

THE ERIE RAILROAD WAR

Our Special Correspondence.

Jan. 23, 1854.

The Work of Relaying the Tracks Commenced—

Great Excitement in Erie—Another Special

Appointed—Resignation of the Police—

Public Meeting, &c. &c.

The relaying of the track was commenced

this morning, and the connection between Harbor Creek

and the railroad depot in this city will be effected in

two or three days, at the farthest. This morning

about forty workmen were employed in the erection

of bridges over State and French streets, and it is

thought that they will be able to run the cars and

locomotives, which now stand on the broken track,

over it, at 12 o'clock to-morrow. Considerably diffi-

culty is experienced in placing the upright posts or

suppers of the bridges, in consequence of the

ice, which is at least a foot thick. When it was

known that the workmen were once more en-

gaged in relaying the track, under the protection

of the Marshal, a crowd of about fifty or sixty

persons, principally Germans, assembled at the

bridges, which are about two hundred yards apart

from each other. They appeared to be impelled

more by a spirit of curiosity, however, than any de-

sire to interfere with the Marshal, although they

certainly did not appear to regard the work with the

most favorable intentions. They exhibited the true

state of their feelings when young Mr. Walker—a

brother of the person who was ejected—made his ap-

pearance. They assailed him with cries of "Four

feet ten," "Rotten eggs," &c.; but he wisely took

no notice of them. Respect for individual rights ap-

pears to be lost in the extreme feeling of animosity

that prevails towards the railroad company, and

all who appear to be either directly or

indirectly connected with them. It is impossible to

say what may be done by the people to-night, after

the Marshal and the men shall have left the road;

but there appears to be a very uneasy feeling among

the people, and general apprehensions are entertain-

ed that the rails will again be torn up and the bridges

destroyed. Those who have been most inveterate in

their opposition to the company say that if a single

train is permitted to pass over it the battle is lost,

and all further efforts on the part of the Briens will

be in vain. It is, however, to be regretted that

the Marshal shall not be interfered with, even

should he remain until he sees the train pass over

the road. It is rumored that the company will keep

men at work until the connection is made,

and they will then return to their homes to-night.

I do not believe, however, that they

will resort to such a course—not that I think they

would be doing wrong, for they have a perfect right

to do so if they please, but they have made a condi-

tion with the citizens, and they have not

yet got a sufficient number of men, and those they

have employed will require rest. This rumor, I am afraid,

is circulated by some malicious persons—and as

the people are so much excited, it is not surprising

that they should be so easily misled. It is not

wonder that the most serious apprehensions should

be felt with regard to the destruction of the bridges.

I have seen many of the men who are engaged in

this place—men who have headed the movement,

but who, I think, will find it impossible to con-

trol it, or keep down the passions of the peo-

ple. A meeting was held this afternoon in Judge Thomp-

son's court, for the purpose of determining what

course should be adopted in this emergency. The meeting

was private, but I fear that no definite result was

arrived at. Some were in favor of calling a public

meeting in the court house, with the view of ad-

vising the people and trying to get them to go

away unopposed with what they had heard. But

although the Judge announced that there would be

no meeting, the bell of the Court House called

the people to the meeting in the walls.

It was said that it was a meeting of the

special police, who had determined to present

their resignation; and certainly, for all the good

they have done since they were appointed, they

are not doing much to merit such a course. How-

ever, the meeting was well attended, and a great

number of resolutions were passed, and a great

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THE SUPREMACY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE

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