

Saginaw Valley Lumber Strike of 1885

State of Michigan

Editorial Comment:

Only July 1, 1885, "10 Hours or No Sawdust!" became the unified cry of over 800 hundred laborers in the capital of Michigan's largest lumbering center, the Saginaw Valley. The largest concentration of mills were along the shores of the Saginaw River, between Bay City and Saginaw. The news of the strike was reported across the nation as the strike would have a impact on the supply of lumber to the major cities across the country.

At this time, there wasn't a lumber mens' union, wages and working conditions were totally at the discretion of the mill owners -- long hours and low wages were the resulting standard. The strike, which put the mills idle during July and September, might have been avoided had the laborers understood there would be a 90 day delay before the law could take affect. Expecting the mill owners to comply with the new law, and, then realizing the hadn't, the disgruntled workers were ripe for taking the matter into their own hands.

Shortly after the strike had begun, the Governor Russel Alger, of Michigan, requested **F. O. Gullifer**, Commissioner and Secretary of the State Labor Bureau, to investigate the matter. His findings provides an interesting insight into the key players in the strike, the thinking that prevailed among the workingmen and the mill owners, two significant individuals, Mr. Barry and Mr. Blinn, as the good and bad guys respectively, who were largely responsible in inciting the workingmen to cry, "10 Hours or No Sawdust!"

The is document begins the a new article published about a week after the strike has begun, follow by Commissioner Gullifer's detailed report of his findings.

The New York Times, July 11, 1885

THE STRIKING LUMBERMEN

Bay City, Mich., July 10. -- The strike among the lumber mill employes in this city shows very little change. What there is is in favor of the strikers. Two meetings were held yesterday at Madison Park. At the morning meeting **State Representative Barry**, of Saginaw, made and address. At the afternoon meeting **Mr. Green**, of the firm of Green & Stevens, addressed the strikers. He said he would give \$500 to aid them, and that he would accede to their demand for 10 hours' work with no reduction in pay. Four other firms are reported as ready to yield to the strikers. **Chief of Police Murphy** was hanged in effigy yesterday. Most of the saloons remained open yesterday in defiance of the Mayor's proclamation. The *Police Commissioners and the mill men held a meeting* yesterday. The mill men demanded protection, but nothing definite was decided on. The strikers paraded the principal streets with banners and flags, saying they had succeeded and would get all they demanded. It is generally expected that the meeting to-morrow between the mill owners and the strikers' committee will settle matters amicably. It is now as quiet as Sunday here.

East Saginaw, Mich., July 10. -- An *advance guard of striking mill employes, 880 strong*, arrived here this morning and paraded the streets, escorted by 200 stevedores and a band. The men are very orderly. All the mills at this end of the river are running, but will shut down as soon as their employes

intimate a desire to quit work. The Tittabawabawsee Boom Company will be forced in any event to shut down to-morrow, as the mills at the lower end of the river are stopped and those here will probably close, and the company will be unable to take care of logs. This will throw 500 boom employes out of work. The great majority of the mill employes at this end of the river are opposed to the strike and would continue work if left alone. The *Mayors of Saginaw and East Saginaw and the Sheriff* of the county have issued an order closing all the saloons and cautioning the strikers against any acts of violence.

Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, Michigan, 1886 (Page 92...)

BAY CITY AND SAGINAW.

“Saginaw Valley Strike.”

July 6 to September 1, 1885. The stoppage of the lumber and salt industries of the Saginaw Valley through the months of July and August, 1885, entailing upon the workingmen and mercantile interests of that section the greatest pecuniary loss known for years in our State from similar cause, excited an interest not confined to Michigan alone.

Desiring to arrive at the cause and effect of this great stoppage of work, the Commissioner and Secretary of the Bureau, **F. O. Gullifer**, began an investigation on the 16th of July, and completed it, so far as taking statements were concerned, on July 23.

We found upon our arrival nearly every lumber and shingle mill and salt block, together with the work of the boom company, idle. One hundred and fifty of the *Chicago Pinkerton* “special police” were on duty among the mills. Then companies of *State troopers* were under arms in the three cities. Meetings of workingmen were being held by appointment of the speakers, and while no disturbance of the peace was heard of during the week of the investigation, there was the air and the evidence of great depression upon all classes of people, because of the idle mills upon the river.

That the investigation might be thorough, we visited employes in the mill yards and about their homes; called upon employers at their offices or about the board of trade; saw county and city officials at their offices; interviewed many business men and attended two public meetings, at which the principal speaker was Representative **T. B. Barry**.

From these visits it was found that there were many workingmen who had supposed that the “*ten hour law*,” passed by the last legislature went into effect on the first of July, and were not aware the law, not having been given immediate effect, could not become operative until 90 days after the adjournment of the body that passed it. It was found that the subject of the law going into effect on July 1 had been talked of during the month of June, but that no plans had been discussed as to enforcing the law at that time.

July 4, 1885, came on Saturday. As is the custom, the mills all close on that day and remained closed over Sunday. Monday, July 6, all but three or four mills were running. One of these was closed that the boilers might be cleaned, another for lack of a full gang reporting. Both of these were below *Bay City*, on the river, and it is here that we believe we find the commencement of the trouble that by Friday night, the 10th of July, had extended the length of the river, or about 20 miles. The following is the statement of **W. B. Rouse**, whose mill was closed for repairs:

Statement of W. B. Rouse, Mill Owner.

“My mill was closed on Monday, July 6, for the purpose of cleaning out the boilers. Some six or seven of the men who were about the mill took their dinner pails and started for home. One man took a bandana handkerchief from another man's pocket, fastened it to a stick, and, as they were near *McEwen's mill*, waived it in the air and *shouted, 'Hurrah for ten hours.'* McEwen's mill was not running, some of the men not having got over the 'fourth,' and the others were around the mill. The shouting of the man started them going, and the strike began. The man has been here since, and says he only did it for fun and did not think of starting a strike. But it looks as though McEwen's men had been talking it over and were all ready for the word.

“The *papers published the fact of the ‘ten-hour law,’* but did not state the time when went into effect, and many mill men thought it was to become a law July 1. I had paid no attention to it, and did not know when it took effect.

“My men come around at times and there is no ill-feeling between us. I have not tried to start since the strike commenced. One night a *small party came to my mill and ordered me to change my fires* – which were kept going for fire protection – under other boilers, as they said they did not like to see smoke coming out of the mill chimney, and said if I did not do it they would come in the morning with *sufficient force to compel me to do it.* I paid no attention to the orders and they have not come back. I employ from 40 to 50 men, and my pay-roll averages \$87.00 per day. I pay once a month. My *men have never asked me for an increase of pay, decrease of hours, or for a change in pay day.*

“My docks and salt sheds are full, and I don't care to run. It would be a benefit to me if the strike did not end for a month. *Politics is at the bottom of this matter.*”

The above statement was made July 22. From this starting point we follow the work of closing the mills in Bay City by giving the statement of **Sheriff Brenna**, of Bay County, which was made July 19.

“This strike commenced on Monday last, the 6th inst. Some mills in lower part of city, or rather in *Dolsonville*, were closed for repairs. Men from these mill had meetings with me who have not been working this season, under the lead of three men named **Brookmyer, Ratelle and Diedrich**. They were formerly mill workmen. I got a telephone from *Eddy Bros.* that a crowd was trying to stop their mill. I went down and saw **Brookmyer** and others, probably one hundred. I told them they must not interfere with any mills or any workmen. They *all said they would obey the laws.* There was no danger of the regular mill employes striking if left alone.

“The crowd went from there to *Pitts & Cranage's mill.* A number of *Dolson, Chapin & Co.'s* men went with them, that mill having shut down. The men working for *Pitts & Cranage* would not quit work.

“Monday night a *large meeting was held in the first ward*, some four hundred being present. D. C. **Blinn**, one 'Reserve,' and others made speeches advising the closing of every industry.

