HISTORY OF STRIKES.

The Amount of Money Lost in America Has Been Enormous.

TROUBLES FROM ALL CAUSES,

Ranging From Hours and Wages to the Privilege of Emoking.

SOME LONG AND COSTLY CONTESTS

The earliest known strike in the United States, according to the New York Conuncrcial-Advertiser, occurred during the year 1796 among the boot and shoemakers of Philadelphia. Since that date the losses incurred by employers and employes through strikes in this country have been simply incalcula-

Between the years 1881 and 1887, inclusive, there occurred 24,518 American strikes. From these, according to the last Government labor report, published in 1888, the total loss to the strikers was \$51,814,743.

The earliest strike in America, atluded to above, was that of the journeymen bootmakers of Philadelphia. The men struck, or "turned out," as they phrased it, for an increase of wages. After two weeks sus-pension of trade their demands were granted, and this success gained them greater strength and popularity, so that when they "turned out" in 1798 and again in 1799, for further increases, they were still successful, and escaped indictment. The example of the sturdy Quaker bootmakers spread rapidly, and was indirectly the cause of the impor-tant sailors' strike of 1803. Meanwhile the pioneer strikers of the Philadelphia Shoemaking Guild had been growing more nudacious, and on Nov. 1, 1805, they "turned out" en masse for higher wages. The increase asked for ranged from 25 cents to 75 cents per pair of boots.

An Early Suit for Conspiracy. This strike lasted seven weeks, and was

signally unsuccessful. In fact, it ended in a trial for conspiracy brought against the men by the master cordwainers, one of whom, Mr. John Bedford, testified that he had lost over \$4,000 annually through "turns out" ordered by the Journeymen's Association. The defendants were found guilty of "conspiring to raise their wages" and Recorder Moses Levy sentenced them to a fine of \$8 and costs each. This crushing blow effectually killed labor organization in Philadelphia for many

years. The New York shoemakers, however, took up the war and turned out in 1809. Nearly 200 men were engaged in the strike. At that time a stoppage of work in one shop was called a "strike," while a general stoppage was known as a "general turnout." The New York strikers were finally victorious.

Six years subsequently, Pittsburg, since the hothed of strikes, experienced its first "turnout;" the ubiquitous shoemakers being once more the strikers. Their attempt ended unsuccessfully, and the leaders were tried, convicted and fined.

In 1821 occurred the first printers' strike. It took place in Albany, N. Y., the Typographical Society of that town striking against the introduction of non-union

For a Reduction in Hours.

The earliest recorded strikes for reduc tions in hours of work were started in 1830 by the carpenters and masons of Boston, The men wanted to limit the workday to ten hours, but they were unsuccessful. The growth of organized labor had been so great that the employers became alarmed, and on May 15, 1832, the merchants and shop own-ers of Boston met and adopted resolutions against unions.

Strikes increased in number all over America, but particularly in Boston, where the ten-hour system movement continued to be agitated.

In April, 1834, the militia were called out to suppress a riot caused by striking laborers on the Providence Railroad, at Mansfield, Mass., and several strikers were taken

The first big mill strike began in August, 1835, when the operatives of 20 mills at Paterson, N. J., struck for reduced hours. Six weeks idleness and a loss of \$24,000 in wages and expenses to the workmen were the results. In May, 1835, the workmen in the Philadelphia coal yards struck for the ten-hour workday. After several weeks' idleness the differences were settled by the workmen agreeing to work "from sunrise to work." sunset," with an intermission of three hours each day. The loss to the employes in this strike was estimated by the Penusylvania Industrial Statistics Bureau report of 1880

at over \$10,000.

A very peculiar strike was that of the French-Canadian laborers on a dam in Maine in July, 1836. The men struck 'be-cause they were not allowed to smoke their pipes when at work." They carried their point, and their pipes.

Calling Out the Militia.

From 1836 to 1842 15 noteworthy strikes occurred. Of these ten were unsuccessful, two successful, and the results of the remaining three unknown. Two of the strikes were among females, and in three cases the militia had to be called out to suppress

On February 5, 1842, the first strike in the long and costly war between the ironmasters of the Pittsburg district and their employes commenced. The strikers were deteated, owing to their lack of organization, and resumed work on July 9, after over five months' idleness and a loss of many thousands of dellars to both sides.

