

EXPLOSION KILLS MANY. FIVE BUILDINGS WRECKED IN PHILADELPHIA.

TEN TO TWENTY PEOPLE DEAD AND MORE THAN A SCORE INJURED—THE RUINS TAKE FIRE.

Philadelphia, Aug. 5.—A terrific explosion in a block of six buildings in Locust-st., above Tenth-st., to-night wrecked five of the structures and caused the death of from ten to twenty or more persons. Over twenty others were more or less seriously injured. Some of those taken to the hospitals will die. It is estimated that at least thirty-five persons were in the five buildings when the explosion occurred, and the exact number of dead will probably not be known for twenty-four hours.

The buildings were occupied as follows: No. 1,608 Locust-st., Houseman's pool and billiard rooms. No. 1,610, Morris Rosenthal's second hand clothing store, occupied by Rosenthal, his wife and five children. No. 1,612, William Jones's restaurant, occupied by Jones and about fifteen boarders. No. 1,614, George McClemmy's grocery store, occupied by McClemmy, a clerk and a servant. No. 1,616, Patrick Quigley's grocery store, occupied by Quigley, his wife, three children and his wife's mother. No. 1,618, Albert Mountain's grocery and meat store, occupied by Mountain, his mother, sister and clerk.

PROBABLY A GASOLENE EXPLOSION. The explosion occurred about 9:30 o'clock. What exploded and how it happened is not known at this time, but it is believed to have been a barrel of gasolene in one of the three grocery stores. With the exception of No. 1,608, the front walls of the buildings were blown out into the street, while the floors and the roofs were blown upward, and fell straight to the ground. Almost every building in a radius of two blocks about the scene of the explosion had windows shattered and was otherwise damaged. Every building on the opposite side of Locust-st. was damaged, but none of them fell. A terrible cry went up from the ruins the moment the explosion occurred. Women, children and men, occupants of the wrecked houses, were seen crawling out, while the agonizing cries of others were heard in the wreckage. From all the surrounding buildings injured people came running and fell in the street unconscious.

FIRE BREAKS OUT. To add to the horror, fire broke out, and in less than five minutes the great pile of ruins was burning fiercely from end to end. A general alarm was turned in for fire apparatus and ambulances, and in the mean time the work of rescue was voluntarily begun by those in the neighborhood that were not injured. Here and there a person was dragged from the ruins before the fire could reach the victim, several lives being saved by this prompt work.

When the firemen reached the scene the flames had made great headway, and were igniting the buildings across the street. The fire, however, was soon under control, and, with the exception of a small blaze here and there, was extinguished in a few minutes.

DIGGING IN THE RUINS. The work of digging away the ruins was then begun in earnest. Near the edge of the debris several colored men were taken out, and sent to the hospitals. While the firemen and policemen were digging and hauling away heavy timbers cries were heard coming from the cellar of Mountain's grocery store. Fifty men, with rope and tackle, were immediately put to work at that point, and pulled away the roofing and flooring which had fallen into a heap. From the bottom of the pile, doubled up, a man and a woman were taken. The man was able to speak, but the woman was apparently dead.

While the work of rescue was going on hospital attendants and others reached all the damaged houses on the opposite side of the street, and almost a score of persons were taken to various hospitals from these places. The Jefferson and the Pennsylvania hospitals, which are nearest to the scene of the explosion, were soon crowded with the injured. None of those taken to the hospitals had died up to midnight. Two hundred men are now at work clearing away the wreckage.

The buildings containing the poolrooms, clothing store and the restaurant were three story brick structures, while the other three buildings were two and one-half stories.

TRANSPORTS SOLD CHEAP. THE McPHERSON GOES FOR \$18,700 AND THE TERRY FOR \$19,600.

