

Haymarket Affair: Case Files Timeline

Prior to Haymarket Affair

1864 – Labor movements began in Chicago central demand quickly became 8 hour work day.

1867 -- Illinois Legislature enacted an 8-hr day law but left giant loopholes, city wide strikes over loophole on May 1 lasted a week. Strike collapsed and the law did as well.

1880s issue resurfaced; Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions urged workers to observe 8 hour day starting May 1, 1886.

Many immigrants joined the labor movements, some bringing with them their socialist and anarchist ideals.

Events of 1886:

April 23 through May 5 – around 19 demonstrations took place throughout the city

May 1 – Unionists reformers, socialists, anarchists and ordinary workers joined to march for an 8-hr work day 35,000 workers walked off their jobs. Tens of thousands more joined May 3 and May 4

May 3 – A demonstration at the McCormick reaper plant erupted into violence. Police fired on strikers killing 2 workers. Anarchists and others called for revenge.

May 4 – German and other socialist newspapers called for a meeting at the Haymarket that evening. Crowds gathered, initially there was peace. The crowd slowly dwindled. Then one speaker called for the crowd to “throttle” the law. Inspector John Bonfield led police to march into the meeting ordering it to disperse.

Bomb thrown by an unidentified person – 1 police officer killed instantly. Police drew and fired on the crowd. 60 officers injured and 8 died an undetermined number of the crowd were killed/wounded. In the days following, due to this police and the mayor banned meetings/processions and shut down radical press operations. Arrests were made across the city

May 17 – The State brought a 69 count indictment against August Spies, Albert Parsons, Samuel Fielden, Michael Schwab, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Louis Lingg, and Oscar Neebe.

June 21 – The trial opened and jury selection began, difficult to seat an unbiased jury, many acknowledged prejudice against the defendants.

July 15 – August 19 – Trial underway. Judge Joseph Gary presided over the trial and was notoriously biased. The jury deliberation reached a verdict a few hours later.

August 19 – 7 convicted sentenced to death, Oscar Neebe sentenced to 15 years hard labor.

November 25 – The Illinois State Supreme Court heard the case

Events of 1887:

January 28 – August Spies married Nina VanZandt while on death row.

September 14 – IL Supreme Court affirmed the verdict set new execution date

Numerous appeals and Governor Oglesby is asked to pardon the men

November 9 – Governor Oglesby commuted Fielden and Schwab’s sentences to imprisonment

November 10 – Louis Lingg committed suicide.

November 11 – August Spies, Albert Parsons, George Engel and Adolph Fischer executed.

Following the Execution

1893 – Gov. Altgeld granted the imprisoned defendants absolute pardon due to lack of evidence and fair trial.

Labor Unions slowly made progress at improving workers’ rights.

1938 – The New Deal’s Fair Labor Standards Act make 8 hour day law of the land.

Compiled from Information in the Encyclopedia of Chicago and The Dramas of Haymarket websites.

The Rise of the Labor Movement in Chicago

During the mid- to late 1800s, employers in Chicago maintained different wage scales and designated certain jobs within a factory for particular groups. At this time roughly two-thirds of Chicago factory workers were immigrants, and this management strategy was created to control workers and discourage their organization into unions.

Despite these measures, by 1870 the Socialist Labor Party, which grew out of the mostly German craft unions, was supported by a lively multilingual press and had elected five aldermen, three state representatives, and one state senator. The "Great Upheaval" of the mid-1880s saw unskilled Irish, German, and Polish workers band together to dramatically expand unionism among virtually all occupations. A major rallying point for labor activists was the movement for the eight-hour work day that centered in Chicago and had national and international consequences.

Source: [The Electronic Encyclopedia of Chicago](#)