“*Pitts & Cranage's* mill started Tuesday morning, but the men went right out. The crowd did not force them out, but stood outside the mill beckoning and shouting for the men to quit, and they quite and shut down the mill.

“The crowd sent a committee into *Eddy Bros.' mill* but the workmen would not talk with them, but kept on working. They then went to *Hay, Butman & Co.'s mill* where they were determined to stop the mill. I had six men with me and ordered them to desist and not interfere with the mill.

“Tuesday night they had another big *meeting in the park.* Wednesday morning the crowd had doubled by accessions from the mill men where the mills had closed and from the idlers. Probably *500 went to Folsoms & Arnold's.* I ordered them not to go into the mill or interfere, and none of them

entered the mill. *Folsom & Arnold's men* – a part of them – had not reported for work. I think some of them were afraid to go to work.

“The crowd then went to the pipe factory, or pipe works. I went with them. A committee was sent into the mill, and the men quit work and joined the crowd. *Eddy Bros.' men* also quite. The crowd, now increased to probably 800, went to *Hay, Butman & Co.'s mill*. They were getting more boisterous and noisy and were *determined to stop the mill*. They had clubs and were shouting; men went into the mill; they were ordered out, and went. Loaded carts attempted to come out, and the crowd commenced throwing clubs at the horses and drivers. I had *six deputies and six policemen* and endeavored to stop them. The men had clubs, and both *myself and my officers were hit*; I was hit with a slab. We *arrested two of the leaders* and I sent them to the station, a third man was arrested at the Third street bridge for striking a policeman, and he was sent to the station. We in the end drove them off.

“I then went to *Birdsall & Barker's mill*, but it had been shut down before the crowd or myself arrived.

“The crowd were all sober. The leaders were generally *Polanders*, who were shoved to the front by their more cunning backers. Thursday I sent a man to *explain to the Polanders how they were breaking the laws* and what danger they were getting themselves into, and they have not come out since. I went to the lockup to see the men who had been arrested. **Chief of Police Murphy** had *struck one of the men* after his arrest, and it was at once reported that he had killed him, and great excitement was created and a large crowd gathered. I ordered them to go away, and told them the man was not hurt and they should be dealt with fairly. Many went away, but still the crowd increase, many coming through curiosity. I went to the *prosecuting attorney* to advise an immediate hearing for these men to allay the excitement, the crowd wanted the men bailed at once. The prosecuting attorney was absent. On going back, I learned that the *mayor was going to release the men*. I found him at the lockup ready to let the men go. I forbade him doing so, and said I had rather see the lockup torn down than do it. But the mayor was bound to let the men go. I again told the crowd to leave and the men should be dealt with fairly. This *action of the mayor knocked the pluck all out of the police*. I had been struck by one of the men, but I found I could do no better, and with a captain of police took the men away up street and told them to go home. One of the men told me that he had done no work this summer. Thursday, the 9th inst., **Representative T. B. Barry** came down here from Saginaw with about 50 men. A meeting was held; **Barry** and **Blinn** made speeches. I learned that the men with **Barry** from Saginaw were *striking 'dockwollopers.'* **Barry** invited 500 or more to go to Saginaw the next day. He told them they had done right so far, and advised them to keep on and close down everything. In the afternoon he advised them to close the salt blocks. I went with the mayor and saw **Mr. Barry** Thursday afternoon, before his speech. I told him that the steam was kept up on the salt blocks for fire protection, and they must not be stopped. Told him to tell the crowd this and that they must not interfere. He promised to do so, and then told the crowd what I had told him and then advised them to close the blocks.

“Friday, the crowd, under the leadership of **Blinn** and others, got some *barges and some tugs to tow them to Saginaw*. When they were ready the captains of the tugs refused to take them without a permit, which they could not get. They came to me and wanted me to assist in getting a permit. Do not think they had any permit, -- but they went. **Blinn** told the crowd to *go up the river and down the river, and at every place where they saw steam, to shut down the works*. The crowd returned from Saginaw about 10 P.M., and marched to the first ward.

“Saturday forenoon, **Blinn** spoke to the crowd and *urged and advised them to stop every industry in the city*; drive watchman from the yards; barn-men from the barns, so that the proprietors would have to take care of their won horses; and even the servant girls from the kitchens.

“On Saturday evening, the Knights of Labor assumed control of the strike and shut down on **Blinn**. Sunday afternoon I was called on by a committee of the Knights of Labor, who stated that they had requested the mayor to appoint fifty or more K. of L. as special policeman. The mayor couldn't do it,

and they now *wanted me to deputize them*. I told them I would do so, but the men must be under my absolute control, must be ready at all times to obey orders and to protect property in all cases. None of the Knights of Labor came to be deputized.

“Monday, there was a very large procession and speaking in the park, a large majority of the crowd being armed with clubs.

“On Tuesday the *Governor came from Saginaw* and was met at the *Frazer House* by the authorities and a large number of citizens – about 170 being present – and talked over the situation thoroughly. There was on the street a large procession carrying banners or a banner upon which were the words 'In God we Trust,' 'K of L.' I informed them of the Governor being at the Frazer House.

“No citizens were invited; it was supposed that all interested in the matter would come. After a thorough discussion, the following resolution was offered and adopted unanimously:

“Resolved, That a *committee of five (5)* be appointed to set forth the reasons why protection is necessary, to request the sheriff to call upon the Governor for sufficient aid to preserve the peace, and to consult with the sheriff hereafter.

The following persons were named as the committee:

E. A. Cooley, attorney at law
L. L. Hotchkiss, lumber manufacturer.
W. H. Tousey, hardware merchant.
H. P. Merrill, wholesale grocer.
L. S. Coman, druggist.

“I met this committee and stated that I did not know as the time had arrived to call for troops, as I had seen no violence since Wednesday. **Mr. Barker**, of *Birdsall & Barker*, appeared before us and state that that same morning strikers had come to his mill, assaulted an employe with an iron poker and threatened to knock out his brains. **Mr. Lewis**, of *Miller & Lewis*, also stated that about the same things had occurred at his planing mill, where the men were only working ten hours at the usual pay. **Mr. Cranage**, of *Pitts & Cranage*, said about the same things had occurred at their salt block the same morning, strikers pulling the fires from under their furnaces.

“I then said if such was the case, in the face of assurances given by the Knights of Labor that they would preserve order, I should certainly *make a requisition on the Governor for troops*, and I did so. The Governor immediately ordered the troops and they arrived Wednesday morning, the 15th. The *Pinkerton men* had been had been ordered by the mill owners previous and had arrived Sunday.

“If I could had one hundred men to deputize at the outset I could have stopped all trouble, but the men would not agree to serve only to protect the property of their own employers. It is *Grand Army men* who are now offering their services as deputies.

In answer to the question if he did not think the troops could be spared now and sent back to their homes, **Mr. Brennan said**:

“I think the troops can be spared now; they can be brought back quick if necessary. Thing the men have settle down to a determined hang. I could not get arms from the Governor for deputies. I think each city out to have arms for the purpose of arming deputies, or the Governor ought to have the same power to furnish arms that he has to furnish troops.”

The *troops were all withdrawn* from Bay County on the two following days.

Having notice how the mills were closed in Bay County and the embarkation of the invited strikers for Saginaw County, we turned to the land of the party at East Saginaw and give the statements of

officials concerning the same. It is to be understood that the river divides East Saginaw from the town of *Carrollton* and from Saginaw City, and that parties crossing the bridges from East Saginaw passed out of the police jurisdiction of that city and could not be arrested by its police for misdemeanors committed on the opposite or west side.

STATEMENT OF T. DAILY MOWER, CHIEF OF POLICE, EAST SAGINAW.