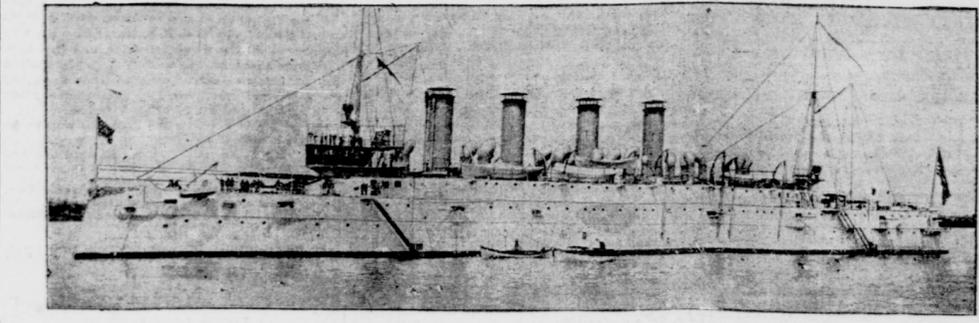
At the Morse Iron Works, Fifty-sixth-st., Brooklyn, the United States Government yesterday sold at auction the transports McPherson and Terry to the highest bidder. The McPherson was sold for \$18,700 to E. H. Parsons, of Baltimore, who is said to represent the Pennsylvania Railroad. Miles E. Barry, general manager of the Chicago and Muskegon Transportation Company, bought the Terry for \$19,600. She will be placed in service on Lake Michigan.

Both boats went at an absurdly low figure, especially the McPherson, which is said to have cost the government \$200,000 at the outbreak of the Spanish war. She was formerly the transatlantic liner Oldham, is 410 feet over all, and was built in Belfast, Ireland, in 1880. During the times of the transport service between New York and Porto Rico and Cuba the McPherson was considered one of the best boats on the run. She has only recently been brought North after being on the rocks off Cuba for several months. It is believed that the government has lost money in removing the McPherson from the reef and bringing her North to be sold for only \$18,700.

The Terry was formerly the Hartford, and ran the Long Island Sound. She is a twin screw steel steamer, 228 feet in length and was built in Philadelphia in 1892.

JUDGE INDICTED FOR FRAUD. MURDER OF GOVERNMENT MONEY AT TELLER CITY ALLEGED.

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 5.—The Teller News of July 20 received to-day, says that E. G. Rognon, Judge of the United States Commissioner's Court at Teller City, has been indicted by the Federal grand jury and arrested for alleged misuse of government money. It is charged that the judge used government money for the purchase of supplies for a building which, he alleged, was for government use. He says that he had made arrangements whereby the government he amply provided for from loss, and that the matter should have been and would have been settled by a civil suit, had it not been for the activity of his enemies.



THE UNITED STATES CRUISER COLUMBIA. That will take the place of the old Vermont as a receiving ship at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

SAVE THE OLD VERMONT.

MANY PROTESTS RAISED AGAINST PLAN TO DESTROY HER.

DR. ALVAH H. DOTY SCOUTS IDEA THAT SHE IS GERM LADEN—RETIRED NAVAL OFFICER TELLS HOW TO PRESERVE HER.

The old receiving ship Vermont may not be broken up for junk. The first angry mutterings of what is likely to be a mighty protest were heard yesterday. Many people already ridicule the suggestion of the department officials in Washington that the Vermont is soaked with disease germs. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes saved "Old Ironsides," as the Constitution was called, by penning a patriotic poem. That famous ship is almost to-day. It would not be a wholesome proceeding for any one to advocate breaking her up for her copper and oak. It was suggested yesterday that if the Vermont is loaded up with microbes the Constitution is in even worse condition, and that Nelson's old flagship, the Victory, almost worshipped by British tars, must be doubly and trebly soaked with them.

As a matter of fact, the disease germ theory is regarded by many prominent physicians as the silliest nonsense. The proposition to destroy the Vermont came with all the suddenness of a shot from ambush. The prediction was made yesterday that before the week is out the idea will be regarded as the scheme of a thoughtless official devoid of patriotic sentiment.

CAN BE EASILY CLEANSED. Dr. Doty, Health Officer of this port, who has made an exhaustive study of disinfection, said yesterday:

There is no ship in our navy that need be destroyed because of danger of infection. The Vermont could easily be cleared of any germs that might be in her by a thorough fumigation with sulphur dioxide. It is absurd to say that the wood is so impregnated with the germs of disease that nothing can be done with it. The ship has never been understood, and is not soaked with germs. There is some time to be made, and she certainly has not lain in water that would soak her with disease.

