

**"Lest we Forget."**

New York Times.

Since the beginning of the present strike the steel workers have behaved very well. Their infractions of the law seem to have been limited to picketing, but if the surprise they express when one after another of the mills starts up with a full crew of non-union workmen is any evidence, they are maintaining an ineffectual blockade of the plants they are watching. That they have refrained from violence is creditable. Mr. Shaffer promised this, but that he could make the promise good was doubted. We confidently hope that his influence in this important matter has been underrated.

At this time, when others who are perhaps closer to the membership of the Amalgamated Association than Mr. Shaffer can be are beginning to express the hope that nothing will occur to inflame the steel workers beyond their patience, it is well to recall the incidents of the Homestead riots. The world makes news very fast nowadays, and we are apt to forget the lessons of experience all too soon for our own good.

In June, 1892, the skilled labor employed in the plants of Carnegie, Phipps & Co. and the Carnegie Steel Company refused a reduction in the scale from a minimum of \$25 for billets to a minimum of \$23. A strike was declared, and the companies, pending an adjustment, attended to repairs and other midsummer work. Becoming convinced that the mill managers had no intention of yielding, the strikers gradually became ugly and were determined that the mills should not be started with non-union labor, then easily available. On the 4th of July Mr. H. C. Frick, Chairman of both companies, notified the Sheriff of Allegheny County in writing that persons and property were in danger and demanded that measures for their protection be taken. The attitude of the Sheriff was unsatisfactory. He gained access to the mills for himself and two deputies only on passes issued by the strikers permitting them to pass the pickets and guards. On the afternoon of July 5 twelve Deputy Sheriffs arrived from Pittsburgh, but were refused admittance and sent back. The citizens and business men of Homestead appealed to the Governor, but received no immediate reply. The situation becoming critical, Mr. Frick deemed it necessary to provide a guard of his own. On the afternoon of July 6 two barges, with 300 Pinkerton men on board, appeared on the river and approached the Homestead wharf. The strikers fired upon the barges from the banks on both sides of the river, and a battle ensued in which several were killed, including the Captain of the flotilla. If the Pinkerton men had not surrendered they would have been massacred. As it was, they were badly handled subsequent to giving up their arms. After being held for some time as prisoners in an empty building, they were put aboard trains and sent back to Pittsburgh, from which point they were scattered among the large cities.

For some days after this sanguinary riot the Homestead mills remained in possession of the mob. Two officers of the Carnegie Company who attempted to visit the plant were stopped on the way, refused admission, and notified that any attempt to start with non-union labor would be attended with results for which the Amalgamated Association would assume no responsibility. This condition lasted until July 10, when, on the official admission of the Sheriff that he was unable to handle the mob, Governor Pattison called out the National Guard. A Congressional investigation revealed the fact that before the strike rollers were receiving \$250 to \$275 per month; heaters, \$185 to \$190; heaters' helpers, about \$130; trainmen, \$97 to \$120; shearers, \$100, and shearers' helpers, \$95.

On July 20 the management gave notice that it was about to start the works non-union, under a code of rules which would not permit the Amalgamated again to have representation in them. On the 28th Mr. Frick was attacked in his office by Bergman, a Socialist sympathizer with the strikers, who attempted to assassinate him. He fired three shots, of which two took effect. Mr. Frick was painfully and dangerously wounded.

When the management was ready to resume it resumed with non-union labor, as it had announced. The Amalgamated Association held out until Nov. 20, when the strike was declared off

and the members took what places were open to them. Indictments, trials for murder, damage suits against the county, investigations, and the like kept it in the public memory a few months longer, the Amalgamated Association disappearing from notice. Now, with even less pretext than it had in 1892, it renews the struggle for control of the plants from which it was expelled under conditions so humiliating to every self-respecting wage-earner who hopes for benefit to labor through organization.

Since the present strike began very little has been said about the Homestead tragedy. To keep it in mind will be wholesome.

**Chronological Record of the Steel Strike.**

July 1.—Strike of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers began at the mills of the American Sheet Steel Company and the American Steel Hoop Company.

Cause.—Amalgamated Association demanded that these two companies agree with it as to rates of pay at non-union mills. The companies refused.

July 14.—After a series of fruitless conferences the strike is extended to the American Tinplate Company's mills for the same reason as in the case of the other two companies.