“The first strike occurred among the 'dockwollopers' last Tuesday, the 7th instant. They had been receiving 30 cents an hour for loading vessels and struck for 40 cents. **Mr. Barry** arranged with these men to go to Bay City with him and invite the men on a strike there to come up to Saginaw.

“When the strikers came from Bay City they landed at *Ten Eyck's dock* and were met by **Barry** and the striking 'dockwollopers,' with a band. They went to German street, where they were addressed by **Barry** and adjourned for dinner.

“Their was a *meeting of the board of police commissioners, the mayor of East Saginaw and Saginaw, the sheriff and myself* being held at the police headquarters. We sent for **Mr. Barry**; did not find him at first; found **Mr. Blinn** and invited him to the meeting; soon after found **Mr. Barry**, who also came.

“**Mr. Barry** was asked what his program was for the afternoon. He replied that their object was to make ten hours a day's work. The mayor of this city asked just what they were going to do. He said *they would have committees go to each mill and invite the men to join them*. In answer to the question by **Commissioner Carlisle**, what he proposed to do if the men would not join them, he said we shall have nothing to do with them, won't speak to them, will ostracise them, if we meet on the street will pass them by, will 'boycott' them.

“When we came out **Blinn** said they came as law abiding citizens and would not do any harm or break any laws. **Mr. Barry** said it was *his strike*; the men came on his invitation; it was his movement and he would be personally responsible for any and all damages or misconduct.

“I sent **Captain Walsh** of my force over the bridge with the crowd – another member of the force went part of the way – and the captain can tell you what he knows of their actions.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN WALSH, EAST SAGINAW POLICE.

“There was, I think, from 1,000 to 1,200 in the crowd when they crossed the bridge, about one-half from Bay City, **Barry** and **Blinn** leading. They marched very regularly across the bridge, but when they reached *Patterson's mill*, which is just at the end of the bridge, they made a grand rush for the mill. Part of them were *armed with clubs and began shouting 'Shut her down,' 'shut her down,' 'come out,' 'come out.'* They crowded into the mill in a big jam. The machinery was kept running for some minutes after the crowd went into the mill – perhaps five or seven – but was then closed. The mill men did not fall in with the crowd; they did not seem to be prepared for it, and very few went with the strikers when they left. I was only sent to watch them and see what they would do; this mill is in Carrollton.

“The crowd then went to *Whittier's mill* and acted the same. Neither **Barry** nor **Blinn** tried to stop them. Men rushed into every door and opening in the mill. This mill was closed; then the crowd divided, part going to *Williams' mill* and part to *C. K. Eddy's*. I saw them going among the slab pilers, pulling and hauling the slab men about and obliging them to quit and go with them.

“The crowd at *Williams' mill*, after closing it, turned about and joined the **Eddy** party. Then I came back and afterwards met the crowd at *Wright's mill*. Did not see the sheriff that afternoon. I saw the crowd break in the gates at *Barnard's mill*. I did not go inside, so did not see the attack on **Chapman** nor any of the work that was done inside. I saw **Barry** inside the fence talking to men outside and telling them to keep quiet until they returned -- “they” being the committee who were going into the mill. The crowd obeyed. **Barry** appeared to have complete control of them.

“One man from Bay City had on a plug hat on which was painted '10 hours,' he also had a kind of banner on which were the words 'ten hours or no sawdust.' He had climbed on top of one of the gate-posts. I saw some one signal him from the inside of the fence. He jumped down into the yard, when the *crowd surged through the gate and into the mill yard*. It was a howling mob. I expected trouble and kept on the outside of the crowd. Saturday was comparatively quiet; there were some speeches made and the balance of the mills were closed.”

The same day that the above statements of police officials were made, July 20, the following statement by **Sheriff McIntyre**, of Saginaw County, was given to us in his office at the jail in Saginaw City:

STATEMENT OF ANGUS MCINTYRE, SHERIFF OF SAGINAW COUNTY.

“The morning we heard the strikers were coming I was in the court room at Saginaw City. A messenger came and asked me to go to *Burr's bank*. I did so. **Burr** said: '**Mayor Estabrook** of East Saginaw has telephoned for you and **Mayor Benjamin** to come to police headquarters, East Saginaw.' We went and there met **Mayor Estabrook**, the police commissioners, and some citizens of East Saginaw. This was about 11 o'clock A. M., Friday, July 10. Heard there *one boat load of men from Bay City had landed at Ten Eyck's dock*, near F. & P. M. Railroad. Messages were received from mills along the river which the men had passed coming up. I was not prepared to meet them, and, in my opinion, it was a hard matter to stop them. I did not go near them when they landed.

“Each man of our meeting had suggestions to make. One thought it *best to call out the militia at once* and march them on a street parallel with the streets the crowd took. I did not agree with him, but thought the troops would irritate the men.

“The crowd, after landing, went to German street and were addressed by **Mr. Barry**. Don't know whether **Barry**, was with them when they landed; don't think he was. **D. C. Blinn** was with them. After the speech the crowd dispersed for dinner. I proposed at the meeting, and some agreed with me, to send for **Mr. Barry** and bring him before the meeting and ask him what the crowd were here for and what he intended to do.

“A *proclamation was then drawn up* and signed by the mayors of East Saginaw and Saginaw City and myself, allowing them to go through the streets, but warning them to be peaceable and not interfere with any one.

“**Mr. Blinn** came before **Mr. Barry** did; did not send for **Blinn**; I knew nothing of **Blinn** until he came. Soon after **Barry** came; he was asked the the business of the crowd and what they intended to do. He said he had been called to Bay City the day before and had invited the men come to Saginaw and have a good social time. The men came and he intended to march peaceable and quietly to each mill and invite the mill men to come out of the mill and ask that then hours be a day's work. Don't think 'same pay' was mentioned. He said if any of the mill men wanted to remain at work they could, but the rest would have nothing to do with them; wouldn't interfere with them or associate with them. Don't know as he was asked if they would enter mills and force workmen to quit. He (**Barry**) *pledged himself if any depredations were committed by the men, we could hang him for it*. Said he was responsible for their good behavior, there should be no violence and they would act like gentlemen.

"I went from the meeting at East Saginaw police headquarters to organize my forces in Saginaw City, only intending to keep order, as I knew I had not force enough to stop them. I did not see them at *Patterson's mill*, or any mill, before they came to Court street. *I first saw the crowd at Court street*, in Saginaw City. **Barry** was heading the Saginaw men and **Blinn** the Bay City men. There was about 500 in each crowd. I had no conference or parley with them. They were here about one and one-half hours. They had been to three mills in Saginaw City before I saw them. They shut down *Geo. F. Williams & Bros.' mill* by turning off the steam; myself and under sheriff had followed them to *Williams' mill*. I think it was men from among the strikers turned off the steam, but am not sure; a number went into the mill.

"Could not say whether the workmen of mills visited joined the crowd after the mills shut down or not.

"From Williams' they went to *N & A. Barnard's*. Myself and under sheriff took a short cut over to Barnard's from *Williams' mill*. The street gate was locked and police officers at the gate. Think there were six – four, or five, or six – maybe more; we only had ten in the city. A large crowd remained at the gate. **Mr. Barnard** told me he forbid them coming in. **Mr. Barry** and some more men came into the yard; they must have jumped the fence, but I did not see them, as I was inside the grounds. Two or three men, one being **Barry**, went up into the mill, and after being there some time came down. **Barry** stood talking with me and the under sheriff; told us men wanted the ten hours, but did not like to quit. Don't know as he said they didn't like to quite. While talking with **Barry** about the situation, a crowd of, I should judge, *one hundred came through the gate* into the mill yard. Think they pushed the gate from them. Think this gate is across a street which runs some distance to into the yard, but **Barnard** had permission from the Council to put the gate there, so it was the same as his own property. *The crowd marched up to the mill and commenced throwing chunks, blocks, clubs, or whatever you had a mind to call them, at the mill. Barry ordered them to stop* right off, insisted upon it, and they stopped. The mill was closed after the club throwing. Barry's influence made them stop throwing clubs.