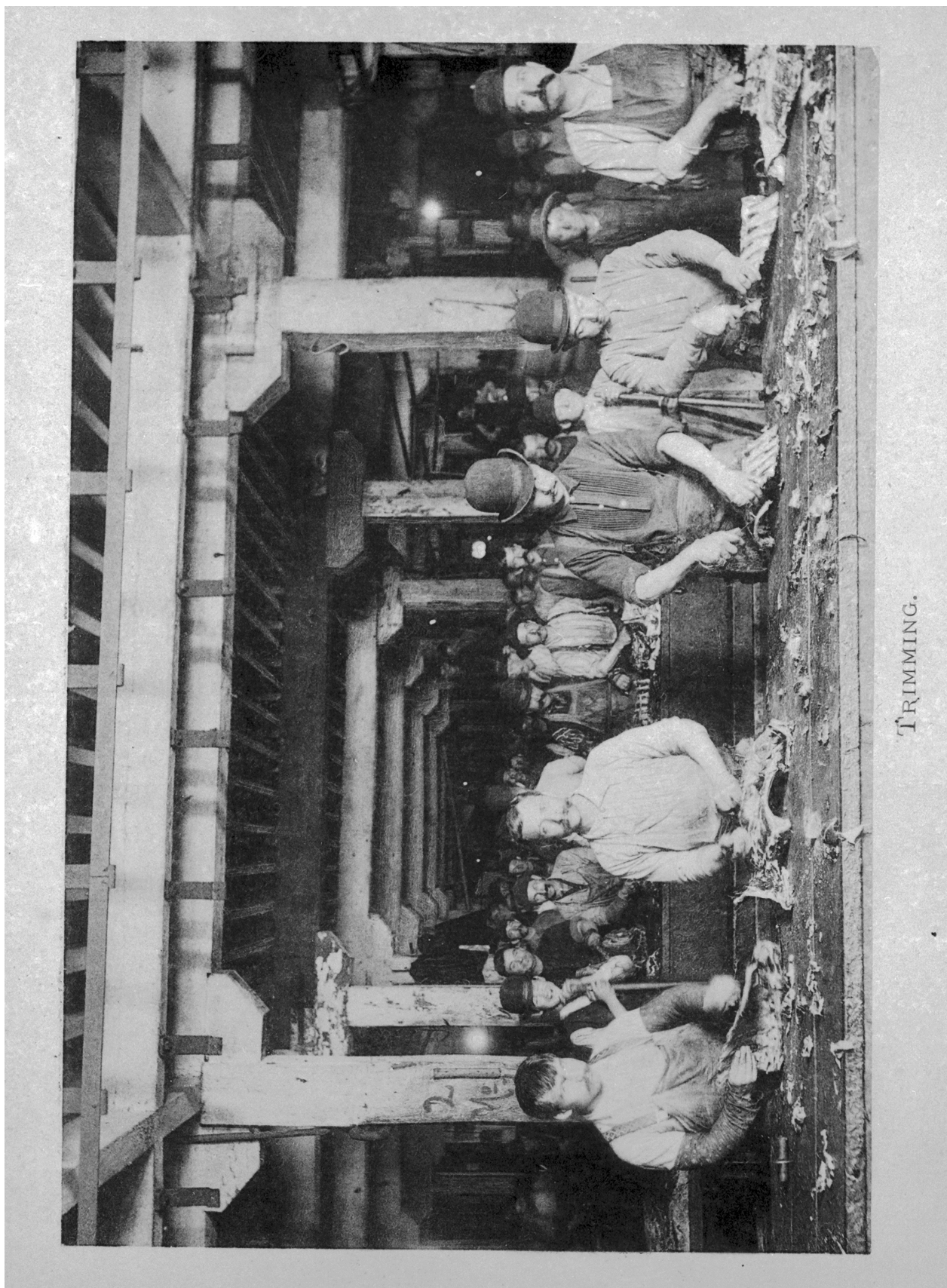
The Haymarket Affair

Following a series of rallies for the eight-hour workday and a violent clash between workers and police at the McCormick Reaper Works, another protest meeting was organized for May 4, 1886. Organizers chose Haymarket (so named because a market building once stood there but was destroyed at the time of the protest) located on Randolph Street, west of Desplaines Street, a few blocks west of the south branch of the Chicago River, as the meeting site. The meeting was peaceful, but when Captain Ward ordered the crowd to disperse, a bomb suddenly flew through the air, killing one police officer and setting off a riot during which 60 officers and an unknown number of civilians were wounded.

Chicago newspapers published unproven stories that anarchists were responsible for throwing the bomb. Eight anarchists were arrested, tried with no evidence, and convicted by jurors who acknowledged prejudice. Four of the convicted were hung, one reportedly committed suicide in his jail cell, and three were incarcerated. Less than 10 years after one of the worst miscarriages of justice in U.S. history, Governor Peter Altgeld pardoned the three surviving anarchists.

Source: [The Dramas of Haymarket](#)

To find on internet: <http://greatchicagostories.com/namesake/background.php>



TRIMMING.

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

Workers trimming meat, c. 1892.

Ichi-04076

http://gretchicagostories.com/pdf/artifacts/artifacts_namesake.pdf



Haymarket Affair: Case Files

Leather workers in a factory, c. 1880s.

Ichi-21787

http://gretchicagostories.com/pdf/artifacts/artifacts_namesake.pdf

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKINGMEN

PROCLAMATION

To the Workingmen of the United States of North America Fellow Laborers:

The Declaration of Independence of the United States of this country contains the following: "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them (the people) under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security"

Now has not the moment already arrived for reducing to practice this thought of Thomas Jefferson, the real founder of the American Republic? Are we not too much governed?

