

# EIGHT AND TEN.

## INAUGURATION OF THE MOVE FOR SHORT HOURS AND FULL PAY.

Strike in All the Trades in Chicago Saturday—No Bloodshed and But Little Serious Disorder.

## NOT STRONGLY SUPPORTED IN OTHER CITIES.

Slight Riots at Grand Rapids and Milwaukee—Workmen in Several Eastern Cities to Go Out To-day.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 2.—The long talked of eight-hour movement was inaugurated yesterday without bloodshed or violence. The orderly manner in which the thousands of men conducted themselves in quitting work was cause of congratulation among good citizens and a compliment to the men themselves for listening to the wise counsels of their leaders. There was no general demonstration of the unemployed workmen, although there was a popular impression that there would be. The ordinary routine of traffic in the downtown streets went along in the usual manner without interruption.

There were, however, demonstrations on the part of special trades in various sections of the city. On the north side about nine hundred furniture workers started a parade with three brass bands, and carrying national and German flags, besides many mottoes. There was another procession on Wabash street composed of plaining mill employees, but the most imposing demonstration was made in the lumber district, where at least ten thousand men quit work in the morning.

After speaking a procession was formed, with a band of music at its head. The great throng moved through the streets, creating considerable excitement, and proceeded to the great McCormick Harvester Works, where some of the non-union men employed there were found, although the factory was closed for the day. The so-called "scabs" left their posts and fled and the procession counter-marched back to Centre avenue and Eighteenth street, and then disbanded without having done any damage.

### The Freight Handlers.

Fully five hundred striking railroad freight hands met at the Harrison street viaduct, near the West side Union Passenger Depot, at eight o'clock in the morning. Speeches were made by two or three leaders, in which they declared it was the duty of the freight handlers on all the Chicago roads to enforce their demands now for shorter hours while the workmen in all departments of trade were doing so. The sentiment was cheered, and upon the suggestion of some one in the crowd the men started for the Wabash freight yards to urge the men employed there to stop work. The officials of many of the railroads had anticipated the coming of the striking freight handlers to their yards and had ordered the doors of the freight houses closed before their arrival.

On the door of the Wabash freight house a printed notice was posted warning everybody concerned that the road was in the hands of a receiver of the United States Court, and that any interference with its property or the conduct of its business would be prosecuted as a contempt of court in the United States Court. On this road the attempt to get the men to strike was only partially successful, and after the crowd left one of the doors was opened again and freight taken in through it by the men who remained and had refused to join the strikers.

The men again formed in line, four abreast. Great crowds turned out to see the sights and indulged in cheering. The men marched through the streets toward the Michigan Central freight house. As they pursued their way the streets became filled with sightseers, but nothing approaching disorder was apparent. It took but a few moments to induce the Michigan Central men to quit work. Almost before the strikers reached the freight house the men commenced to put on their coats, and as each addition was made to the ranks the enthusiasm increased.

Some ten of the men employed in the Michigan Central yards refused to join the strike, and about this time police protection was sought by officials of the road. Lieutenant Laughlin and a squad of police soon appeared and succeeded in clearing the depot without using violence, although the men grumbled at being forced back, claiming that their intentions were peaceable.

The Port Wayne hands joined the strikers shortly before noon without solicitation on the part of the crowd.

### The Police Take a Hand.

When the Michigan Southern freight house was reached what threatened to be a breach of the peace occurred. The order to close the doors there was received at twenty minutes past ten o'clock, and a very few minutes afterward the crowd arrived. When they found the doors closed against them they went to the window over the weigh-bridge and, forcing it up, they crowded through it, despite the efforts of two men who stood guard at the window to keep them out. Those who first entered went round and pushed open one of the doors, and then a second was opened, and through these the crowd rushed in a body. They announced the inauguration of the strike to all the workers in the building and invited them to join them.

By this time two policemen had made their way into the building and ordered the intruders to leave. Many of them left, but one man in the crowd began a harangue on the rights of the laboring man, which they were determined to maintain. It was not a question of nationality, he declared, for they were all citizens of this free country, had arms to defend their rights, and would use them if necessary. By this time a reinforcement of police had arrived from Harrison Street Station, and the speaker was picked up bodily and pitched out on the street.

Everybody who was not connected with the company was then ordered out, and those who did not go voluntarily were thrown out bodily. When the intruders had been weeded out quite a number of men remained, quite one-half of the number originally at work, and, in response to the question of the division superintendent, who had been present during the whole proceedings, they signified their readiness to go on with their work. Work ceased, however, for the day.

The employees of the Northwestern and the Illinois Central Roads and the Baltimore and Ohio remained at work all day.

### Among the Provision Packers.

The situation was quiet among the large packing houses at the Union Stock yards yesterday morning. It is not the busy season of the year with the packers, and the men are not inclined, apparently, to be very exacting. The

packing houses were all running about as usual, though there were three eight o'clock whistles instead of seven o'clock in the morning. Nelson Morris says he positively will not accede to the eight hour demand, and Mr. Cudahy, manager for Philip D. Armour, shows a decided disinclination to do so. The International Packing Company consented to adopt the eight-hour plan on Monday. The report from Fowler Brothers was favorable, but not definite or final. Some other firms had agreed to abide by the action of the majority.