"I then *heard some men had drawn a revolver* on some of the crowd, one of **Barnard's** men. I saw a cluster together in lower part of mill and was making for them when **Mr. Chapman**, the mill foreman, was passing through the lower part of the mill; some one in the crowd said 'there he is,' and *the crowd surged right in towards him and commenced striking at him with clubs, Mr. Chapman* backing away from them as well as he could, and I and my under sheriff was getting to him as fast as we could. **Barry** got to him first, got hold of **Chapman** and kept backing with him towards the stairway or roadway leading to the tramway, and *ordered the crowd at the top of his voice to stop*, at the same gesticulating and swinging his arms. **Barry** at last got **Chapman** to the tramway. I and my under sheriff got to the roadway, and, with the assistance of some men in the crowd whom I did not know, succeeded in keeping the crowd from going on the tramway, and then it quieted down.

"The crowd then left Barnard's and went to *Cameron & Merrell's mill* and *Green, Ring & Co.'s mill*, but the mills had been closed before the men arrived.

"They (the crowd) then came back to the bridge and went across to South Saginaw. I did not follow. Don't think the full crowd went to upper mills.

"I *telegraphed the Governor Sunday, asking for the two home companies of troops* and that two other companies be held in readiness if wanted.

"Monday I *deputized 70 deputy sheriffs*, some from among the workingmen; no mil men; might be one or two. The men deputized were men who offered themselves.

"The *Governor responded at once*, and the captains of the home companies – one reported that night and the other the next morning. **Capt. Trask's** company (Saginaw City) had been ordered under arms Saturday night by the Governor, at the request of the mayor, unknown to me. On Sunday I was sent for to go to **Mayor Benjamin's** place of business. I did so. The mayors of East Saginaw and

Saginaw, one police commissioner of East Saginaw and some of the mill owners of Saginaw City were there. They requested me to make a requisition for four companies on the spot. Some thought they should bring a *Gatling gun* and preferred the *Lansing company*. I refused to do it, as I did not see any necessity for it. I told them I would order the East Saginaw company to be in readiness at their armory, and would ask the Governor to have two more companies in readiness. They then asked me to change the order they had made for **Capt. Trask's** company, so that all the orders or requisitions would come from me, and I did so. I had nothing to do with the *Pinkerton men*.”

The following statement, made by **Mayor Benjamin** of Saginaw City, will show how the Pinkerton men were ordered:

STATEMENT OF HON. CHAS. L. BENJAMIN, MAYOR OF SAGINAW CITY.

“We held our *first meeting of city and county authorities* Friday, July 10. Present: the two mayors, police commissioners and citizens generally. The meeting was held at East Saginaw. When the meeting was over, the commissioners, **Mayor Estabrook**, **Sheriff McIntye** and myself staid at police headquarters and sent for **Mr. Barry**. Both **Barry** and **Blinn** came. **Barry** was asked what he and the crowd intended to do. He said he had invited these men to come from Bay City and that they were going to the different mills and invite the men to quite work and ask for ten hours. If any refused to quit they would leave them alone and go on. That was all they intended to do. **Mr. Barry** said, in effect, that he *would hold his liberty and his life responsible for the peaceable action of the men*. We had issued a proclamation; **Barry** said there was no need of it – there would be no demonstrations, violent or ungentlemanly conduct. We did not think the crowd would go to the mills in a mass. **Mr. Barry** gave us to understand that a committee would visit each mill, and if the men did not want to quite they would leave them.

“Before the men got to *Barnard's mill* **Mr. Barnard** served a notice on me, stating that the crowd was coming and notifying me he should hold the city responsible for any damage, etc. I did not see the attack on **Mr. Chapman**.

“Very few of our mill men were in the crowd, but the striking 'dockwallopers' were there.

“I telegraphed the Governor that the *situation was critical* and asked for aid, July 11. At 6:40 P. M. a message was received from him saying: 'Call upon **Capt. Trask's** company if needed.'

“Sunday morning there was another *meeting of the business men, police commissioners* of East Saginaw and the mayors of the two cities. We sent for **Sheriff McIntye** and asked him to *call for four companies of troops*; he refused to do it. We then compromised with the sheriff by having him order out the two local companies and request the Governor to hold two companies in readiness. The *meeting was unanimously in favor of hiring outside help*. I telegraphed Pinkerton to see if he could sent fifty men. The East Saginaw people wanted me to send for fifty men for them, so I changed the order and sent for one hundred men.”

The following expressions and opinions of workingmen, mill owners, and business men are but a portion of those gathered by the Commissioner, but give all the variety of thought expressed, without repeating opinions:

OPINIONS OF WORKINGMEN.

No. 1. “Think ten hours enough for a day's work. Did not quit work until mill was stopped by crowd.”

No. 2. “We were drive out of the mills; did not want to stop work.”

No. 3. My boss shut down before the strikers go to us; he was afraid of damage to the mill. Think ten hours enough for a day's work, but did not want to quit work."

No. 4 "I am getting \$3.00 a day and am satisfied, but feel that ten hours is enough for a day's work. Expected when law went into force mills would run ten hours. Would not dare to go to work until several mills started; would be called 'rat,' 'scab.' etc., and my family would find it unpleasant."

No. 5. "No, sir, I would not go to work until a good many others did. I am afraid of being knocked down after day's work."

No. 6. "Have been threatened that if I don't hold out I will be marked."

No. 7. "Am willing to go to work and to meet my bosses, but want ten hours for a day's work; am willing to concede something."

No. 8. "Believe if the men who talked this strike up would quite and leave us alone, we would be able to go to work very soon."

No. 9. "Have not lived fifty years without learning some things; among them patience. But this being forced into idleness is trying to my patience; it is cursed."

No. 10. "Think it all right for each mill to settle its troubles with its own men." [This was a most common remark by very many men. -- Commissioner.]

No. 11. "Many mill workmen are now in earnest for the ten hours as same pay who had no desire to strike, but were forced to do so by a large crowd, armed with clubs, coming into the mills and ordering the sawyers not to cut another board. The crowd appeared to be all sober, but overran the mill and made all quit."

No. 12. "Think now the men are out they will hand for ten hours' work at eleven hours pay. Wages were cut down on all hands last spring, and the men did not object. Am married; receive \$1.75 per day; received \$1.87 ½ per day last year at same work (assistant engineer). Cost of living about same as last year. Am still at work and under pay. Think if there had been no cut in wages last spring there would have been no strike."

No. 13. Yard foreman. "Don't know whether the men would make any concessions from their demand for ten hours and old wages. Lowest wages paid in this mill, \$1.50 per day. No uniform rate of wages for all the mills could be fix, owing to the difference in the construction of the mills and their facilities for doing work."

No. 14. Group of four (one speaking others assisting). "These day begin to get long. We have stayed here at the house all the time since the strike began; have not been with any crowd; our mill was closed before the strikers arrived; our men were at work for less pay by from twenty-five to fifty cents per day than last year for same work. Thing it is the *loafers and idlers*, who don't care whether the mills ever run and would not work in them if they did, who are doing the mischief."

No. 15. Another group (men who work on the boom at the mill). "No work for boom men until mills start again. Think the men of Saginaw did not want to strike, but now that they were out they will stick for ten hours and same pay as they had been receiving. Would not dare to go to work except at then house and old pay. Not afraid of harm while at mill, but afraid nights and afterwards afraid for family. Did not go with the strikers at all; care nothing about either the troops or Pinkerton men being here; don't think much of the latter."