And is our government, forsooth, anything but a conspiracy of priveleged classes against the people, against you?

Fellow Laborers: Hear what we have to say to you under such circumstances, read the following declaration which we have issued in your interest and for the welfare of your wives and children, for humanity and progress.

Our aim is therefore simple and clear:

1. Destruction of the existing class-domination, by all means, i. e., through energetic, inexorable, revolutionary and international activity.
2. The building up of a free society founded on a communistic organization of production.
3. Free exchange of equivalent products through the productive organization itself, without jobbing and profit-making.
4. Organization of the educational system, upon a non-religious, scientific, and equal basis for both sexes.
5. Absolutely equal rights for all without distinction of sex or race.
6. The regulation of all public affairs through agreements fully entered into by the autonomous (independent) communes and confederacies.

[Excerpt printed, for full version go to <http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/transcript/exhibits/X000-050/X0160.htm>]

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

The “International Association of Workingmen Proclamation” was published in issues of *Arbeiter-Zeitung* during the months of February, March and April of 1886.

During the trial it was introduced as evidence by the State as Exhibit 16 during the testimony of Edward Olson, Professor at University of Chicago, 1886 July 23. (Transcript of article’s translation)

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/transcript/exhibits/X000-050/X0160.htm>

May 4th,

Blood!

Lead and powder as a cure for dissatisfied workmen!

About six laborers mortally, and four times that number slightly wounded.

Thus are the eight hour men to be intimidated!

This is law and order!

Brave girls parading the city!

The law and order beasts frightens the hungry children away with clubs.

General news.

Six months ago when the eight hour movement began, there were speakers and journals of the I. A. A. who proclaimed and wrote: "Workmen, if you want to see the eight hour system introduced, arm yourself. (If you do not do this, you will be sent home with bloody heads and the birds will sing May songs upon your graves." "That is nonsense," was the reply. "If the workmen are organized they will gain the eight hours in their Sunday clothes." Well, what do you say now? Were we right or wrong? Would the occurrence of yesterday have been possible if our advice had been followed?

Wage workers, yesterday, the police of this city murdered at the McCormick factory so far as it can now be ascertained, four of your brothers, and wounded, more or less seriously, some 25 more. If brothers who defended themselves with stones (a few of them had little snappers in the shape of revolvers) had been provided with good weapons and one single dynamite bomb, not one of the murderers would have escaped his well merited fate. As it was, only four of them were disfigured. That is too bad. The massacre of yesterday took place in order to fill the forty thousand workman of this city with fear and terror---took place in order to force back into the yoke of slavery the laborers who had become dissatisfied and mutinous. Will they succeed in this? Will they not find at last that they miscalculated? The near future will answer this question. We will not anticipate the course of events with surmises.

[Excerpt copied here, for full text go to <http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/transcript/exhibits/X051-100/X0630.htm>]

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

The "Blood" was published the May 4, 1886 issue of *Arbeiter-Zeitung*. According to the testimony of Eugene Seeger it was written by August Spies.

During the trial it was introduced as evidence by the State as Exhibit 63 during the testimony of Eugene Seeger, translator, 1886 July 30. (Transcript of article's translation)

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/transcript/exhibits/X051-100/X0630.htm>

REVENGE!

Workingmen, to Arms!!!

Your masters sent out their bloodhounds — the police —; they killed six of your brothers at McCormicks this afternoon. They killed the poor wretches, because they, like you, had the courage to disobey the supreme will of your bosses. They killed them, because they dared ask for the shortening of the hours of toil. They killed them to show you, "Free American Citizens!", that you must be satisfied and contented with whatever your bosses condescend to allow you, or you will get killed!

You have for years endured the most abject humiliations; you have for years suffered unmeasurable iniquities; you have worked yourself to death; you have endured the pangs of want and hunger; your Children you have sacrificed to the factory-lords — in short: You have been miserable and obedient slaves all these years: Why? To satisfy the insatiable greed, to fill the coffers of your lazy thieving master? When you ask them now to lessen your burden, he sends his bloodhounds out to shoot you, kill you!

If you are men, if you are the sons of your grand sires, who have shed their blood to free you, then you will rise in your might, Hercules, and destroy the hideous monster that seeks to destroy you. To arms we call you, to arms!

Your Brothers.

Rache! Rache!

Arbeiter, zu den Waffen!