For many years she has lain outside of one of the rivers of Cuba or at a place in the harbor of Havana where she would have been in the way of disease germs. It is possible that she may have been saturated with germs, but that would be necessary to build that the wood of the vessel is so saturated with germs that it is impossible to clean it. Even if the old vessel had been used as a hospital ship, or had at some time been filled with persons suffering from infectious disease, there would be no danger. Germs are not only easy to kill, but it is difficult to keep them alive. After a reasonable time has elapsed, the germs die from contact with the air, and there is actually no need for even fumigation. So, if the Vermont has been saturated with germs, there would now be no danger.

Retired naval officers living in New-York and those who have left the service to go into other professions have been doing considerable thinking since the announcement was made that the old Vermont was to be broken up and sold for junk. Many of them would like to see her preserved in some way or other, even though her days of practical usefulness are past.

William H. Stayton, of No. 30 Broad-st., who resigned his captaincy in the United States Marine Corps to resume the practice of law, is opposed to the destruction of the Vermont. He said:

The old Vermont has been the home of more landmen than any other vessel in the navy to-day. Hundreds of men, probably some on every big ship in the navy, can remember spending their first days in the service on the Vermont. Her retention for presentation would please more of the sailors than anything else the Navy Department could do.

Mr. Stayton believes that the Vermont could be preserved for years at a very little expense to the government by following the example of the English government in the preservation of Admiral Nelson's flagship and two other historic vessels. He says:

They should do with the Vermont as the British did with the Victory, which bore Admiral Nelson's flag so bravely, and with several other vessels. They should be put into shallow water, where they were protected from the wind. Then they filled the hulls with cement, which preserved the rotting timbers and made a firm foundation for the upper works.

The Vermont could be moved inside the Whitney yard at the navy yard, and it is to be dredged out in order to afford more dock room. The old receiving ship gives up her present berth for one inside the basin the yard will not need the small space which she would occupy. She could easily be turned into a museum after her timbers had been fumigated and the disease germs driven out. That there is need of a museum of trophy room of some kind at the navy yard no one doubts who has visited the yard. Some of the most valuable war relics lie in the open yard, absolutely unprotected from the weather. Many of them have already been injured by rust. The others are in a room above the commandant's office, where there is not sufficient space to show them off to the greatest advantage. The room now used as a museum is needed for offices. The ship could be preserved by the cement process for an indefinite time. It costs only \$1 or \$2 a cubic yard for cement, and the lines of the historic old vessel would be better preserved than by the use of wood or brick.

If there is not room at the navy yard for a relic ship, let her be removed to some other place where there is still water. An anchorage could probably be found at Quarantine, where the ship, Sandy Hook, would be another good place for a permanent berth. Philadelphia abounds in sites that could well be used for the purpose. I think the Vermont to their collection of relics. It will be a shame if the government lets her go to the junk men, and I am glad that The Tribune is sounding public sentiment on the proposition.

OFF WITH THEIR QUEUES

CHINESE "REFORMERS" IN AMERICA ORDERED TO GET RID OF THE PIGTAIL.

"All good Chinamen who are interested in the cause of reform, and who desire to better the condition of the native land and to improve their position in this, the land of their adoption, will at once proceed to cut off their queues."

This is a translation of an order which was received yesterday in Chinatown by many of the prominent reformers of the colony. It came from the chief mogul of the Chinese Reform Association, who has his headquarters in San Francisco. Upon the members of the association it will be more binding than an imperial edict from the hand of the Emperor of China. In fact, the latter would not be binding at all, for the overthrow of the present dynasty is the main object of the association and the chief hope of all its members.

"Cut off your queues," is the order which will drive many a Chinaman to opium or to drink, for a Chinaman hates parting with his queue almost as much as a young man dislikes losing his first efforts at mustache growing. It will effect several hundred Chinamen in this city, although as yet no branch of the association has been formed here.

In California the association has 6,000 members, and the few Chinese barbers will be sadly overworked. Only one Chinese barber could be found in Mott-st. yesterday afternoon, and he was not rushed with business. When asked what he thought of the reform order he said:

"No make much difference here if Chinamen have queue or cut him off. If he go back to China, then him wish him never get one hair cut. Him be velly much out of it."