In several different instances, and at different mills, the *men were questioned as to why they staid about the mills*. The answers showed that the men considered more of danger from fire than when the mills were in activity, from carelessness of smoke or other causes, and they felt an interest in

protecting the property. This position of the men led many times to an inquiry as to the kind of men their employers were, their disposition towards employees, etc. Invariably came the reply, "Best on the river;" but when asked the disposition of the proprietors of the mill above or below them, the answer was quite as ready, "He's a mean one." It was evident that the mill owners had the friendship of their own men and had many faults in the eyes of the men of other mills.

In *conversation with mill owners*, it was an exception to find one who had not a kind feeling for his men. Said one: "Sir, I have a large mill interest; I think I feed 1,500 mouths; I have a little money in bank; I am perfectly willing to go to my men and say, 'Here, take all my property and look after it for me, I am going away.' When I should return, sir, the report of these men would show a faithful stewardship. Why, sir, I pay all I can at present price of lumber; my men know it, and, but for political demagogues, no trouble would occur in this valley."

A few brief *statements of mill owners* are given as follows: --

No. 1. "My men quite work without expressing themselves as dissatisfied or asking for any changes of existing rules, and now, if they go to work again this year, it must be at old hours and at old pay. I like my men but will never submit to have any committee or anybody else dictate how long my mill shall run or what wages I shall pay."

No. 2. "I think now this strike had been talked up a long time before it started, and it was precipitated by a lot of idlers and men not employed in the mills."

No. 3. "Have always run my own business and always will. To prevent my mill being shut by a mob, I had it close before they arrived. Have tried hard to have my men come and talk with me and say what they wanted, but none have come. Have paid off all my hands and don't care whether the mills starts again this season or not."

No. 4. "Am employing about 126 men. Of this number only seven were working for \$1.25 per day, the rest were receiving from \$1.37 ½ to \$4.50 per day, the average being \$1.74. The cut in men's wages this spring made our pay roll \$30.00 per day less than last year. We received five shillings less per 1,000 feet for sawing this year than last; we average 166,000 feet per day, so that we receive \$103.50 less for our work per day than last year. This strike can never be settled until political demagogues, acting as leaders, are sent to the rear."

No. 5. "We saw by the thousand. In 1879 and 1880 we received \$2.00 per thousand for sawing. In 1881 and 1882 we received \$2.75 per thousand. For 1885 we have contracted for only 6,000,000 feet at \$2.00 per thousand, other mills sawing for \$1.75 per thousand. Our capacity is 16,000,000 feet for the season. We employ 90 to 100 men. We made no reduction of wages from 1881 to close of 1884. The average wages in 1884 were \$1.98 per day, in 1885 they are \$1.72 per day. From 1881 to present year the decrease in profits has been fifty per cent; in wages the decrease has been sixteen per cent."

No. 6. "We were in the habit of paying our men once a month. On the 18th of June they sent a petition to our office asking to be paid once in two weeks, and giving us a reason that having the money they could buy cheaper from the huckster's wagons. We readily saw the point, and though it made much more work in our office we willingly agreed to comply with their request, but told them as the first half of the month had more than gone by, we would put the system in operation next month; this appeared to be satisfactory.

"When the crowd reached our mill it was running and I don't think the men wanted to strike, but they were forced out – not by personal violence, but by calling them names, telling them to quit, etc. At a meeting of our mill proprietors a committee of three, including myself, was appointed to meet a delegation of the strikers and see if we could not effect a compromise.

"We met them and told them we had come to see if we could not effect a compromise. One, a man who has no regular occupation, but sometimes rents lath mills and hires others to do the work, got up

and moved to adjourn; he said they were not there for a compromise, that they had published their resolutions and were going to stand by them. He made an exciting speech; *charged the mill owners with robbing their employes keeping them poor* they could not send their children to school, and with getting rich out of their very life's blood.

“Better counsel prevailed and I was permitted to reply to him, but no good could come of argument, as the first speaker had excited the men too much. We could have arranged matters but for two or three agitators (not workmen). Our stablemen were ordered out, and if it had not been for the *Pinkerton men* our kitchen girls would have been driven out.

“Our foreman, who has been with us ten years, and in that time has made half as much money as we have, having a very large farm in good shape, came near losing his head through threats, etc. His salary is \$1,200 per year.

“We employ regularly 100 to 115 men; they have not come near us to state their grievance or say what they want. When our committee was talking with one of the Knights of Labor committee I asked a prominent member (not one who ever does a day's work for wages) if we should start the mills at *11 hours as before, if the Knights of Labor would protect our men and property*. He said he had no authority to answer that question, but if we would start at 10 hours with 11 hours pay the Knights of Labor would protect us. Politics is at the bottom of this; all political parties are catering to a mob for political purposes.

“We should have been in the hands of a mob but for the prompt action of our sheriff. The same prominent member of the Knights of Labor committee is a politician; he tells the men they will be taken care of for sixty days. *We had to have the Pinkerton men; could not have done without them.*”

No. 7. Bay City. “I do not think there would have been any need of calling for 'Pinkerton men' if this had been a regular strike, for our regular workingmen would not destroy our property. But when a *howling mob was made up of the worst idle bummers* of our cities and they were led or egged on by *agitators and political demagogues*, none of whom ever pretended to earn wages, and some of whom were defeated candidates for office still hoping to 'get there' by labor votes (which they won't get), I say when we saw such a crowd we were afraid that under excitement our mills might be burned, and so we called for the Pinkertons. If our sheriff had been sustained by other authorities we could have got along without the Pinkertons.”

States from business men were harder to get than any others. A free expression was: “We are afraid of a 'boycott' if we should be known as expressing what we feel.” While some told us that they would not say anything pertaining to the strike further than the whole *blame for its origin and continuance could be place upon “discarded politicians.”* We give two or *statements in full as secured from business men.*

No. 1. “The whole bottom of this strike is politics, and, from soon after its start, has been run a lot of political demagogues for their own purposes. The men who keep the thing going live here in Bay City; they are not mill men and have no business in the matter.

“The strike was very ill advised and was started by demagogues, but the mill workmen, after being obliged to stop work, want the ten hours before they begin work again. I think a little concession ought to be made by both sides.”

No. 2. Bay City. “I believe no concerted plan had been considered by workingmen before the strike took place, but that the start was unpremeditated and at once taken hold of by agitators who advised a continuance and growth until all mills in the valley should be closed. I believe that an adjustment of any differences between employer and employe would be brought about at once but for the position of certain men who claim to be Knights of Labor, but are publicly known as politicians and in no sense as workingmen.

“The *responsibility for the great loss* daily falling upon our citizens of all classes, must rest upon these men who are advising the workmen to hold out.”

No. 3. “That first day I recognized every 'bum' and every 'drunk' that I have seen around Bay City for years in the crowd; they were men who never work and would not work if offered five dollars per day.

“The next day there were some mill workmen in the crowd, men from the mills not running. I heard this strike talked of as possible as early as June 1. *Many men thought the ten-hour law went into effect July 1.* Some were told to the contrary, but would not believe it.

“The *great mistake* was when our mayor released the men who had been arrested, and by so doing, in effect, told the crowd that a mistake had been made in arresting the men, or that the crowd could run things to suit themselves. If **Chief of Police Murphy** had been properly backed he would have quelled this trouble, although he ought not to have struck one of the men after he was arrested. He is a good officer.

“I am in sympathy with the strike to the extent that I think ten hours long enough to work in these saw-mills, but I am opposed to the way the strike was inaugurated and the way it has been and is now being run.”

The foregoing statements were all taken from persons who had, until this time, never been personally met by the Commissioner; no knowledge of their views relative to the strike was had by him prior to his call for their statements. We believe them to most fairly express the sentiments of the different classes represented.

A speech made by **Representative Barry**, occupying one hour and thirty minutes and to an audience of between 300 and 400 people, one-half of whom were working people, in a park in East Saginaw was most attentively listened to by the Commissioner, and a stenographic report was also taken at his instance.