Arbeitendes Volk, heute Nachmittag mordeten die Bluthunde Eurer Ausbeuter & Eurer Brüder draußen bei McCormick's. Warum mordeten sie dieselben? Weil sie den Mutß hatten, mit dem Loos unzufrieden zu sein, welches Eure Ausbeuter ihnen beschieden haben. Sie forderten Brod, man antwortete ihnen mit Blei, eingedenk der Thatfache, daß man damit das Volk am wirksamsten zum Schweigen bringen kann! Viele, viele Jahre habt Ihr alle Demüthigungen ohne Widerpruch ertragen, habt Euch vom frühen Morgen bis zum späten Abend geschunden, habt Entbehrungen jeder Art ertragen, habt Eure Kinder selbst geopfert — Alles, um die Schatzkammern Eurer Herren zu füllen, Alles für sie! Und jetzt, wo Ihr vor sie hintretet, und sie ersucht, Eure Würde etwas zu erleichtern, da heßen sie zum Dank für Eure Opfer ihre Bluthunde, die Polizei, auf Euch, um Euch mit Bleikugeln von der Unzufriedenheit zu kurieren. Slaven, wir fragen und beschwören Euch bei Allem, was Euch heilig und werth ist, rächt diesen schenßlichen Mord, den man heute an Euren Brüdern beging, und vielleicht morgen schon an Euch begehen wird. Arbeitendes Volk, Hercules, Du bist am Scheideweg angelangt. Wofür entscheidest Du Dich? Für Sklaverei und Hunger, oder für Freiheit und Brod? Entscheidest Du Dich für das Letztere, dann säume keinen Augenblick; dann, Volk, zu den Waffen! Vernichtung den menschlichen Bestien, die sich Deine Herrscher nennen! Rücksichtslose Vernichtung ihnen — das muß Deine Lösung sein! Denkt der Helden, deren Blut den Weg zum Fortschritt, zur Freiheit und zur Menschlichkeit gebängt — und strebe, ihre würdig zu werden!

Eure Brüder.

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

One of several versions of the circulars that were quickly printed and distributed urging workers to attend the Haymarket meeting.

http://greatchicagostories.com/pdf/artifacts/artifacts_namesake.pdf

Attention Workingmen!

=====**GREAT**=====

MASS-MEETING

TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,

=====**AT THE**=====

HAYMARKET, Randolph St., Bet. Desplaines and Halsted.

Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow-workmen yesterday afternoon.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Achtung Arbeiter!

=====**G r o ß e**=====

Massen-Versammlung

Heute Abend, halb 8 Uhr, auf dem

**Heumarkt, Randolph-Strasse, zwischen
Desplaines- u. Halsted-Str.**

☛ Gute Redner werden den neuesten Schurkenstreich der Polizei, indem sie gestern Nachmittag unsere Brüder erschoss, geißeln.

Das Executiv-Comite.

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

One of several versions of the circulars that were quickly printed and distributed urging workers to attend the Haymarket meeting.

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Attention Workingmen!

————— GREAT —————

MASS-MEETING

TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,

————— AT THE —————

HAYMARKET, Randolph St., Bet. Desplaines and Halsted.

Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow-workmen yesterday afternoon.

Workingmen Arm Yourselves and Appear in Full Force!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Achtung, Arbeiter!

