

# DISPERSED BY THE PRIESTS

## BUT THE POLICE WERE READY FOR THE FRY.

### THE INFLUENCE OF POLISH AND GREEK CLERGYMEN BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE STRIKERS WITH GOOD RESULTS.

POTTSVILLE, Penn., Feb. 6.—The Rev. Fathers Lenarkawloz and Wolanski, the Polish and Greek priests of Shenandoah, accomplished a victory to-night when legal proclamations and armed forces were powerless. Every one was on the qui vive for a first-class riot to-night, one that would have made those of Friday and Saturday utterly insignificant. There were signs of disorder unchecked and unnoticed by the local authorities all day. The Coal and Iron police had no authority to interfere so long as there were no threats of violence towards the company's property or the men working at the only colliery in that section that was in operation to-day. The terror of the people and the strength with which the conviction that there would be bloody work to-night took hold of them were apparent at the railroad stations early this morning in the number of women and children who were leaving town with the express intention of seeking places of safety until the crisis had passed. The excitement was intense, and only those on the ground could begin to appreciate the fright of the fleeing families. Among those who sought places of security in Pottsville were the families of Thomas J. and Rufus Foster, editors of the *Colliery Engineer*, a monthly publication devoted to mining interests. In the issue of the paper last week some very pertinent remarks were made editorially concerning the vacillating policy of the strike leaders. Since then the editors have frequently been reminded that the Mollie Maguire spirit, which T. J. Foster worked so gallantly to crush, still exists. While the men returned at once to Shenandoah, they deemed it prudent to put their families outside the reach of mob law.

Last night three masked men called at the house of John Rogers, stable boss at William Penn Colliery, and warned him not to go to work to-day. They emphasized their warning by firing their pistols into the framework of the house and left. They then went to the house of Rogers's assistant, a few doors away, and repeated the warning after shooting and shouting for a while. Rogers did not go to work this morning, but his assistant did, and was unmolested.

The Reading Company's officials decided not to start any of their mines. The Thomas Coal Company also decided not to start up Kehley Run to-day with the desire to avoid a repetition of Saturday night's riot. The William Penn Company, however, started this morning, working with a full force. The anticipated disturbances along the road to the mines were happily averted. Capt. Chrystian massed his force down at William Penn during the day and at 5 o'clock had a force of 130 men on the Turkey Run bridge, the strategic point for a collision between the mob and the workmen. When the whistle blew for quitting time the police moved forward and prepared for the approach of the mob, and they had every reason to expect one. They were very pleasantly disappointed, and the men walked to their homes from the colliery unmolested.

The failure of the mob to make the attack that every one looked for so impatiently and with so much certainty was soon after explained. A party of about 60 Poles and Hungarians had been marching about town at different times during the day, shouting as they passed along, "Bread or blood!" While they marched they drank, and by 5 o'clock were well filled with whisky and enthusiasm. They boasted repeatedly that they had met and defeated the police twice, and that the third time they would utterly rout them. When they finally reached the foot of Main-street, and were turning out of town on the road to William Penn, the two priests mentioned encountered them. Respect for the cloth was at once shown in halting at the command of the clergy, both of whom forthwith began to address the crowd in their different languages, speaking Polish, Lithuanian, and other Russian dialects and Greek. They told the mob that they were on their way to accomplish an unlawful object; that they would meet with armed resistance and a force of superior numbers; that this force had the laws of the country with them, and were authorized to shoot down men who opposed them. If this errand were persisted in some would undoubtedly be killed, and that the church could not give its rites or allow interment in consecrated ground to those killed.

When the priests, after pleading with the mob to turn back, suddenly became aggressive and commanded them to do so, and invoked calamity upon those who disobeyed, the effect was magical, and the mob melted away like snow under the rays of the hot sun. Both these priests had preached sermons to the same effect yesterday. This accounts for the smallness of to-day's crowd, compared with those of last week. These men, however, had not been reached yesterday, and in their ignorance would have sought to avoid the consequences of their rebellious acts had they fallen to-day. That they would have fallen there can be no question. The instructions to shoot over the heads of the mob had been withdrawn, and the police and Sheriff's deputies were informed that if they were afraid to shoot effectively they should withdraw from the force, as there would be no retreat ordered, and that the mob must be broken up and put to flight. The police were well supplied with ammunition.

Sheriff Duffy, who has been dividing his time between preparations for his wedding, which had been fixed for to-morrow evening, and the rioters, had 300 deputies sworn in up to to-night and under command of Charles O'Hara, an ex-borough policeman. The Reading Company had armed these men and guaranteed their pay if the County Commissioners should refuse to bear expense, for which there seems to be no authority in law. A majority of these deputies are from Pottsville, Ashland, Mahanoy City, Tamaqua, Schuylkill Haven, Reading, and Philadelphia, and are picked men. Many of them are veterans of the late war. They have, in connection with the regular and special Coal and Iron Police, established a camp in the neighborhood of Indian Ridge Colliery, where a regular tour of duty is going on.

At a meeting of the joint committee held at Wolf's Hotel this afternoon the following telegram was drafted and sent to W. J. Sweeny, Secretary of the Advisory Board, Shenandoah, Penn.:

The joint committee in session approve of your action in being sworn in as a body to uphold the law. We call upon the workmen of Shenandoah through your body to obey the law and support the Sheriff's proclamation. Unlawful methods must be denounced and we repudiate the lawless action of Friday and Saturday. We urge all workmen of Shenandoah and vicinity to preserve the peace. Actions of violence are an enemy to progress and are condemned by the principles of organized labor. We appeal to our people to assist the lawful authorities in the support of law and order.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE.

The approval expressed in the first sentence refers to the action of the Advisory Board in being sworn in as Sheriff's deputies. Big Mine Run Colliery in the Ashland district, operated by the J. Taylor estate, resumed operations this morning with about 500 hands. The North Ashland and Keystone Collieries, operated by the Reading Company, are working to-day, and no trouble is anticipated in this district at present. The East Colliery, operated by the Reading Company, will resume to-morrow.

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WILKESBARRE, Penn., Feb. 6.—A miners' mass meeting was held in the Second Ward of this city this evening, and over 800 men were in attendance. The population of this ward is almost wholly composed of miners and laborers. The meeting was addressed by W. A. Hines and J. D. Birmingham, prominent leaders of the Knights of Labor in this section. The speakers justified the demand for an advance of 15 per cent. in miners' wages, but showed the necessity of further organization, and counseled the miners to join the local assemblies of the Knights of Labor. At the close of the meeting it was resolved by a unanimous vote to donate one day's pay each month to the strikers of the Lehigh and Schuylkill regions.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.—The first regular session of the General Executive Board of the Knights of Labor of the present year began to-day at the headquarters of the general officers, 814 South Broad-street. General Master Workman Powderly was expected to be present at this morning's session, but a telegram received at noon said that he may be able to attend to-morrow's session. There is considerable interest attached to the present session, which is the first since the one held Dec. 12, 1887, 11 days previous to the strike among the Reading Railroad employes at Port Richmond, which has since extended to the coal regions. It was learned definitely to-night that at this meeting the General Board will endorse the Reading miners and railroad employes' strike and issue a general appeal for aid to the order. This action is expected to be taken to-morrow, and it will compel the board to take entire charge of the strike, thus subordinating John Lee and the others who have been managing it from its inception. This subject was the only one which was discussed at the meeting to-day, and, while it was really decided to make the Reading strikes the strikes of the order, the members refuse to either deny or admit it. It was learned from the best of authority that the only object in postponing the matter is to wait until General Master Workman Powderly is on the scene.