Philadelphia was once more the scene of

Philadelphia was once more the scene of a labor war in August, 1842. The Moyamensing and Kensington weavers struck for higher wages. Weak-kneed laborers were intimidated into striking; much rioting occurred, and attacks were made on the mills, in the course of which looms and chains were destroyed.

were destroyed.

In 1850 began the big iron strike of Pittsburg. The trial of the "tariff for revenue only" measures of 1846 had brought about a serious depression in the iron trade, and the manufacturers proposed to reduce the wages of puddlers, boilers, refiners, scrappers and heaters. A strike was the result. On February 18 four mills started with imported workmen at reduced wages. Mohs on rebriary is four mills started with im-ported workmen at reduced wages. Mob-filled the streets and a herce attack was made on Brown's mill, Wayne street. Men and women joined in the onslaught. The women drew the bars from the grates of furnaces used by the non-union workmen, and with these did some terrible execution. Arrests were made in great numbers and heavy fines followed. The result was a great victory for the bosses, nearly all the strikers returning to work after six months' indeness. From that time until the war, and the readjustment of the tariff, ironworkers' wages were gradually reduced, almost to the starvation point.

Protested Against Less Wages.

Meanwhile, however, other branches of Menawhile, however, other branches of organized labor did not possess their souls in peace by any manner of means. The spinners and weavers of Fall River, Mass., struck against the January reduction of 18 per cent in 1868. The strike lasted two weeks, was partially successful and cost the men \$50,000. Seventeen big strikes occurred in 1868 and 1869, one of them being that of the Workingmen's Benevolent Association of Eastern Pennsylvania, which failed after. of Eastern Pennsylvania, which failed after

The great railroad strike of 1877 began on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Martinsburg, W. Va., its immediate cause being a reduction of 10 per cent in wages. This, however, was but one of many grievances. Employment was irregular, wages were often retained for weeks after payday, expense bills were not paid, and assessments were even collected from trainmen on accidents. There was rioting, destruction of property and even loss of life at Martinsburg, Baltimore and in various parts of Pennsylvania. The State militia at Martinsburg and Pittsburg, sympathizing with the strikers, refused to fire upon them, lent

them arms, and even joined in the riota. United States troops were promptly ordered from Eastern garrisons, and at their appearance the moba fled. In Cincinnati, Newark, O., Toledo and St. Louis armies of strikers succeeded in closing most of the factories, shops and rolling mills. In Chicago the Communists made a formidable demonstration. For weeks the country was in a state of siege and the State militia were under arms in nearly all the Easteru and Central States.

The strike spread to the Pennsylvania Central, Erie, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, Pittsburg and Ft. Wayne, Philadelphia and Reading, Lake Erie and about ten other railroads. The loss to both sides was enormous, and property worth several millions of dollars was destroyed. Pittsburg was the center of the struggle.

The Estimate of the Loss,

The Estimate of the Loss.

The Government estimate of the total damage done in Pittsburg by the riot is \$5,000,000. The actual loss to the railroad company exceeded \$2,000,000. The greater part of this huge loss was saddled by the courts upon Allegheny county.

Perhaps the most important strike after that in Pittsburg was the one among the employes of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, beginning on December 20, 1887. The struggle began over the refusal of the company officials to recognize the Knights of Labor. Nearly 3,000 men struck, and their places were filled by the company. The glass workers' general strike of 1887 broke out simultaneously in Philadelphia, Pittsburg and other places, lasted 150 days and cost over \$495,264.

The big Carnegie strike of 1888 broke out in the Edgar Thompson Steel Works, at Braddock. On December 29, 1888, the men presented their annual scale, and on the following February Mr. Carnegie formally declined to sign it. A reduced scale was proposed, but the Knights of Labor Committee refused to accept it. A conference with Mr. Carnegie was held in New York. He offered a fairly satisfactory scale, but insisted on the men working 12 hours. This was refused by the men and the strike

but insisted on the men working 12 hours. This was refused by the men and the strike began. The 3,000 strikers remained out four months and lost \$560,000 in wages. In the following year (1890) the Pittsburg puddlers struck, and their strike cost considerably over \$170,000. The Turtle Creek miners also went out in 1890 and their strike cost

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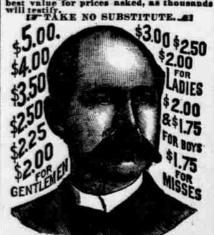
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