

Haymarket Riot - Chicago Herald

Article # 1: May 5th 1886

Policeman Joe Deegan and three unknown Bohemians dead...

Policemen Sheehan, Barrett, Redden, Keller, and Miller mangled and dying, thirty-five other policemen wounded more or less severely, and nobody knows how many citizens and rioters wounded is the result of an encounter between the police and a violent Anarchist meeting in the old market square at the corner of Randolph and Desplaines streets.

. . . Mayor Harrison was early on the scene, but it was not until after 10 o'clock that the police determined to disperse the crowd by reading the riot act. A bomb or hand grenade thrown into their ranks wrought terrible havoc with life and limb, and then ensued a scene of wild carnage with revolvers, bludgeons, and other missiles. . . .

Three thousand men and boys stood around three barrels and boxes erected as a platform on the square at 8 o'clock last evening. August Spies, the editor of the Arbeiter Zeitung, the Anarchist organization in this city, stood upon one of the barrels. He made a brief speech to the crowd, and then introduced A. R. Parsons, one of the prominent leaders of the Socialists of Chicago. The latter told his hearers that instead of getting ten hours' pay for eight hours' work statistics proved that workingmen to-day were only getting two hours' pay for ten hours' work, and if they worked eight hours at the same wages they would only be getting three hours' pay for eight hours' work. He warned his audience that the time would come when the brutal oppression of the capitalists would drive every one save themselves into the ranks of socialism.

. . . Samuel Fielden, a grim-visaged Anarchist, wearing a black slouch hat, then leaped upon a barrel. He said that the newspapers of the city charged the Socialists with cowardice, saying that they would sneak away from real danger. They were there to-night to repel the lie and prove that they were willing to risk their lives in the cause. It were a glorious death to die like a hero rather than be starved to death on 60 cents a day. . . this only stirred the already violent streak amongst the men.

. . . South of Randolph on Desplaines street a body of men was dimly seen approaching in measured tread. The silent marchers came nearer, until the gas lamps on Randolph street threw their flickering light upon them. Then a hundred stars and a thousand brass buttons flashed in horizontal and perpendicular lines at the street intersections. The silent marchers were 400 police officers arranged in platoons, and choking the street from gutter to gutter...

Just as the officers reached the barrels upon which Spies, Parsons, and Fielden were standing a serpentine stream of fire burst from a window or the roof of Crane Brothers' manufacturing establishment on the opposite side of the street. It burned like the fuse of a rocket and hissed as it sped through the air. The mysterious serpent sputtered over the heads of the Anarchists and fell amid the officers. There was an explosion that rattled the windows in a thousand buildings, a burst of flame lit up the street, and then a scene of frightful and indescribable consternation ensued.

The mysterious meteor was the fuse of a bomb hurled from the Crane Building by an Anarchist. Over a score of officers were stretched upon the ground. Blood gushed from a hundred wounds, and the air was filled with the agonizing cries of the dying and injured. Those who escaped the deadly missiles which flew from the boom wavered for a moment. They dashed over the mangled bodies of their comrades with drawn revolvers, the glittering barrels of which were belching fire every instant. The Anarchists / laborers proved that when pushed, they would become violent and dangerous to

Americans everywhere.

Bullets sped into the howling Anarchists in murderous storms, strewing the street with dead and dying...Officers and Socialists fall in hand-to-hand combat, and others were brought to earth by the assassin.

Bystanders who had been attracted by the roar of the battle shared no better. They were shot down where they stood, or overtaken by the leaden storm while fleeing. The street was littered with the victims...The officers were crazed with fury. They pressed forward into the teeth of a hurricane of bullets and stones. . .

The result of this terrible encounter will not be known for hours. Two policemen are already dead. John Degan, shot in the region of the heart; Olaf Hanson, and twenty-one others are more or less wounded, five of them seriously. Fifty or more of the strikers must be dead and wounded. The street was strewn with them, and many escaped, dragging broken limbs behind them. One, a boy, died in a drug store at the corner of Halsted and Madison streets, and an unknown Bohemian lies dead in the Desplaines Street Station...