G r o ß e

Massen-Versammlung

Heute Abend, 7½ Uhr, auf dem

**Heumarkt, Randolph-Strasse, zwischen
Desplaines- u. Halsted-Str.**

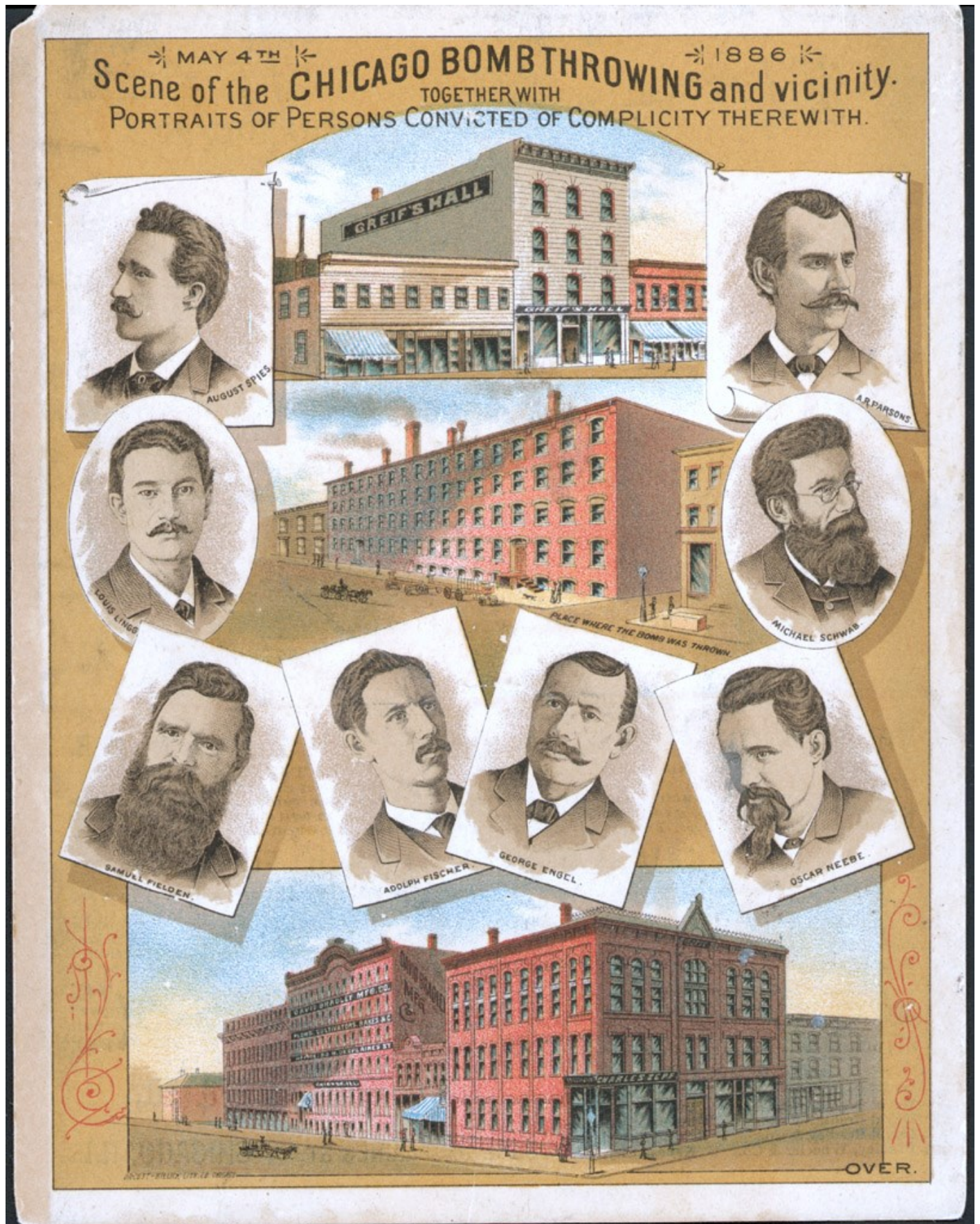
☞ Gute Redner werden den neuesten Schurkenstreich der Polizei, indem sie gestern Nachmittag unsere Brüder erschoss, geißeln.

☞ Arbeiter, bewaffnet Euch und erscheint massenhaft!

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

One of several versions of the circulars that were quickly printed and distributed urging workers to attend the Haymarket meeting.

http://greatchicagostories.com/pdf/artifacts/artifacts_namesake.pdf



Haymarket Affair: Case Files

Composite image showing individual large views of 3 buildings near Haymarket Square with small portraits of the men convicted in the Haymarket Affair trial arranged in a loop across the face of the card, from left to right: August Spies, Louis Lingg, Samuel Fielden, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab, and A. R. Parsons. The 3 buildings are Grief's Hall, Crane's Manufacturing Company, and David Bradley Manufacturing Company. The view of the Crane Company building shows the adjoining alley with a label: "place where the bomb was thrown."