We had notice the almost entire *absence of drunkenness in the valley during the week of our stay*. In fact, it was said to us by authorities that there was less of drunkenness among the idlers than usual. There were two reasons in our mind for this state of sobriety during a period of such extended idleness. That one, that the workmen of the mills now closed were nearly all about their homes or mills and not inclined to any dissipation; the other, that the idlers (regulars) had come within the sound of **Mr. Barry's voice**, with others, and had been influenced by his strong appeal to “leave intoxicating drink alone during the strike.” It was our privilege to hear **Mr. Barry** make such an appeal, and we believe it had weight with some of his hearers, as we believe did other subject matter of his talk. **Mr. Barry**, at the time of his speech, stated that *the mill owners were all notified in the spring of this year of the desire of the employes for reduction of working hours to ten per day*. This statement demanded an investigation, for *if such notification had been made, both employer and employe had good reason to feel that a disturbed condition of sentiment prevailed* as to hours of labor. We, therefore, made a thorough inquiry, asking mill owners and mill men in Bay City and East Saginaw if any such notification or demand had been made. A negative answer was given in every instance. In Saginaw City one mill owner was found who said “he thought that in the spring he heard some of his men talking of the matter, but never heard it spoken of among mill-owners.” Neither could we find among mill owners in Saginaw City *any copy of a circular not which, it was said, had been sent to them by employes*. Believing, however, that some action had been taken by men in South Saginaw and Saginaw City, we asked the cooperation of a special agent in securing a copy of the circular, which we give below. There is no evidence that any great publicity was given to this circular, though Mr. Barry probably thought there had been.

[Copy of Circular.]

Saginaw City, May 6, 1885.

Dear Sir:

At a joint meeting of the labor organization of Saginaw City, a committee of seven was appointed to confer with a like committee of mill owners in regard to Hours to be worked in the mills. We believe that the hours of labor in the mills should be reduced to 10 per day. We further believe that it will be better for mill owners, as well as to the workingmen; and for this reason we wish to meet the owners of mills on fair and impartial footing, and endeavor to come to a satisfactory understanding. *We therefore request that the mill owners of Saginaw City and South Saginaw meet and appoint a committee of seven to confer with us.* Please name the place of meeting, and at any time within two weeks from date of this request. Any place you may please to name in Saginaw City for the meeting of the Committee will satisfy us.

The *K. of L. Hall, in Beach & Andre Block*, Court street, can be had free of charge, on any afternoon.

Yours Respectfully,

ABBOTT E. LAWRENCE,
Chairman Workingmen's Committee

EFFORTS TO RESUME WORK.

While the work of the investigation of the origin and continuance of this strike was earnestly prosecuted by the Commissioner, he also made strenuous efforts to bring about a speedy resumption of the industries found idle because of the strike.

In such efforts but two classes seemed to be properly interested – the employer and the employe. While a third party, the *mercantile interests*, were materially interested, it required an adjustment of differences between the first two classes before all other interests could be benefited.

In the efforts to bring the employer and employe together upon a basis of equity, the fact that “ten hours” for a day's work was a right and reasonable request, one in full harmony with the betterment and advancement in social condition of the employe, was positively argued by the Commissioner. In connection with making of “ten hours” a day's work in the mills, he also asked that *no cut in wages upon those receiving \$1.50 per day, or less*, should be made. He asked that each mill owner should call his employes together, and, treating them as his business family, start out upon the above basis and make such further arrangements as justice and equity demanded, believing that a resumption of work would be the result. While a few mill owners object to any arrangement that should bring about a resumption of work except upon the same basis in vogue when the mills stopped, a very large *majority were in favor of our proposition*, or else of having a committee of mill owners and mill workmen jointly adopt a plan upon which all mills should resume.

The few referred to argued that their mills were closed by a mob, and that to start up again upon any basis of hours and wages other than those in force when closed was an acknowledgment of the right of outside forces to stop industry at any time. In fact nearly all mill owners expressed similar sentiment, while all, save those sawing upon contract, claimed that at *no time in years were they so willing to have their mills remain closed as a pecuniary benefit to themselves.*

But, outside of the few, the willingness to end the loss to wage earners of their wages and to revive

the business of the valley made them willing to attempt a resumption upon the basis referred to.

The employes were talked with, and aside from a few who were getting the highest wages, a *wish to arrange with their employers was expressed*. Several mill owners attempted thus to meet their men, *but a few only, in most instances, came at the invitation*.

An investigation of the cause for non-attendance of the mill workmen at meetings with their employers led to the discovery that *advice was being given "to hold out," that "they would be cared for a long time" and in the end the demand of "ten hours and old wages" would be fully complied with*. A few mills made arrangements with their employes and resumed work, as will be seen in the statement showing the "number of days mills were idle." Others resumed and, running one or two days, again closed for lack of workmen, the men having been advised to "quit and hold out."

With this apparent failure of our efforts came the feeling to the mill owners that they had done all that could be expected of them, and now their mills could remain idle. Still determined to bring about a resumption of labor if possible, the *mill owners were asked to name a committee of five to meet and equal number of workingmen and an equal number of merchants in Bay City*. The meeting was arranged with the understanding on the part of the employes that they would meet only workingmen and business men; no committee of any association made up of others than workingmen would they confer with. The *meeting was called for three o'clock, July 23*. The mill owners and business men were on hand, awaiting until four o'clock brought the information that the *workingmen were advised not to appoint a special committee*, but that, unless the mill owners would meet a committee already appointed, no meeting would be held. An adjournment sine die was at once made, with the *declaration by the mill owners that they "would never meet a committee of politicians as representatives of the workingmen when there were no workingmen among them, to discuss matters that interested the workingmen only."*

Efforts for a *resumption of work of all the mills had failed*. The wage earner was being kept from earning his daily wage by a class of "political demagogues." This was not the work of any political party as a party, for the better men of all parties deprecated the efforts to block the wheels of industry. It was the work of men identified (at some one time at least) with some one of the several political parties; men who sought office; men who had not the full respect of their several parties, and had at times failed to be elected. They were no workingmen; they earned no wages; they joined the Knights of Labor for their own political purpose; they were of the class described by **Grand Master Workman T. V. Powderly** of the Knights of Labor, who, speaking says "they sometimes get in, but when discovered are ejected." These men who assumed to be the friends of the mill workingmen, in Bay City especially, and *advised a continuance of idleness, knowing that the pecuniary loss to the men and the whole valley had assumed fearful proportions*, had "got in" to the Knights of Labor order and had not been "ejected." The workingmen listened to their sophistry of argument, and being mentally influenced by the daily depression of mind, as they saw no wages for daily work as formerly, were led to feel that "truly these are our friends." The awakening to the truth of the real object actuating those politicians came at an expensively late hour to the workingmen, but we believe the intelligence of the employes of the Saginaw Valley, as well as the State at large, will cause them to see that men who advise a continuance of daily loss of wages, rather than adjust their differences with their employers in honest conference, are "agitators" and "political demagogues," having nothing to lose, but are *desirous of gaining the favor and votes of honest men of toil, even though they financially ruin the objects of their prey in the attempt*.

With the information gained and given in the preceding pages, we give, as we believe, a reasonable conclusion that the responsibility for the long continuance of enforced idleness in the Saginaw Valley this summer does not lay with the mill workingmen nor the mill owners, nor with the Knights of Labor as an order, but does attach directly to the few "professional politicians" who, in the guise of Knights of Labor, were using their place in the order in direct violation of the principles announced by its greatest authority.

THE RESULT.

In giving the result or effect of the "Saginaw strike" upon the people living in the valley, we show in part the number of days the mills were closed, the loss of money in wages to the employes, the effect financially upon the mill owners, and the probable effect upon the consumers of the products of the mills and salt blocks.

NUMBER OF DAYS MILL WERE CLOSED.

