

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 1- Fact-Finding Report

Participants in the strike: (Who or what groups were involved, either actively or behind the scenes)

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers

Children

Residents of communities – Reading, Philadelphia, Scranton, Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania National Guard

Police

Women

Striking workers

Clergy

Politicians

Attitudes of participants – railroad owners, striking workers, family members, local citizens, police, military, press

Some press blamed striking railroad workers for violence

Some press sided with workers

Community members seemed to support workers

Clergy remained impartial

Workers angry about working conditions

Management unwilling to address workers concerns

Causes of the strike:

Economic depression

Wages cut continually

Damages to property and associated costs: (Either to the railroad equipment or to the towns)

Hundreds of train cars destroyed

Lebanon Valley Railroad Bridge burned - \$40,000 to \$50,000 in damages

Shops and depots burned

Roundhouses burned

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 3- Group Fact-finding Report (continued)

Injuries and deaths:

Significant injuries and death
26 people died in Pittsburgh
10 people died in Reading

Impact on the local communities:

Commerce disrupted
Mail delayed
Buildings destroyed
Normal routines of citizens disrupted

Overall consequences:

Massive damage and destruction to several towns
Death and injury
Breakdown of law and order
Increased publicity to labor union movement
Labor continued to organize
Some public sympathy for workers
Revealed great divide between labor and management
Strike was national event not limited to Pennsylvania

Responsibility for the strike:

Answers can be varied—management for neglect of workers concerns of decreased wages and higher work load, workers who refused to work under these conditions, community who added to the violence, the government for actions of the National Guard, the economic climate of the country, etc.