"It ought to help your business, John," ventured the reporter. "Not much," replied the yellow faced razor handler. "Chinaman cut off him queue in white man's barber shop. No come to good barber like me."

It is said in Chinatown that the order which has just been received from the West means more than the loss of a few queues. It means that the reform association is ready to spread over the whole country, and that it will establish branches in every large city. Members of the association in this city are expecting organizers from San Francisco in a short time.

An attempt was made to start a branch of the Chinese Reform Association in this city two years ago, but the organizers were driven out by order of the Chinese consul-general, Chow Tze Chi, who has a great deal of power over the Chinese residents. His influence was so strong that those interested in the reform movement were persuaded to give it up. They were afraid that membership would hurt their business.

The consul-general is said to have sent this message to the big Tong, which virtually runs things in the quarter, when the reform association tried to get a foothold before:

"It is easy to do much strength behind it. During the next few months a great many will cut off their queues, and soon the Chinaman with one will be the oddity, not the one who has adopted the American fashion."

The association believes that it will make the position of the Chinese in this country more firm if more of them adopt American customs.

NOT ANNEXATIONISTS.

GOMEZ DENIES A REPORT—ATTACK ON MARTI IN THE HAVANA CONVENTION.

Havana, Aug. 5.—General Maximo Gomez has written to his friend General Vega regarding the reports that he had described himself and Señor Estrada Palma as annexationists. After remarking that he had come upon a reference to the matter in a local paper in Puerto Principe, he says:

"To pretend that Señor Palma and I are annexationists is madness. The best way to carry out a plan is to speak much of it. For this reason it appears that many Cubans desire annexation, and look to most of the prominent chiefs of the revolution to support the movement, but they have tried to convert to the doctrine some very old heretics. The Platt law solves the question. The constitutional convention was not to blame, as it had fired the last cartridge in defence of absolute independence."

There was no meeting of the constitutional convention to-day, only twenty delegates presenting themselves. The convention is gradually becoming a laughing stock.

Señor Gibergera recently refused to subscribe to a fund being raised in the convention in aid of the mother of Martí, declaring that Martí was the evil genius of Cuba, and that his memory would be execrated by history.

Señor Cisneros urged the convention to exact an apology from Señor Gibergera or to compel him to resign.

Señor Gibergera declares that he will not return to his seat in the convention until the matter is settled, and that he will publish a manifesto to the country giving his reasons for thinking as he does of Martí.

PARIS-BRUSSELS FAST LINE.

PLANS TO RUN TRAINS FROM CAPITAL TO CAPITAL IN AN HOUR AND A HALF.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Consul-General Hughes at Coburg, Germany, reports to the State Department that a French-Belgian syndicate is reported to be planning, under the patronage of the King of the Belgians, to build an electric express line for passengers and light freight between Paris and Brussels, and from the latter place to Antwerp. The trip from Paris to Brussels is expected to be made in one and a half hours, and from Brussels to Antwerp in ten minutes.

REASONS FOR THE REMOVAL.

DISEASE GERMS SAID TO BE IN THE VERMONT—OPPOSITION TO THE COLUMBIA AS RECEIVING SHIP.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Efforts that may be made to secure the retention of the old Vermont as the receiving ship of the New-York Navy Yard are likely to prove futile, and there is apparently no disposition on the part of naval officials to maintain the ship there longer, on account of her unsanitary condition after years of service. It is alleged that there are no sentimental reasons in addition, for while many of the ships of her period and class were notable products of the Civil War period, this cannot be said of the Vermont, which has a most mediocre career and never was regarded as a typical vessel of her date. She has proved a decided menace to the health of seamen and apprentices at the yard for the last two years, and her removal is said to be demanded by medical men stationed there. Disease germs are understood to be in her timbers, and the longer she is kept at the yard the greater the danger of those on board.

Acting Secretary Hackett stated this evening that it was unlikely the orders for the Columbia to replace her as a receiving ship would be countermanded, as the Vermont was too far gone to warrant her being maintained in the naval service.

Admiral Melville resents the employment of this fine vessel for the purpose ordered, and says she is less adapted for a receiving vessel than almost any ship of her size in the navy. While long at anchor she has little berthing space, nearly all the interior being taken up with powerful machinery and the equipment and fittings necessary for a vessel of her great speed and great radius of action. The construction is made by the Admiral that better use could be found for the Columbia than the undignified service as a receiving ship, a duty that has been performed at all navy yards since the Civil War by obsolete ships of that period.