There were *three classes of industry* closed between July 65 and Sept. 1, 1885 – lumber, shingles and salt. Of the lumber mills several sawed by the thousand feet upon contract, others owned their own logs, while very many of each had salt blocks attached.

Shingle Mills. -- There were 17 of these mills closed.

Three (3) were closed 30 days each.

Two (2) were closed 6 days each.

Twelve (12) were closed respectively, 3, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 21, 24-1/2, 25, 27, 30-1/2, 41 days.

Total number of days closed, 17 mills: 330

Average number of days closed: 19-1/3

Number of shingles uncut because of strike: 25,739,000

Lumber Mills. -- There were 61 of these mills closed.

Six (6) were closed 44 days each.

Five (5) were closed 30 days each.

Five (5) were closed 31 days each.

Three (3) were closed 26 days each.

Three (3) were closed 46 days each.

Three (3) were closed 48 days each.

Two (2) were closed 25 days each.

Two (2) were closed 27 days each.

Two (2) were closed 33 days each.

Two (2) were closed 36 days each.

Two (2) were closed 42 days each.

Two (2) were closed 45 days each.

Twenty-four (24) were closed respectively, 2-1/2, 5, 6, 8-1/4, 9, 15, 16, 16-1/2, 17, 20, 21, 21-1/2, 23, 30-3/4, 32, 32-1/4, 35, 41, 42-1/2, 44-1/2, 45-1/2, 50.

Total days closed, 61 mills: 1,965-3/4

Average number of days closed: 32-1/4

Total daily wages paid in 78 mills at time of closing: \$9,864.64

Total loss of wages in 78 mills during strike: \$302,818.90

Boom Company. -- This company was closed 43 days.

Daily wages paid by boom company: \$825.00

Total loss of wages, 43 days of strike: \$34,475.00

Estimated cost in wages of putting total unmanufactured product of the mills upon vessels or cars: \$47,320.57

Grand total of loss in wages: \$385,614.47

Of the mills and companies addressed, one refused to answer our questions and three were closing up their affairs.

EFFECT UPON MILL OWNERS.

It is impossible to give total figures in speaking of the effect of the strike upon the mill owners. It was not a financial loss. As was stated by them in interviews, the *time for their works to be idle was opportune*. The result, we believe, proved their words to be correct. Lumber and salt both advanced quite materially in *Ohio and Michigan*. Buyers went to the Saginaw Valley instead of receiving visits from Saginaw representatives. In answer to communications addressed to some of the most prominent mill owners, asking the effect of the strike upon the manufacturers, replies were received, of which we give one or two showing the sentiment expressed in all.

No. 1 writes Nov. 4, 1885: "The prices for common grades of pine at the commencement of the strike was \$7.00 for culls, \$14.00 for common, \$35.00 for uppers. At the termination of the strike I sold green stock at fifty cents per thousand advance, and dry at \$1.00, and do day I can get an advance of \$2.00 per thousand on common stock, and better grades \$5.00 per thousand. Salt was worth, July 1, sixty cents, it is now held here at eighty cents per barrel. It is my opinion that without the strike there would have been a drop of fifty cents to one dollar per thousand on lumber."

No. 2 writes Nov. 3, 1885: "The average price of salt during month of June was sixty-two cents per bbl., for the month of August sixty cents, and the average price to day is seventy cents per bbl. There was about 125,000 bbls. less manufactured than there would have been had there been no strike. The prices would show 62 cents for July, 60 cents for Sept. 1, 70 cents for Nov. 1."

No. 3 writes Nov. 3, 1885: "I think that the delay in manufacturing caused by the strike lessened the season's product for the Saginaw Valley, thereby preventing a decline in prices on many grades of lumber, particularly lower grades. In that way it helped the owners of logs and lumber. I do not believe that the owners of logs, lumber and salt in the valley suffered real loss in consequence of the delay, but am of opinion that it was really a benefit."

By the foregoing statements of manufacturers, it is fair to believe that the effect of the *strike was to them a large financial gain*.

To the consumers of the products of the mills and salt blocks the strike was the cause of an increase in expenses, not easily computed because of its magnitude. The increase in prices of lumber and salt affected a wide area of country, and in no way can be confined to the amount not manufactured (because of strike) but covers stocks already in the markets anticipating a scarcity of supply.

WAGES PAID AT TIME OF STRIKE.

That this Bureau might ascertain the exact wages paid by the mills close at the time the strike was inaugurated, an agent was give the work in hand with instructions to secure his information from the pay rolls of June, 1885, if possible so to do. He met with most favorable assistance from the proprietors, free access to the books being accorded, save in three instances where positive refusal prevented the securing of any information.

The following name mill owners reported that they were not affect by the strike, not having started their mills: *Backus & Binder, Francis Kelley, Charles E. Lee, Keystone Lumber & Salt Co., Saginaw Manufacturing Co.*

The visit of the agent to the mill of **Messrs. Whitney & Batchelor**, at *Zilwaukee*, discovered the absence from home of the proprietors; blanks and a request that they be filled were left with the book-keeper. These blanks were sent to the Bureau properly filled out, but arrived too late to be used in this report. The firms refusing to give information were *F. E. Bradley, Green & Stevens and William Peters*.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

The result of the canvass is embodied in table number, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and summarized in table number 7. These tables have been prepared with a great deal of care from the most authentic sources, and will repay a careful examination.

Table Number 1. - Showing the names of the Mill-owners; the Number of Men; Number of Boys, and the Total Number of Employes on July 1, 1885, of 77 Mills and 58 Salt Block affected by the Strike in Saginaw Valley.

Names of Mill Owners - #Men, #Boys, Total	
Andrews, E - 18, --, 18 Barnard, N. & A., Co. - 137, 7, 144 Bliss, A. T. - 64, 23, 87 Bliss & Barker - 105, 13, 118 Birdsall & Barker - 258, 11, 269 Bradley, N. B. & Son - 111, 10, 121 Brand & Hardin - 11, 1, 12 Brucker, F. & L. - 12, 1, 13 Burnham & Still - 26, 7, 33 Butman & Rust - 58, 4, 62 Cameron & Merrill - 68, 16, 84 Camp, A. D. - 23, 1, 24 Carrier, Heath & Co. - 57, 5, 62 Chapin, D. S. - 26, 1, 27 Conderman & Hogan - 22, 5, 27 Culver, H. H. - 17, 3, 20 Dolson & Chapin - 88, 6, 94 Easton, Potter & Co. - 75, 4, 79 Eddy, Avery, & Eddy - 57, --, 57 Eddy Bros. & Co. - 76, 20, 96 Eddy, C. K. & Son - 80, 17, 97 Folsom & Arnold - 95, 11, 106 Gates, S. G. M. - 35, 20, 55 Gebhart & Esterbrook - 76, --, 76 Gould, E. F. - 46, 6, 52 Grand, C. L. & Co. - 27, 6, 33 Green, Ring & Co. - 93, 10, 103 Hall, E. - 82, 5, 87 Hall, J. R. - 140, --, 140 Hall, S. A. - 14, 1, 15 Hamilton, McClure & Co. - 94, 27, 121 Hargrave & Son - 47, 6, 53 Hitchcock, J. R. - 31, 4, 35 Hotchkiss, L. L. & Co. - 74, 16, 90 Jerome, T., & Co. - 55, 3, 58 Laderach Bros. - 32, 6, 38 Lewis, C. E. - 51, 6, 57	Malone & Co. - 76, 30, 106 McEwan Bros. & Co. - 53, 9, 62 McLean, Son & Co. - 72, 7, 79 McLeod, D., & Son - 15, --, 15 Melcher & Nerriter - 31, --, 31 Merrill, C., & Co. - 99, 14, 113 Miller Bros. - 58, 3, 61 Miller & Lewis - 68, 15, 83 Murphy & Dorr - 83, 6, 89 Myers, Geo. C. - 30, 5, 35 Owen, J. G. - 65, 11, 76 Patterson, James - 25, --, 25 Pearson, J. H. & Son - 83, 8, 91 Pitts & Carnage - 131, 10, 141 Ring & Stevens - 24, 1, 25 Rorison & Langford - 24, --, 24 Rouse, W. B. - 30, 5, 35 Rust Bros. & Co. - 76, 8, 84 Rust Bros. & Co. - 83, 11, 94 Rust, Eaton & Co. - 67, 6, 73 Sage, H. W., & Co. - 163, 8, 171 Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. - 69, 4, 73 Sample & Camp - 47, 14, 61 Sanborn, Hill & Beard - 39, --, 39 Smalleys & Co. - 25, 4, 29 Smith Bros. & Co. - 81, 7, 88 Stevens & LaDue - 93, 8, 101 Stillman, W. B. - 27, 7, 34 Ten Eyck, C. & E. - 40, 9, 49 Tyler, S. W., & Son - 56, 3, 59 Warner & Eastman - 76, 9, 85 Webber, Wm. L. - 68, 15, 83 Welch, J. - 60, --, 60 Whittier & Co. - 45, 3, 48 Wiggins, Cooper & Co. - 38, 5, 43 Williams, G. F. & Bro. - 75, 2, 78 Wright, A. W., Lumber Co. - 238, 18, 256 Wylie Bros. - 43, 6, 49

