

## RIOT ALARMS LA GRANGE

### THREE HUNDRED RAILROADERS FIGHT AT A CROSSING.

**Chicago, Hammond and Western Men  
Raid Work of the New Suburban  
Electric Company — Battle Royal  
Follows, the Weapons Including  
Stones, Hammers, and Shovels—Cut  
Heads and Bruised Faces Numerous  
—Four Arrested.**

Three hundred railway workmen fought furiously at a La Grange crossing yesterday at noon, alarming the community and taxing the law's authority to its utmost. The combatants were employes, respectively, of the new Suburban Electric railway and the Chicago, Hammond and Western road. The scene of the conflict was in Hill Grove avenue, east of the Burlington depot. Cut heads and disfigured countenances were numerous before the riot was quelled.

The following Chicago, Hammond and Western men were arrested and locked up:

W. R. Sanborn, Assistant Superintendent.  
John Crotty, fireman.  
Edward Heizer, fireman.  
Thomas Nolan, fireman.

Later in the day the prisoners, who were charged with riot, were taken before Justice E. R. McClelland, and Superintendent J. B. Cox of the railroad signed their bonds of \$100 each, for a hearing.

The arrests did not wholly allay the tumult, and signs of further trouble were so plentiful that the village marshal did not see fit to take the word of the Superintendents of each road that there would be no more fighting.

Marshal Rau and President Werno of the Village board swore in all the members of the fire department as deputies, and arrangements were made to turn on the hose in case of a second riot.

#### Cause of the Trouble.

The rivalry and ill feeling between the roads have not been hidden for some time. A few squares east of the depot on Hill Grove avenue both roads have had their eyes upon a crossing, and the preemption of this by the Suburban Electric on Saturday night led to the riot.

Late Saturday evening the officials of the Suburban Electric road quietly gathered 200 men in Hill Grove avenue and by daylight yesterday morning a spur 200 yards in length had been laid leading toward the village limits.

The Suburban Electric franchise in this direction leads only to the village limits, and when the Chicago, Hammond and Western people saw yesterday morning what had been done it was concluded at once that the only object of the Suburban Electric was to shut them out.

Bad feeling had been engendered by recent condemnation proceedings in the County Court in which the Chicago, Hammond and Western officials got the better of their rivals.

The former road, after refusing to buy a right of way from the Suburban at \$9,000, was able to condemn the strip in court for \$7,000—a clean gain of \$2,000 over the Suburban price—and so the Hammond road officers decided without delay to undo the Suburban's work.

#### Descend on the New Work.

At noon yesterday 200 Hammond men were sent to the new spur, and while the Suburban people were reassembling their forces they made short work of the new track.

They had scarcely done this when the Suburban employes came running to the place. The men rushed together and the fight was on. Clods and stones were the principal weapons used, but iron spikes, hammers, and shovels were not infrequently brought into play.

H. N. Cooper of the Suburban Electric and F. W. Beecroft foresaw possible fatalities and summoned Marshal Rau and President Werno of the Village board. These officials, with citizens of the village, pushed their way between the rioters.

In a lull thus brought about the principals in the Hammond party were placed under arrest, and then Marshal Rau was able to control the two bodies of laborers.

No Suburban men were arrested, and after the marshal had mounted guard over the dismantled spur with his newly made deputies both sides fell back and confined themselves to threats.

Excitement pervaded the vicinity during the afternoon, however, and the officials continued apprehensive, as each side kept men in the vicinity during the afternoon and evening.