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/visuals/38V0410.htm>

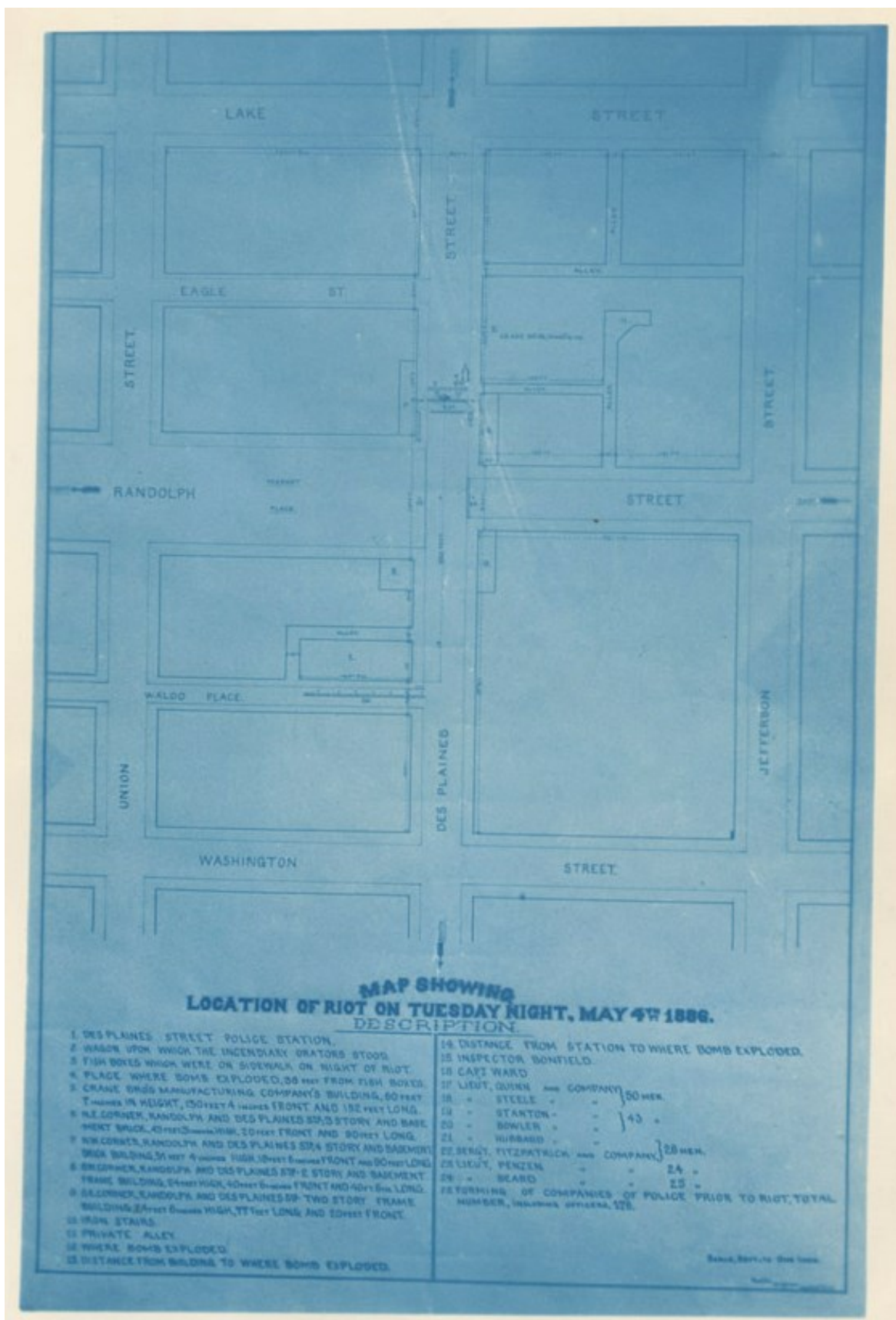


THE ANARCHIST RIOT IN CHICAGO—A DYNAMITE BOMB EXPLODING AMONG THE POLICE.—DRAWN BY T. DE TULLESHER FROM SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FURNISHED BY H. JEANBERG.—[SEE PAGE 315.]

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

This engraving, published in Harper's Weekly on May 15, 1886, shows socialist Samuel Fielden atop the speaker's wagon at Haymarket just as the bomb explodes.

http://gretchicagostories.com/pdf/artifacts/artifacts_namesake.pdf



Haymarket Affair: Case Files

MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF RIOT ON TUESDAY NIGHT, MAY 4TH 1886.

DESCRIPTION

1. DESPLAINES STREET POLICE STATION.
 2. WAGON UPON WHICH THE INCENDIARY ORATORS STOOD.
 3. FISH BOXES WHICH WERE ON SIDEWALK NIGHT OF RIOT.
 4. PLACE WHERE BOMB EXPLODED, 38 FEET FROM FISH BOXES.
 5. CRANE BRO'S MANUFACTURING COMPANY'S BUILDING, 60 FEET 7 INCHES IN HEIGHT, 130 FEET 4 INCHES FRONT AND 152 FEET LONG.
 6. N.E. CORNER, RANDOLPH AND DESPLAINES STS., 3 STORY AND BASEMENT BRICK, 43 FEET, 3 INCHES HIGH, 20 FEET FRONT AND 90 FEET LONG.
 7. N. W. CORNER, RANDOLPH AND DESPLAINES STS., 4 STORY AND BASEMENT BRICK BUILDING, 51 FEET 4 INCHES HIGH, 19 FEET 6 INCHES FRONT AND 90 FEET LONG.
 8. S. W. CORNER, RANDOLPH AND DESPLAINES STS., 2 STORY AND BASEMENT FRAME BUILDING, 24 FEET HIGH, 40 FEET 6 INCHES FRONT AND 40 FT. 6 IN. LONG.
 9. S. E. CORNER, RANDOLPH AND DESPLAINES STS., TWO STORY FRAME BUILDING, 24 FEET 6 INCHES HIGH, 77 FEET LONG AND 20 FEET FRONT.
 10. IRON STAIRS.
 11. PRIVATE ALLEY.
 12. WHERE BOMB EXPLODED.
 13. DISTANCE FROM BUILDING TO WHERE BOMB EXPLODED.
 14. DISTANCE FROM STATION TO WHERE BOMB EXPLODED.
 15. INSPECTOR BONFIELD.
 16. CAPT. WARD
 17. LIEUT. QUINN AND COMPANY
 18. " STEELE " " }50 MEN.
 19. " STANTON " "
 20. " BOWLER " " }43 "
 21. " HUBBARD " "
 22. SERG'T. FITZPATRICK AND COMPANY, }26 MEN.
 23. LIEU'T. PENZEN " " 24 "
 24. " BEARD " " 25 "
 25. FORMING OF COMPANIES OF POLICE PRIOR TO RIOT, TOTAL NUMBER, INCLUDING OFFICERS, 178.
- SCALE, 80 FT., TO ONE INCH

