinkerton detectives in order to effect the resumption of the works by force if force should be necessary.

We cannot question the right of Mr. Carnegie or any other man to run his works on such a basis as may seem to him safe and business-like, if the second party to the contract, the workingmen, find that they can afford to accept his terms of labor. Of course if they cannot afford to work for what he offers, that puts an end to it. They cannot be compelled.

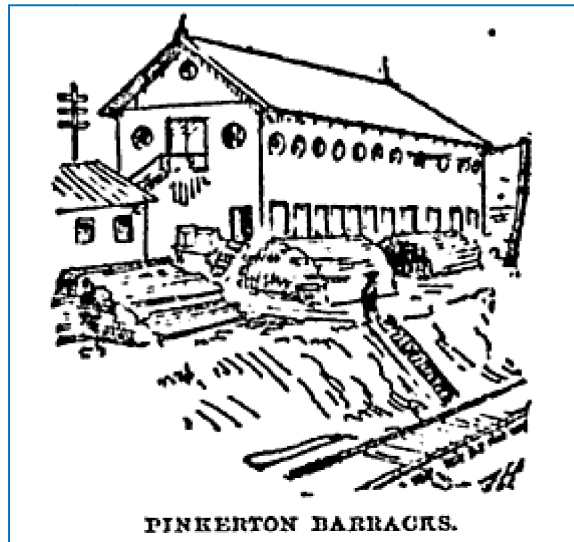
But when Mr. Carnegie or any other employer makes certain statements showing that his trade has gone west; that it will not pay him to run his works, and that he does not want to run them, and then, when, almost the next day, he insists on running the works by force of arms, if need be, the men may be expected to regard his statements and addresses to them with extreme caution in future.

Of course if Mr. Carnegie desires to discount his words to his employes, no disinterested person can interfere with him for so doing, but the Carnegie yea and nay will not, probably, be rated so high in Braddock in 1888 as they were in 1887. [ENDS]

Pittsburg Press, Monday April 23, 1888, Front page (Transcribed for clarity).

VOL. 5, 97. BRADDOCK'S BATTLEFIELD WARLIKE CHARACTER AROUND THE EDGAR THOMSON. Sketches of Salient Points – No Crash of Arms as Yet – Bricklayers Out.

When the whistle sounded this morning hundreds of workingmen with buckets wound their way to the Edgar Thomson steel works. There was not the slightest indication of disorder as they passed along the streets. All reported at the superintendent's office, and were sent to different departments, Bricklayers came out in sympathy with resolution adopted at meeting on Saturday night, and subsequently Knights of Labor machinists and blacksmiths. No



attempt made to put the mill in actual operation. But after today the men who are within call will be summoned. No doubt about the mill going. Jones and others say they have all the men wanted, but want to give the old men the first chance. The men say there won't be any disorder as far as they are concerned, but general indignation is felt against the Pinkerton force, and some say they were brought in to cause trouble.

Impression here this morning is that old men will yield in few days, and the address



of Supt. Jones urging them to keep quiet is taken as evidence that an amiable adjustment is near at hand.

The meeting of the machinists and blacksmiths who came out this morning in compliance with the recent request of the meeting of Saturday evening, and assemblage which seems to have the effect of mixing affairs at the work to-day, adjourned without accomplishing any other result than they would await developments. It was reported that the employees of the transportation

department, which included all the engines in use in and about the establishment, have also come out, but this was denied on the positive authority of an official who was in a position to speak. Several engineers were seen and they confirm the statement that they have suspended work. So far as this department is concerned it may be stated that Mr. H. R. Jones, who was a leader in the strike of locomotive engineers on the Reading road, and who represented the executive committee of the Knights of Labor in their struggle against that corporation, is here. He said that he was formerly an engineer on the Western division of the Pennsylvania road, that he had been promoted, that he had worked on the Pittsburgh, Virginia & Charleston road, and had also been on the Baltimore & Ohio. He had a situation at the wire mill here, and would probably commence work on Wednesday. He did not think the knights here could win, and thought they should close the struggle by accepting the terms. When asked if his presence here had anything to do with the transportation department in the mill, he replied in the negative, but remarked that others might do so.

The officials about the mill say that a number of men quietly signed the scale to-day and that they are satisfied. The knights claim that there has not been a single desertion from their ranks. The two statements are given so that the public may have the opportunity of deciding which information is correct.

The situation resolved into a very few words is this: The company have men ready to work or try to operate the mill. If the old men decline the new will be put in their places, All parties think the trouble will be settled in a day or two. The men claim that if the outside police, otherwise the much-detested Pinkerton men, had been kept away, there would have been a settlement to-day.

The barracks occupied by the Pinkerton detectives was the Mecca of curiosity for the workmen of Braddock this morning. They watched closely the movements of the guards but no greetings were exchanged. The building is a two story structure. The first floor is used for a general assembly room. It is where the guards report and where they receive their confidential instructions. The officers in charge are fine-looking men, genteel in their movements and very careful that the strikers do not get the drop on them in any way. All the approaches to the building are guarded. "Halt there," is heard on all sides when one gets within a certain distance of the building. The well is guarded. A telegraph wire runs into the building, by which communication can be had with the works and the company's office. The second floor is used for a sleeping apartment. The cots are placed like those in a hospital ward. The guards have their own barber, and in every way are independent of outsiders for accommodation.