All of this because the laborers want to work less hours...their laziness has caused carnage.

Pullman Strike - Chicago Tribune Articles

Article # 1: May 12th 1894

PULLMEN OUT LAY OFFS THE CAUSE Committeemen Laid Off and Their Comrades Act

Two thousand employees in the Pullman car works went on strike yesterday, leaving 800 others at their posts. This was not enough to keep the work of production going, so a notice was posted on the big gates at 6 o'clock saying: "These shops closed until further notice."

The walkout was a complete surprise to the officials. Mr. Pullman had offered to allow the men the privilege of examining the books of the company to verify his statement that the works were running at a loss, which led to the layoffs of a few men, and a freeze in wages. The laborers are striking for higher wages; with the company operating at a loss, how can they demand this? They are unreasonable.

...a messenger was sent to the freight car builders to order them to stop, and all seventy-five walked out of the big gate. One department at a time, the men went out so that by 10 o'clock 1500 men were out. Thirteen hundred and fifty men kept at work until noon, but only 800 came back after lunch.

Included among the strikers were 400 girls from the laundry, sewing-rooms, and other departments. In the afternoon, everyone—men, women, and children—put on their best clothes and assembled on the ball grounds. They stood in groups or rolled around in the grass, making no demonstration and acting in a subdued manner.

Article # 2: June 28th 1894

DEBS IS A DICTATOR
His Warfare on the Railroads is Waged Effectively

Eugene V. Debs, President of the American Railway Union, is certain that the strikers will win. ... "The strikers are in a flammable mood.... The whole country is in a flammable condition.... When a man gets \$2 a day he can live ... but when he gets cut down to \$1.40 or \$1 he gets very upset...he has almost nothing to lose and everything to gain by a strike...." Debs has not done his homework; the Pullman company is operating at a loss, and an increase in wages would not be possible. He is leading his men down a destructive path.

The American Railway Union became aggressive yesterday in its efforts to force a settlement between Mr. Pullman and his striking employees. The union called out their switchmen, indicating that this war for higher wages would spread across the country to Erie, Northern Pacific, Illinois Central, etc. Deb's master stroke, however, occurred at midnight, when every employee on the Santa Fe Railway belonging to the American Railway Union was ordered out. Whether the men will obey the order will be learned today. If the strike spreads, the effects will be felt by everyone across the nation.

Overall, the strike is delaying important economic activity, preventing businesses from operating and damaging the economy...the strikers are lazy.

Article # 3: July 1st 1894

MOBS BENT ON RUIN
Debs' Strikers Begin a Work of Destruction
Men Who Attempt to Work are Terrorized and Beaten

Continued and dangerous and threatening lawlessness marked the progress yesterday of Dictator Debs and those who follow his orders... A striker named Murvin rushed to a switch over which an officer was standing guard...he pushed him aside, threw the switch, and derailed the train. He was arrested. In a lucky way, none of the passengers were hurt, but unfortunately for the road the cars were thrown across the track in such positions that they effectively blocked traffic... these strikers are dangerous men, they are threatening the American way of life, and now threatening American lives.

The Mayor and police force of that town could do nothing to control and try to hide the wild and dangerous strikers and they did their own evil will.... On the Illinois Central it was the same old story of destruction of the company's property without interference from the police.... Dictator Debs was as bold and in plain view as ever yesterday. He strongly defended/strongly expressed...that the workers would continue to strike until they had a fair wage.

YARDS FIRE SWEPT
Hundreds of Freight Cars, Loaded and Empty
Burn Rioters Prevent Firemen from Saving the Property

The yards from Brighton Park to 61st Street were lit on fire last night by the rioters. Between 600 and 700 freight cars have been destroyed, many of them loaded with goods from innocent businessmen. Miles and miles of costly track are in a snarled tangle of heat-twisted rails. Not less than \$750,00—possibly \$1,000,000 of property— has been sacrificed to the mob of drunken Anarchists and rebels claiming to be poor laborers. The rioters did this calmly and systematically, under Debs' directions. They seemed to work with a deliberate, cold, calculating plan..