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/manuscripts/m03/M03P040.htm>

**Illinois vs. August Spies et al. trial transcript no. 1.
Testimony of John Bonfield (first appearance), 1886 July 16.**

Volume I, 19-52, 34 p.

Bonfield, John. 1836-1898

Inspector of Police, Chicago Police Department.

Direct examination by Mr. Grinnell Prosecution, Objections by Captain Black for the Defense.

Mr. GRINNELL: (Q) Were there orders issued in regard to the matter?

A Yes.

Q Where?

A At the Desplaines Street Station.

Q To the men?

A Yes, and to the officers.

Q I want to know what the order was? [Objected to.]

Mr. BLACK: What the order was is not material at this stage.

Mr. GRINNELL: I want to know whether they had their clubs in their hands, or pistols, or both.

THE COURT: I think the orders are admissible. [To which ruling of the court the defendants by their counsel, then and there duly excepted.]

A The orders were that no man should draw a weapon or commit any act---fire or strike anybody--until he received positive orders from his commanding officer; those orders were given partly to the men and to each commanding officer individually, with instructions to report it to his men individually, and as to my personal knowledge of how the men were, I walked along the line while the men were formed before they turned into Desplaines Street and each officer was dressed in full uniform with his coat buttoned up to the throat and his club and belt on, and the club in the holder on the side. I had no belt and carried a club in my hand myself, and Captain Ward was with me in front, and we each had our batons in our hands.

Q Pistols in your hands?

A No sir.

Q In your pockets?

A Yes.

Q Go on?

A As we approached the truck about at that point (indicating) there was a person speaking from the truck and Captain Ward turned slightly to his right and gave the statutory order to disperse in the name of the People.

Mr. BLACK (Q) What did he say?

A The language was, "I command you in the name of the people of the State of Illinois to immediately and peaceably disperse." And as he repeated those words--I think those are the exact words used--- as he repeated those words he turned slightly to the right and left and said, "I command you, and you, to assist." Almost instantly, or just before that--Mr. Fielding, as I recognized afterward, was standing on the truck speaking as we approached, and as Captain Ward gave the command Fielding turned so as to face the Captain and myself and stepped off from the end of the truck and turned to go towards the sidewalk, and as he turned he said in a rather loud tone of voice "We are peaceable". Almost instantly after that remark was repeated, I heard from behind me a hissing sound. I had been used in former years ---[Objected to.]

Mr. GRINNELL: (Q) You knew something about dynamite from use?

A I knew something about explosives.

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

Illinois vs. August Spies et al. trial transcript no. 1. Testimony of John Bonfield (first appearance), 1886 July 16.

Volume I, 19-52, 34 p.

Bonfield, John. 1836-1898

Inspector of Police, Chicago Police Department.

Direct examination by Mr. Grinnell. Cross-examination by Captain Black.

Q You knew something about explosives from your former trade and employment?

A Yes. Almost instantly after the remark of Fielding I heard the hissing sound behind me, which was followed in a second or two by a terrific explosion. To go back a little, as we came up the street the crowd parted kind of peculiar to my ideas; some portion of them ran on Desplaines Street towards Lake, but a great portion of them fell back to each sidewalk, to the right and left, and partly lapping back onto our flanks. Almost instantly after the explosion, or whatever it was, the firing from the front and from both sides poured right in on us; I should judge there were from seventy-five to a hundred shots--pistol shots right into our front, and both flanks, almost instantly after the explosion of that bomb.