The boarding house is just as closely guarded as the barracks. There are ladders up to the roof, which could be used in case someone dropped a fire ball down when the Pinkerton forces were least expecting it. They have their own cooks and don't take any chances on someone putting anything in the coffee pot but pure unadulterated coffee!

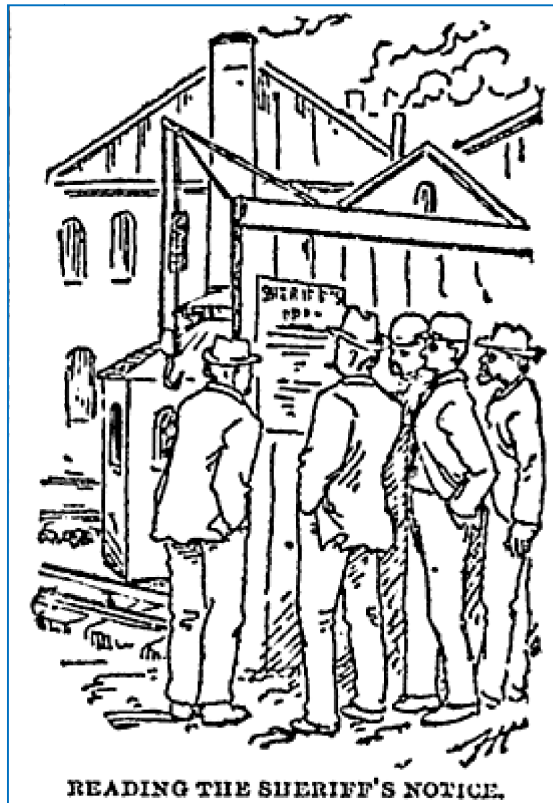
The strikers when they have nothing else to do, go and read the sheriff's



proclamation. They gather at the places where notices are tacked up and study them as though they had some hidden meaning.

The guards while on duty are very quiet. They simply attend their own business, and are instructed not to make any reply even should the strikers revile them. They are supposed to be deaf, to only act when some disturbance whereby the men at work are menaced, or the company's property placed in danger.

The Pinkerton guards and the sheriff's posse and other special officers were on duty all night in and about the works, but the strikers did not come near. Several of the departments were started up, the men not even meeting with any remonstrance on their way to the mill. The bricklayers who were at work about the furnaces came out this morning at the request of the Knights of Labor, and the machinists



are expected to do likewise some time to-day. They have been so requested. All are members of the K. of L.

The leaders of the knights were busy during the forenoon requesting all men not to commit any breach of peace, or in any way act towards those at work in a manner that might be regarded as intimidation. Said one of the strikers this morning: "There is certainly no occasion for those Pinkerton police and deputy sheriffs being here. I do not expect any trouble, but if some of the men should commit an overt act, it will be on account of these police, who are a menace. Their presence has actually stirred up more bad feeling than had been engendered during the entire strike. We had reason to think better of Andrew Carnegie than he would resort to the means that he is now employing. Importing a lot of Pinkerton men when there has been no outbreak nor any sign of a disturbance is hardly in keeping with Mr. Carnegie's free library and his 'Triumphant Democracy' ideas."

A report was current in the city this morning that the engineers on the Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio roads were so strongly in sympathy with the strikers that they would refuse to move any freight to or from the Edgar Thomson works. This rumor could not be confirmed. Most of the labor men were inclined to discredit the story. In view of the part the K. of L. has taken in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy strike, it is hardly probable that the brotherhood men would take up the fight of the knights at Edgar Thomson. There are no K. of L. engineers on either road.

The deputy sheriffs were all notified to assemble at the sheriff's office this morning ready to take the 11 o'clock train for Braddock. They were all there on time, armed and equipped for the expedition, but as no word of trouble was received from the steel works, they were not sent out. They were notified to be ready to go at any minute, however.

A survey of the day at Braddock shows that while there has been agitation among the men, and meetings held, there has been no diminution in the amount of steam which has been puffing from an early morning hour from the escape pipes in the several departments of the Edgar Thomson mills. The conciliatory talk of Superintendent Jones early in the morning seemed to have had the effect of encouraging the men, and they have been all smiles during the day. That they were misconstrued as meaning a surrender, even after the machinists and other skilled labor employed in the great corporation had resolved to heed the request of their fellow knights, was apparent this afternoon when so many strange faces appeared on the streets. It has been an open secret that when it was announced the determination of the firm was to resume, it was known that every department was provided for. One of the foremen or "bosses" which is apparently a more generally recognized term, said this morning: "I could fill every place by the blowing of a whistle. The reason is," said he, "the whole cost of resumption has been calculated. We want our old employees, but if they don't come we must have other employees."

Speaking of the possibility of trouble, a merchant said that the only thing that has caused trouble was the posting of the proclamation of the sheriff and the introduction of the Pinkerton men. "The latter have made themselves obnoxious to all labor organizations, not because of any over act on their part, but because they are employed to over awe, with maces of unusual size and revolvers and other firearms which carry balls of unusually large calibre. There was no necessity for them, and it looks to me like it was the case of the typical Irishman who trailed his coat along the ground bursting for some person who was foolhardy enough to tramp on it."

It was learned from the office of the works this afternoon that nearly 800 men were at work this morning, but it could not be learned how many were included among those who relinquished their jobs to attend the meetings which were held.