Totals - 4,991 / 563 / 5,554

Table No. 2 – Showing the Number at each Occupation; the Number at each given rate of Wages; the Total Number and Average Wages at each Occupation of the Men employed in 77 Saw and Shingle Mills of the Saginaw Valley on July 1, 1885. -- (Editor's note: Detail by number of individuals at given wage omitted, only average by occupation shown.)

Position – Number / Wages per day	
Barnmen – 10 / \$1.68-1/2	Sappers – 12, / \$1.76
Blacksmiths – 22 / \$1.92	Sawdust wheelers – 30 / \$1.39
Bolt carriers – 4 / \$1.47-1/2	Sawyers, circular – 72 / \$3.29
Bolters – 27 / \$1.87	Sawyers, band – 1 / \$2.50
Boommen – 150 / \$1.69	Sawyers, drag – 21 / \$1.88
Car-loaders – 48 / \$1.49	Sawyers, gang – 65 / \$2.46
Carpenters – 14 / \$1.83	Sawyers, knot – 31 / \$1.56
Carriage men – 5 / \$2.17	Sawyers, shingle – 60 / \$2.32
Car drivers – 108 / \$1.35	Sawyers, upright – 1 / \$2.50
Circular clearers – 81 / \$1.58	Scalers – 7 / \$1.85
Cull pilers – 2/ \$1.12-1/2	Setters – 79 / \$2.23
Edgers – 119 / \$1.97	Shingle inspectors & sorters – 13 / \$1.65
Edger clearers – 42 / \$1.52	Shingle jointers – 62 / \$2.10
Edger helpers – 53 / \$1.52	Shingle packers – 69 / \$2.07
Edging & slab cutters – 210 / \$1.42	Shingle wheelers – 5 / \$1.90
Elevator men – 10 / \$1.26-1/2	Slab & wood pilers – 163 / \$1.50
Engineers – 7 / \$1.61	Tall sawyers – 80 / \$1.75
Filers – 77 / \$3.41	Teamsters – 152 / \$1.40
Filer helpers – 14 / \$1.70	Tinkers – 4 / \$1.75
Firemen – 151 / \$1.68	Trammen – 26 / \$1.51
Foremen – 90 / \$3.69	Trimmers – 186 / \$1.62
Foremen, lath mills – 12, \$3.02	Watchmen – 34 / \$1.50
Gang-clearers – 99 / \$1.58	Yardmen – 2 / \$1.37-1/2
Laborers – 790 / \$1.48	
Lath men – 40 / \$1.46	
Log-jackers - 68 / \$1.59	
Log-rollers – 24 / \$1.54	
Lumber-pilers – 512 / \$1.70	
Lumber-shovers – 53 / \$1.30	
Lumber-sorters – 73 / \$1.39	
Millwrights – 31 / \$2.20	

Total number of employes reported – 4,232

Average wages per day of all employes - \$1.77

Table No. 3. - Showing the Number at each given rate of Wages; the Total Number and Average Wages at each Occupation of the boys under 16 years of age employed in 77 Lumber and Shingle Mills of the Saginaw Valley on July 1, 1885. (Editor's note: All detail omitted, only total shown.)

Total number of employes under 16 years reported – 470

Average wages per day of all boys - \$0.93

Table No. 4. - Showing the Number of Adults at each given rate of Wages; the Total Number and Average Wages at each Occupation of the Coopers, Stavemen and men employed in and around 58 Salt Blocks of the Saginaw Valley July 2, 1885. (*Editor's note: Details of number of individuals at a given wage omitted, shown only are the average wages by a given occupation.*)

Occupation – Number / Wages per day

Coopers – 132 / \$2.01
Engineers – 16 / 1.71
Firemen – 162 / \$1.59
Foremen – 24 / \$2.55
Laborers – 38 / \$1.43
Pumpers – 21 / \$1.66
Salt-makers – 49 / \$2.45
Salt-packers – 47 / \$1.78
Salt rakers & dippers – 213 / \$1.52
Stave men – 13 / \$1.75
Teamsters – 39 / \$1.41
Watchmen – 5 / \$1.52

Total number of employes – 759
Average wages per day - \$1.73

Table No. 5 – Showing the Number at each given rate of Wages; the Total Number and Average Wages at each Occupation of boys under 16 years of age, employed as Coopers, Stave and Heading Boys in the and around 58 salt blocks of the Saginaw Valley July 1, 1885. (*Editorial note: All detail omitted, only total shown.*)

Total number employes – 93
Average wages - \$0.85

Table No. 6 – (*Editor's note: Omitted summary table of previous data already given above.*)

Table No. 7 – Summary of the Canvass of 77 Mills and 58 Salt Blocks affect by the Strike in the Saginaw Valley:

Total number of employes on July 1, 1885, over 16 years of age – 4,991

Total number of employes, 16 years of age and under – 563

The ages of employes 16 years of age and under is as follows:

Twelve years of age – 5
Thirteen years of age – 36
Fourteen years of age – 66
Fifteen years of age – 146
Sixteen years of age – 272
Ages not given – 38

Average daily wages of all employes over 16 years of age - \$1.76

Average daily wages of employes in mills over 16 years of age - \$1.77

Average daily wages of employes in salt-blocks over 16 years of age – \$1.76

Average daily wages of employes in mills over 16 years of age - \$1.77

Average daily wages of employes salt-blocks over 16 years of age - \$1.73

Average daily wages of boys in mills and salt-blocks - \$0.92

Average daily wages of boys in mills - \$0.93

Average daily wages of boys in salt-blocks - \$0.85

Number of employes paid all cash – 4, 675

Number of employes paid in part in store and part cash – 879

Average proportion of the total wages of these 879 employes paid in store orders. - 3-26ths

Number of employes paid weekly – 116

Number of employes paid semi-monthly – 3,409

Number of employes paid monthly – 2,029

Thirty-seven works, running 11 hours per day, employ 2,462 persons.

Thirty works, running 11-1/4 hours per day, employ 2,473 persons.

Ten works, running 11-1/2 hours per day, employ 619 persons.

The nativity of the employes as near as could be ascertained, is as follows:

Natives – 2,119 / 38.08%

French Canadians – 1,330 / 23.90%

Germans – 1,121 / 20.14%

Polanders – 584 / 10.47 %

Irish – 200 / 3.60 %

Swedes – 67 / 1.20%

Bohemians – 15 / 0.26%

Scotch – 8 / 0.15%

English – 3 / 0.06%

Not given – 107 / 2.14%

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