

LABOR VICTORIOUS.
DEACON RICHARDSON THROWS UP THE SPONGE.

Better Wages and Sure Work.

The Executive Board of the Protective Association called on President Richardson at the office of the Atlantic City Railroad Company, according to appointments, at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. They were to meet the executive committee of the company to adjust the grievances of the employees. Deacon Richardson received them affably, and talked for nearly five hours to persuade them to let him off easy. It did no good; the Deacon had to come to terms. The executive committee of the railroad company consisted of President Richardson, Treasurer Frost, General Tracy and Messrs. Schroeder and Jenkins. The executive board of the Empire Protective Association was headed by Chairman O'Donnell.

The first two hours of the conference were taken up by the Deacon with a homily on strikes, and a wordy protest against thinking to do so much for his men. "I thought this whole thing was settled a month ago by Deacon O'Donnell," he said, "and now you come here to go over it all again. The men employed by this company are not grumbling, so far as I can learn, but you who are not in the employ of the company come with a long list of grievances of other people."

Chairman O'Donnell interrupted the Deacon to say that they had been asked by the men to settle the differences, and they were not doing it simply to stir up agitation. If the men had no complaints the executive board would not be there to ask for redress. It was long after Deacon Richardson's regular dinner hour before he allowed the committee to get down to real work. Gen. Tracy and other members of the committee appeared to understand the demands of the men, but the Deacon would listen to no explanations. Twenty-five of the propositions of the men were agreed to, and only two were refused. An hour's haggling resulted in the company giving in.

According to the agreement, trippers are to be paid \$1.50 per day, and extra men not employed have the privilege of working one or two trips on extra cars when it is necessary at the regular rates. Trippers and others who have to wait at ball grounds and race tracks are to be paid extra, according to time. No reduction is to be made in the present number of straight runs. Laborers are to be advanced to \$1.60 per day, pavers to \$2.15, rammers to \$1.90, night watchmen to \$13 per week, and hostler, hitchers and car cleaners to \$1.75. This is an average advance of over twenty-five cents a day.

The Deacon grumbled a great deal about paying hostlers \$12.25 per week, and giving them only eighteen horses to groom, and insisted that the company would bankrupt itself by doing it. Another sore thing with the Deacon was changing the uniforms of conductors from gray to blue. He had made a contract, he said, and could not break it. The men insisted on the blue uniform, because they did not want to be mistaken for letter carriers, who have to walk, and besides, the blue looked and wore better. The Deacon agreed to get around the contract.

He also agreed to give men the reasons of their discharge in writing, and not to discharge a man on complaint before giving him a hearing in the presence of his accuser.

There was one point Deacon Richardson did succeed in gaining, that was, that he should personally inquire of blacksmiths, painters and carpenters if they were satisfied with their present rate of wages.

The agreement was ratified by both sides, and the executive said it was to remain in force until January, 1887, unless circumstances intervened to cause it to cease.

A committee of the Knights of Labor waited upon Superintendent Sullivan of the Brooklyn Crosstown Railroad and demanded the discharge of Franklin H. Pierce, an inspector, for furnishing information to the officers of the company during the recent strike. Pierce was discharged.—*Neser.*

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What Next?

Jay Gould and his trusty lieutenants are going to sue the Knights of Labor to recover damages for the strike on the Missouri Pacific and other roads. Many have fixed their greedy eyes on some who are reputed worth \$15,000 to \$20,000, and hope to steal a little more by the use of legal means.

They are also going to get an injunction from the courts to stop anyone contributing toward the support of strikers on these roads. His lawyers say this can be done, so we will take their word for it. Perhaps he owns the courts, as well as the railroads, the telegraphs and nearly everything else of value in the country.

Still we would advise Jay Gould and his friends not to sue. After all, even should judgment be obtained, it might be difficult to enforce it. The country is aroused to the inequities practiced by Jay Gould and his fellow gamblers, and also to the fact that the officers of courts, the sheriffs and their deputies, the militia, and even the regular army, are all recruited from the people, and the spread of education and organization is rapidly teaching them that the real enemies of liberty in all countries are those who rob the producer by legal means.—*Ex.*

Who Organize.