July 27.—President T. J. Shaffer and other officials of the Amalgamated Association confer in New York with J. P. Morgan and receive from him a proposition for settling the strike as follows:

Proposal.—The Amalgamated Association to drop its demand for unionizing all the mills, but to be conceded the right to unionize five mills not previously so recognized by the trust. This proposition, when laid before the Amalgamated Association's executive board at a series of meetings in Pittsburgh, is rejected.

August 3.—Another conference held in New York between strike leaders and Steel Trust officials. It ends in disagreement on the following point:

Cause for the General Strike.—A difference of opinion as to recognizing about a dozen mills as union, particularly those at Wellsville, Ohio; McKeesport, Pa., and Painter's, Lindsay & McCutcheon's and Clark's in Pittsburgh.

August 6.—Call for general strike at Steel Trust mills, to take effect August 10, issued.—Baltimore Sun.

**Astounded the Editor.**

Editor S. A. Brown, of Bennettsville, S. C., was once immensely surprised. "Through long suffering from Dyspepsia," he writes, "my wife was greatly run down. She had no strength or vigor and suffered great distress from her stomach, but she tried Electric Bitters, which helped her at once, and, after using four bottles, she is entirely well, can eat anything. It's a grand tonic, and its gentle laxative qualities are splendid for torpid liver." For Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, Stomach and Liver troubles it's a positive guaranteed cure. Only 50c at Hood Bros.

Franklin's Old Joke Gets a Frize.

From an article entitled "A Century of American Humor" in Munsey's Magazine, says a writer in the London Sketch, I learn that the first great American humorist was no less a person than Benjamin Franklin, and that the moment when the keynote of American humor for all future generations was struck was the very serious moment of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. "One of the signers, if tradition is to be believed, remarked when he laid aside his pen, 'We must all hang together.' Whereupon Benjamin Franklin, who was at that moment in the act of adding his name, replied, 'Yes, we must all hang together, for if we do not it is certain that we shall all hang separately.'" By a delightful coincidence this quotation gains the Academy's prize for the best quotation applicable to the present state of the Liberal party.

Since March 4, 1900, 665 national banks have been organized in this country with a capital of \$34,267,000. Of this number 159 are in the Southern States.

Eruptions, cuts, burns, scalds and sores of all kinds quickly healed by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. Certain cure for piles. Beware of Counterfeits. Be sure you get the original—DeWitt's. Hare & Son, J. R. Ledbetter, Hood Bros.

**Laughter and Long Life.**

It may be that some enthusiastic and laborious German statistician has already accumulated figures bearing upon the question of length of life and its relation to the enjoyment thereof; if so, we are unacquainted with his results and yet have a very decided notion that people who enjoy life, cheerful people, are also those to whom longest life is given. Commonplace though this sounds, there is no truth more commonly ignored in actual every-day existence. "Oh, yes, of course, worry shortens life and the contented people live to be old," we are all ready to say, and yet how many people recognize the duty of cheerfulness? Most persons will declare that if a man is not naturally cheerful he cannot make himself so. Yet this is far from being the case, and there is many a man who is at present a weary burden to his relatives, miserable through the caring care of some bodily ailment, perhaps, or some worldly misfortune, who, if he had grown up into the idea that to be cheerful under all circumstances was one of the first duties of life, might still see a pleasant enough world around him.

Thackeray truly remarked that the world is for each of us much as we show ourselves to the world. If we face it with a cheery acceptance we find the world fairly full of cheerful people glad to see us. If we snarl at it and abuse it we may be sure of abuse in return. The discontented worries of a morose person may very likely shorten his days, and the general justice of nature's arrangement provides that his early departure should entail no long regrets.

On the other hand, a man who can laugh keeps his health and his friends are glad to keep him. To the perfectly healthy laughter comes often. Too commonly, though, as childhood is left behind the habit fails, and a half-smile is the best that visits the thought-lined mouth of a modern man or woman. People become more and more burdened with the accumulations of knowledge and with the weighing responsibilities of life, but they should still spare time to laugh. Let them never forget, moreover, and let it be a medical man's practice to remind them that "a smile sits ever serene upon the face of Wisdom."—London Lancet.

**What a Tale it Tells.**

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