The Columbia is expected to-day. The cruiser Columbia, which is to take the place of the old receiving ship Vermont, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, is expected to arrive to-day. She is on her way from Philadelphia in tow of three tugs.

The Columbia is one of the show ships of the navy, and there are many who regret her assignment to such a berth as the one for which she is being used. Her lines are beautiful and indicative of her great speed, and the mechanism used in her construction is of the best.

As a cruiser, however, in times of peace she is considered impracticable by naval experts. She has gained the reputation of being a "fool eater." One of the officers who knows her said yesterday: "She is this kind of a ship. You coal her for a seven days' run and find her bunkers empty in two days."

The Columbia has been lying in the League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia, for a long time out of commission. Her complement of officers and crew is set at 47. It is thought that with her guns dismantled and her decks cleared she will be able to accommodate about eight hundred men. This, by the way, is several hundred less than the old Vermont can care for. Besides, the quarters of men and officers will be more crowded and less comfortable.

It is promised that the appointment of the Columbia to be a receiving ship is only temporary, as the proposition to construct permanent receiving quarters on the Cob Dock is now being considered and may soon be carried into effect, doing away with any receiving ship.

ENGEL TO DAZZLE NEWPORT.

TAMMANY LEADER WILL VISIT THE RESORT WITH FORTY SUITS OF CLOTHES AND MANY DIAMONDS.

As soon as the North Atlantic Squadron will make room, Martin Engel, Tammany leader of "De Ate" Assembly District, is going to Newport, with forty trunks, forty suits of clothes and about a peck, more or less, of real diamonds. "You can say dat dey ain't nuttin' in de rumor dat I'm going to have a vally," said he yesterday. "Harry Miner took a vally wild him to Washington after he was elected Congressman, an' it broke him in de deestic." De East Side won't stand for valles, an' I don't blame 'em, either. Every guy has to lace his own shoes on de East Side."

After going Newport Mr. Engel will go to Saratoga, taking, as before, his forty trunks, forty suits of clothes and peck of precious stones. He will be accompanied by Alexander Rosenthal, a lawyer; ex-Assemblyman Isadore Cohen, Dr. Leon Churg, ex-Alderman Philip Benjamin, Alderman Max Porges and Joseph Levy.

SIX BURGLARS CLUB A WOMAN.

THEY THEN TIE HER TO A BEDPOST, AND SHE IS FOUND UNCONSCIOUS BY HER NEIGHBORS.

Plainfield, N. J., Aug. 5 (Special).—Six men entered the home of Mrs. Stephen Demko, in Duellen-ave., this afternoon, and threw her out of the house. She returned for her children, and the burglars knocked her down with a club and then bound her to the bedpost with ropes and tied a pillow case over her head, nearly suffocating her. They then ransacked the house, taking \$248 in cash, which was the property of four boarders.

The woman was found by some of her neighbors after she had become unconscious. She is now in a precarious condition. Chief Kieley was informed, and sent out the police reserves on bicycles in search of the men. It is believed that the men were foreigners who had known Demko and his wife when they lived in Raritan.

POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! POLAND!

Purest natural spring water in the world.—Adv.

LULL IN THE BIG STEEL STRIKE

PRESIDENT SHAFFER APPARENTLY HESITATES TO ORDER ALL UNION MEN OUT.

RUMORS OF IMPENDING SETTLEMENT REVIVED.

It is believed in Pittsburgh that President Shaffer of the Amalgamated Association will not issue an order for a general strike for at least a week or ten days. The delay is distasteful to the strikers, who are anxious to force the fighting, and give rise to rumors of a settlement.

The strike leaders denied that they had any intention of organizing an armed force to oppose National Guardsmen, should the necessity arise for calling on the militia to protect property.

The Hyde Park mill of the American Sheet Steel Company resumed operations with non-union men. Aid for the strikers was promised by the leaders of several labor organizations. Chief Arthur, however, said that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers would remain neutral.