The writer heard an instructive conversation on the Albany express the other day. A Colorado ranchman on his way back from an eastern visit was talking with a friend about labor difficulties. "These strikes are raising the very devil here in the east, aren't they?" said he. "My plan is every individual for himself; if he doesn't like a job, let him get another. That's the way I always used to do."

"How is it," said the friend, "are you not troubled this way on your ranch? Do your herdsmen ever strike?"

"Oh, no," said the first speaker. "We hire mostly Mexican greasers. They are very ignorant, and I don't think these d—d Knights of Labor will ever get them to organize. Besides we have a little combination among the ranchmen, and if one firm discharges a man the others won't have him."

The gist of the above is quite clear, and it impressed itself upon the mind of the scribe. There was the whole thing in a nutshell. The capitalist relied on, first, the ignorance of the herdsmen, to prevent their asking for more pay; and second, in the same breath with which he prated of "individual liberty" he confessed that the men of money had surrendered this same liberty in order to drive a harder bargain with the men they hired.

There is much profitable food for thought in the above. Who is it that organizes? It has been the most skillful and scientific men of affairs, who have associated themselves together and crushed out the small manufacturers and traders. Organization gives power.

How is it among the wage workers. The same law seems to hold good. It has been the more intelligent and thoughtful who have organized. The great masses of poorly paid labor, factory people, laborers, etc., are as yet unorganized. It is their employers, moreover, who are the mostly closely linked together. The path left for labor has but one direction, the thorough organization of every wage worker in the land.—*The Laborer.*

BOYCOTT BAUGHMAN BROS.

The Difference.

If, instead of railway officers having hired and paid assassins to shoot down strikers and citizens in public streets in broad daylight, without cause or pretext, it were strikers who had hired and armed irresponsible scoundrels to shoot the officers of the railway companies and their non-striking workmen; and if, instead of the railway companies causing and paying for the murder of an innocent woman and eight or ten unoffending, law-abiding citizens, the strikers had done this, such a howl would have been raised by the press, pulpit and indignation meetings of business men against strikes, strikers, Knights of Labor and all other labor organizations, as to shake the Union. Every paper in the United States owned by a wealthy newspaper corporation would have appeared with a heading, in bold, black type, "The Awful Massacre!" and Powderly, and every other officer of the Knights of Labor, would have been called upon a hundred times to denounce the crime and assist in bringing the criminals to justice.

But if Powderly, instead of denouncing the miserable wretches who committed the massacre, had boldly taken them under his protection and employed counsel to defend them, as the officers of the railway companies have done for their hired assassins, he would have been held up everywhere to public scorn and indignation, and denounced as worse than the foul murderers themselves. The abolition, by penal legislation, of the Order of which he is the official head, and of all other labor organizations, would have been demanded and arrests and prosecutions without number would have followed, as long as an unfortunate Knight of Labor could be found to fasten a suspicion upon.

But, as a matter of course, it was not Powderly and the Knights of Labor who committed the East St. Louis massacre. They have never had the advantages of wealth and so-called culture and polite society, but still they are not beasts and brutes. It was reserved for over-paid, under-worked, well-fed railway officials, of culture and high social standing, to hire assassins at five dollars a day each who did the bloody work. "Five dollars a day, or any price, for assassins, but not one cent increase for honest labor," is the motto of the railroad companies.

But since it was the railroad companies, and not the strikers, who are responsible for the massacre, a vast difference in popular feeling, as now manufactured and controlled, is seen. Who has heard of a business man's meeting to denounce the crime? Have any of the leading papers called upon the railway officials to denounce the massacre and repudiate the murderers? Has any protest been heard from the pulpit? What philanthropist is circulating a subscription paper for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the unfortunate men who were sent to their graves for five dollars apiece paid by the railway companies? How quiet and satisfied is the country over this, one of the foulest and blackest crimes that ever disgraced a civilized community!

Verily, it makes all the difference in the world whose ox is gored.—*Champion.*

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