
The End of the Homestead Strike

by Eugene V. Debs

Unsigned editorial published as "Homestead" in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*,
vol. 16, no. 12 (Dec. 1892), pp. 1105-1006.

As we write, November 21 [1892], the wires flash the news that the Homestead strike has authoritatively been declared off, and all the men are left to do the best they can, which, to many of them means a long march through a wilderness of sore trials.

It now occurs that the officials of the Amalgamated Association long since admitted that the strike was lost, but from various causes were prevented from doing what common sense dictated and which finally has been done.

The statement is made that the strike has cost the Homestead workingmen at least \$2 million in wages. In addition to this, it has cost them, or most of them, all their savings — how much will never be known. Besides, it has cost a vast sum that has been contributed to aid the strikers to maintain their independent attitude in the hope of winning a victory; the sum total approximating, doubtless, \$4 million.

The fight was for a principle, for a right, an eternal right, and no friend of labor will cry over the defeat. The statement is made that the Carnegie concern has lost more than the employees, but that does not count. The concern had the cash in bank, and the bottom of the flour barrel was never reached.

Though the strike is declared off, Homestead, like Marathon, is historic. It is a Mecca, and to it labor pilgrims may go and find inspiration for courage in future contests which are to come. At Homestead the banners of the Pinkertons went down for the first time in the history of that infernal crew. The battle at Homestead, though lost to the men immediately engaged, opened the eyes of millions of men, unstopped their ears, aroused them from their lethargy, and gave them to understand that the plutocratic class had determined to

enslave them, and in the light of such facts a victory for labor was won.

The announcement is made that a large number of the Homestead strikers are in destitute circumstances, and it has also been announced that December 13 was to be Homestead Day for the purpose of contributing means to aid the strikers. Let December 13 be Homestead Day. Let the contributions be made to aid the destitute families of Homestead, whom Frick & Co. deny the privilege of going to work, so that during the inclement season they may be made comfortable. The demand is imperative; let it be heeded by the workmen of America.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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First Edition.