Conservative Wall Street operators did not think the strike would reach the proportions threatened by some of the leaders. The steel stocks did not suffer much in the market.

STATISTICS OF THE STRIKE. Table with columns for Subsidiary companies of the United States Steel Corporation at present affected by the strike, and Subsidiary companies that may be affected by the strike. Rows include American Tin Plate, American Sheet Steel, American Hoop, and National Tube.

A SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE.

PRESIDENT SHAFFER'S STATEMENT CAUSES A FAINT GLEAM OF HOPE—NOT TO CHANGE HIS POLICY.

(By The Associated Press.) Pittsburgh, Aug. 5.—Just a faint glimmer of hope that the great steel workers' strike will be settled was embodied in a statement made by President Shaffer of the Amalgamated Association to-night. When asked if he would pursue the same policy in ordering a strike in the mills of the Federal Steel, the National Steel and the National Tube companies as he did in calling out the men in the mills of the American Tin Plate Company he replied:

"If it had not been for this determination on my part, the general strike would have been ordered on Saturday night."

Before calling out the tin workers and after failing to get any satisfaction from the officers of the American Sheet and the American Hoop companies, President Shaffer sent a telegram to Vice-President Warner Arms of the American Tin Plate Company informing him that under Article XIX, Section 35, of the constitution of the Amalgamated Association he would be obliged to call out the tin workers in all the mills owned by the United States Steel Corporation unless the difficulty was settled within ten days. As a result of this notice, Mr. Arms succeeded in getting together another conference, and a vain attempt was made to settle the dispute and prevent a strike which would involve the tin mills. That conference was the one that broke up in the Hotel Lincoln three weeks ago last Saturday.

In order to be equally fair to the other constituent companies of the United States Steel Corporation, and give them the same treatment, President Shaffer has sent a similar notice to the officers of the Federal Steel Company, the National Steel Company and the National Tube Company, giving them the same time in which to make any effort they may desire to bring about a settlement, or he will put in force this same clause in the Amalgamated Association constitution. It is presumed that the delay in issuing the general order will be at least until the end of the present week. Possibly it will not be issued until early next week. In the mean time the men in the mills of these three companies will be prepared to come out when the strike order is issued.

The possibility of a settlement is based on the bare hope that the officials of the three additional companies will be willing to bear sufficient influence to urge an adjustment of the difficulties before the strike order is issued. President Shaffer did not express any hope that this would be done, nor did he even discuss the matter, but the inference was quickly seen that there was such a probability in sight. It is a faint one, though, and little interest was taken in it in the general offices of the association to-day.

WALL STREET HOPEFUL.

STEEL STOCKS NOT MUCH AFFECTED—CONSERVATIVE OPERATORS DO NOT FEAR GENERAL EXTENSION.

The big steel strike, which threatens to grow bigger, was a cause for much discussion, speculation, surmise and inquiry in the financial district of the city yesterday. Wall Street did not get much news about the strike situation, but there was no end of gossip, and while fresh facts were scarce opinions were plentiful. The general opinion seemed to be indicated by the sales of United States Steel stocks in the market. Those stocks declined three points below the prices of Saturday, but closed three points higher than the low water mark they reached two weeks ago. The common stock went down to 40 yesterday and closed at that figure, while two weeks ago it was down to 37. Yesterday's sales amounted to 125,700 shares. The preferred stock went down 88, closing three-fourths of a point higher, and 65,200 shares changed hands. Many brokers said that while the steel stocks probably were depressed some by the general weakness of the market, the steel strike did not have much effect in causing the declines in railway stocks.

Sentiment in the Street seemed to be against the leaders of the strike, and there was a renewal of talk about some of the leaders being engaged in speculation. No names were mentioned, but there were reports that some of the strike promoters were interested in deals in Steel stocks which had been made through Pittsburgh and Chicago houses within a few days. It was declared that one sale of eleven thousand shares short last week had been made for members of the executive board of the Amalgamated Association. Brokers who talked about the deal yesterday said they did not believe President Shaffer was interested in it, but they thought some of his associates were in the deal.

Confidence in the ability of the United States Steel Corporation to weather the strike without great damage to its resources was expressed freely by financiers, who said that the corporation had \$200,000,000 of underwriting on which it could draw, if necessary, and while the business of

SHAFFER DELAYS ORDER.

