

The Traction Co. Strikers in a Riot

The greatest riot in the history of the city took place last Saturday afternoon at the Co-op square when a mob of several thousand strike sympathizers clashed with a body of strike breakers and State police who attempted to run two cars over the Allen street line of the Not Any Traction Co. A large crowd had collected in front of the Graham building by half past one o'clock, and in half an hour the square was packed with strikers, armed with clubs and other weapons to prevent the running of any cars over the company's lines. President Spangler of the local union soon arrived on the scene and made a stirring speech to the crowd, exhorting them to prevent the breaking of the strike by the company. Chief of Police Weaver, with a squad of city police under command of Lieutenant Talbot, tried to disperse the crowd, but they were forced to retreat after several of them had been roughly used by the mob.

The mob was now in an ugly mood and this spirit was intensified when word was received that the employees of The Parker Manufacturing company had walked out in a body a few hours before. When the cars, surrounded by State police, appeared at the top of the hill they were greeted with jeers and hisses by the crowd. As the cars neared the square the crowd opened fire with eggs (ancient and otherwise,) potatoes, bottles and anything at hand. The cars were pulled from the tracks and overturned. The police rode into the mob and opened fire which was returned by the crowd. Bombs were thrown from the windows and for a while pandemonium reigned. The police were forced to withdraw, much the worse for the encounter. The mob was finally dispersed by the fire department, who brought a hose to play on the crowd.

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