Of the fifty men employed at Swift's slaughter house twenty-three struck yesterday morning. They wanted eight hours' work and ten hours' pay, which was refused.

### Street Car Demand.

There were many small strikes in individual establishments, principally, it is believed, growing out of the excitement which was in the air. The drivers and conductors on the Blue Island line of the West Division Car Company demanded a reduction of their trips from seven to six, confining the working day to eleven hours without a decrease in pay. The company acceded to the demands without any parleying. Two hundred men employed by the West Division Street Car Company in the extension of their lines struck for eight hours. The company allowed the men to go.

### Thirty-five Thousand Men Out.

The Times this morning, summarizing the labor situation in Chicago, says: Events of yesterday added from seven to nine thousand to the idle army of workmen which is now standing around the streets and filling the saloons of Chicago, and it can be truthfully said that 35,000 men, who two days ago were earning wages and adding to the wealth of the community, are now unemployed.

The most notable strike yesterday was with the railroads, all of the twenty-five in Chicago being affected with the one exception of the Baltimore and Ohio. That exception was, however, simply a social freak, and it will probably be included in the general round-up by to-morrow.

So far only the freight handlers have gone out, but this means over three thousand men, with a stoppage of freight business until their places can be supplied, and the added fact that the attempt to supply them will probably result in trouble which past experience has shown Chicago has neither a Mayor nor Illinois a Governor to handle. In addition to this the railroads are hampered with the fear that the trouble may spread to other branches of their service and thus further complicate matters.

The packers have conceded in part what was asked of them, and as their employees are not any too anxious to strike there is little probability of trouble in the town of Lake. As for the other industries affected, almost all of the concerns are fighting the matter out each for itself, and while in some instances the demands of the men have been yielded to, in the main they have been refused, and the prospect for a speedy settlement of the trouble and a revival of business is by no means flattering.

### A Quiet Sunday.

CHICAGO, May 2.—Instead of the grand hub-bub which many people expected to-day, the day was exceedingly quiet. The atmosphere was balmy and the masses seemed to be enjoying the warm sunshine and pleasant breeze instead of discussing the labor problem. Capitalists and proprietors of large establishments seriously considered the matter and there were also meetings of many of the labor organizations.

But there was no excitement. The streets were not nearly so crowded as on Saturday, and even the Socialists' headquarters were well nigh deserted during the afternoon. There was no disorder at any of the freight houses nor in the lumber districts, but in both trouble is expected to-morrow.

The leaders in the labor movement expect many strikes to-morrow at different manufacturing establishments, and these will cause excitement, and perhaps result in collision with the police. The railroad men say that they will open up their freight houses to-morrow morning with old men if they come, and with new men if they must.

In the lumber district some trouble is anticipated to-morrow from the fact that so many of the employees are foreigners, imbued with the anarchy ideas. They will not make the concessions demanded by the men, and if they determine to make mischief they can succeed in doing so, as there is a very large territory to be guarded and the lumber affords hiding places for large numbers of men. The English speaking laboring element is a unit against disorder, and will use all the influence of their organizations to see that the laws are respected.

### The Rothschild Strike.

The Rothschild strike passed to-day from the control of its former leaders, who had conducted it in a decent and orderly manner, into the hands of a couple of agitators. At a meeting of the strikers yesterday afternoon the following communication was read:

CHICAGO, May 1.—To the Rothschild Workmen, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Denver—Gentlemen: At a meeting of our company I was instructed to respectfully inform our workmen that from to-day on we will work eight hours, and allow an advance of 10 per cent on former prices of day work and piece work. We wish all our men to return to our employ on Monday, May 2.

ROTHSCHILD & NOSS,  
Jer Kaufman

A heated debate followed the reading of this letter and a majority of the men seemed in favor of accepting the firm's offer, but at a critical moment Hansch, the president of the Cabinetmakers' Union, and Stalknecht, an alleged professional agitator, arose and violently denounced the idea of accepting anything. A vote was then taken and the offer was rejected.

Michael McMahon and John Reynolds, the chairman and secretary respectively of the strikers' committee, then brought things to a crisis by resigning their offices and declaring their intention to go back to work. Great confusion ensued, and Agitator Stalknecht took it upon himself to ask, in an ominous way, of McMahon whether he knew what the result of his action would be or not?

Both McMahon and Reynolds replied that they did not care what the result would be, and thereupon they left the hall, followed by the anathema of the union, which was launched at them by Hausch. The meeting then passed under the control of the agitators, and a motion to stand against the firm prevailed.

A. H. Andrews, the head of the several furniture factories bearing his name, met his 400 employees on Saturday night and submitted to them a proposition identical with that of the Rothschild Company. It was accepted, and will go into effect this morning.