THE STRIKERS WANT THE FIGHTING FORCED, BUT THEIR LEADER HOLDS BACK.

(By TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Pittsburgh, Aug. 5.—It will be a week or ten days before President Shaffer issues his call to all the union mills of the United States Steel Corporation to close. "I have good reasons for the delay," he said to-day. The strikers had hoped to hear the orders for a general strike before this time. They desire prompt action, and chafe at President Shaffer's delay. They believe that a bold stroke will win. Mr. Shaffer knows better. He argues that his opponents are not of the class that are easily subdued, and the fight will last into the coming winter if he depends on the United States Steel Corporation to surrender. Cold weather will soon end the strike and defeat the association. The warm weather continues to aid the men.

CARNEGIE PLANTS HARD TO CRIPPLE. Scores of organizers and sympathizers of the Amalgamated are at work among the employees of the Carnegie Steel Company and the National Tube Company. It has been asserted that here and there among the leading men at Homestead, Duquesne and Braddock union sympathizers have been found, and that Mr. Shaffer hopes to secure enough of these men to cripple the Carnegie plants. This will be almost impossible, as the machinery at these plants is so automatic that new men can soon be broken in, and the men who step out will be let for good. Every heat of metal and every lot that is finished are tested by chemists and experts to such an extent that nothing is left to chance in these mammoth plants. The experts are not sympathizers with the strikers, and with their aid the plants could almost be run with men who had never seen a steel plant.

These conditions do not obtain in the other mills of the United States Steel Corporation. Some of these are old fashioned and require a complement of experienced men far in excess of the up to date plants. The "rule of thumb" method is still in vogue, and it is impossible to operate them without the most skilled labor. It is in these mills that the strikers are most independent and defiant, as they believe that none can be taught to do their work. This is the condition of more than three-fourths of the steel hoop plants. The sheet mills can only count on one or two modern mills, and the Apollo mill at Vandergrift, Penn., the largest in the world, is in operation, with every mill running night and day. Tinplate making requires a high degree of proficiency, and the American Tin Plate Company is at the mercy of the strikers.

One peculiar feature of the hoop mills is the importance of the boys. Both sides are courting their favor. If they refuse to work with new men it will be impossible to operate the hoop plants. It requires six men and eight boys to operate a hoop mill one turn. The boys carry ends of the bands and hoops from roll to roll under the old system, and an unskilled boy is liable to be cut to pieces and roasted to death in the hoops or ruin the output of the mill by improperly twisting the ends as they are entered in the rolls. When the boys strike or quit work the hoop mills have to shut down. This is not the case in modern hoop mills, in which the boys are only two. The boys are dispensed with, and all the handling of the metal is automatic. The boys at the Clark Mills have signified their intention of aiding the strikers by refusing to work with new men.

A rougher at one of the local mills, who is a member of the Amalgamated Association, said to-day that, while the strikers at the plant he worked at would stand by their organization, yet he believed the strike was ill timed and ill advised. He said the question at stake was not broad enough to involve so many men in the strike, and the men could not become enthusiastic on the subject. They merely followed their leaders blindly, criticising them while doing so.

STANDING BY THE MEN. Mr. Shaffer was asked if he delayed the calling out of all the mills so as to give the men at Lindsay & McCutcheon's Clark's and Painter's a chance to return to work, and thus remove one of the great obstacles of a settlement. He said no, that the association would stand by these men as they were behaving nobly toward the union cause. The Lindsay & McCutcheon plant is torn up, so that no start can be made within two weeks. Reports were sent out that it would be put in operation this morning. There are no signs of activity at any of the other idle plants, all of which are guarded, night and day, by the regular watchmen and one police officer. The gains made by the corporation at Wellsville and the manner in which the men in the Kiskimettas Valley are standing by their employers are the only encouraging aspects of the strike to the steel corporation.

President Shaffer says that he did not believe one-half as many men would respond to his call as there did, hence he believes he will not have any trouble in closing down most of the plants of the corporation in his second call.

With this kind of talk rumors are rife of an impending settlement. The fact that Mr. Shaffer has full authority looks suspicious to those familiar with the traditions of the Amal-