

## HARD TIMES: 1877

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF JOB AND WAGE CUTS, WORKERS NET AS LITTLE AS \$1/WEEK!

WHEN RAILROADS ANNOUNCE ANOTHER WAGE CUT, STRIKES SPREAD THRU THE U.S.

THE PENNSYLVANIA R.R., WITH NET EARNINGS OF \$12 MILLION... DECLARES STRIKERS NEED "A RIFLE DIET!"

IN PITTSBURGH, LOCAL MILITIA REFUSE ORDERS, AND JOIN THE STRIKERS.

PA. GUARDSMEN ARE BROUGHT IN FROM PHILADELPHIA.

# THE BATTLE OF THE ROUNDHOUSE

"IN PITTSBURGH, THE TROOPS FIRE INTO THE CROWD. TWENTY MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN DIE. 29 MORE ARE WOUNDED..."

NEWS SPREADS QUICKLY! MILLWORKERS, FARMERS, MINERS AND OTHERS JOIN THE STRIKERS! THEY SEIZE MILITIA SUPPLY CARS. THE SOLDIERS RETREAT FROM THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ST. DEPOT TO THE ENGINE ROUNDHOUSE. BY MIDNIGHT, THOUSANDS SURROUND THEM. SHOTS ARE FIRED AT THE TROOPS. RAILCARS FILLED WITH OIL ARE SET Afire AND ROLLED INTO THE ROUNDHOUSE. SOME SOLDIERS ESCAPE. TO AVOID BEING BURIED ALIVE, THE OTHERS RISK GAMING TO MOVE TO THE U.S. ARSENAL IN LAWRENCEVILLE (NOW ARSENAL SCHOOL)...

LATER, ONE SOLDIER - A CIVIL WAR VETERAN - TELLS REPORTERS:  
"I'VE SEEN WILD FIGHTING...  
BUT NEVER SUCH A NIGHT  
OF TERROR!"



## THE NEW YORK PRESS

REPORTS "PITTSBURGH SACKED!"

AND "DOMINATED BY COMMUNISTS!" LATER INVESTIGATION FINDS NO COMMUNISTS; ONLY ANGRY FRUSTRATED CITIZENS. NATIONWIDE, THE STRIKE IS CRUSHED, WITH WORKERS KILLED AND ARRESTED IN W.VA., BALTIMORE, ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, OHIO, INDIANA, TEXAS, AND CALIFORNIA.

BUT IN THE 1878 ELECTION, "GREENBACK-LABOR" CANDIDATES PULLED OVER 1 MILLION VOTES FROM A BRIEF COALITION OF FARMERS AND WORKERS. 14 GREENBACK-LABOR CONGRESSMEN WERE ELECTED. IN PA, THE GREENBACK PARTY TOOK 14% OF VOTES, AND THE MAYOR OF SCRANTON WAS A LABOR LEADER. LABOR HAD FLEXED SOME POLITICAL MUSCLE.

AND PITTSBURGH - ALWAYS AN INDUSTRIAL TOWN - BECAME A LABOR TOWN AS WELL.

Yamada