Q From the people on the sidewalk and the crowd in front of you

A From the crowd standing directly in front and from both flanks of us. Those shots and the explosion was before there was a word spoken or a shot fired by any officer --a word spoken by any officer except the statutory command given by Captain Ward and my command to the men to halt.

Q Immediately on the bomb being thrown and that explosion and the firing of the numerous pistol shots by the crowd, what order, if any, was given by any policeman in regard to the police force there on the ground? Was any order made to them then after the firing began by the crowd

A I could not say as to that; it was but a few seconds; there was not but just time enough for the men to get their revolvers out, when the police commenced firing, but there was an interval of a few seconds between the firing of the crowd and the return fire of the police. I was standing there when the explosion occurred, perhaps two or three paces in front of the first column of men. On hearing the explosion I turned about quickly and I saw the second two lines of men, almost all of them, shrink to the ground;; there were a great many men laying there; one man reached out his hand and asked me to help him. I then gave the order to the men to close up. Sergeant Fitzpatrick was the first officer that came to my side, and the men immediately reformed, Lieutenants Steele and Quinn with their companies charged down the street, and the others formed and took both sides; in a few moments the crowd was scattered in every direction, and I gave the order to cease firing and went to pick up our wounded.

Q Were any of the officers killed that night?

A Yes.

Q Which one?

A Officer Degan was killed almost instantly.

Q Matthias J. Degan?

A Yes.



People's Exhibit 129A & B

From : <http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/hadctoc.htm>

**Illinois vs. August Spies et al.
trial transcript no. 1.****Testimony of Herman****Schuettler, 1886 July 28.**

Officer, Chicago Police Department.

HERMAN SCHUTTLEER, a witness called and sworn on behalf of the people was examined in chief by Mr. Ingham and testified as follows:

Q What is your name?

A Hermann Schuttler.

Q What is your business?

A Police officer.

Q Did you arrest the defendant Lingg?

A I did.

Q Where?

A At No 80 Ambrose street.

Q When did you arrest him?

A The 14th day of last May.

Q Tell the jury the whole story of the arrest?

[Photograph of bomb referred to marked People's Ex. 129.]

Q What did you find when you went on the house?

A We searched a trunk and found a round lead bomb in a stocking.

Q In that trunk?

A Yes sir.

Q Where was that trunk, in what room.

A It was in the south-east room.

Q What else did you find there besides that bomb?

A In another stocking I found a large navy revolver.

Q Look at the revolver which I show you now (showing witness revolver)?

A Yes, that is the revolver. Q What did you do with the bomb you found there?

A I turned it over to Captain Schaack.

Q Describe how this bomb and this revolver were-- what condition was the revolver in

Q They were loaded.

Q Both of them?

A Yes sir.

Q What else did you find in the house where Lingg had boarded or lived?

A I didn't find anything else besides that, except this in the line of weapons. I was there when we found a ladle and some tools, a coal chisel and all of those articles.

Q Look at the ladle which I now show you?

A Yes sir we found that ladle.

Q Where did you find this ladle?

A In his room.

Q In the bed-room?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you notice the condition of the closet in the bed-room?

A I was not in there at first. I was not the first officer in there. Things were kind of upside down., when I got there.

Q Did you take any charges out of this gun today?

A Yes sir.

Q How many?

A twelve.

Q Look at the trunk which is placed before you-- is that the trunk you found in Louis Lingg's room?

A Yes sir.

Q Were those letters "L.L" on it at that time?

A Yes.

Q Did you take anything out of the trunk yourself?

A Oh, Yes sir.

Q What?

A I took out the bomb and the stocking.

Q Whereabouts was it?

A It was right at the bottom.

Q Where was the revolver?

A The revolver was lying right there, right about there (Witness indicates the position in the trunk).

Q Were there others taking things out of the trunk?

A Not at the time I was taking that out.

Q What other officers were there at that time?

A At the time I found that bomb?

Q Yes sir.

A There was nobody there when I found the bomb.

**Cross examination by
Defense:**

Q Did you have any search warrant at that time for the purpose of going through Linggs' things?

A No sir.

Q Did you have any warrant for Linggs arrest at the time you went into Lingg's room on the 14th day of May and arrested him?

A No sir, he did not give me time.

Q Did Lingg demand whether you had a warrant?

A No sir I never spoke to him.

Q Didn't speak to you on that subject at all?

A No sir; he never gave me a chance to explain who I was.

Q What I want to know is whether or not he demanded of you a warrant.

A No sir.

Q Did you have citizens clothes on at that time?

A I did.

Q Can you talk German?

A I can.

Q Did you talk German to Lingg the day you arrested him.

A Yes sir.

Q When you first entered the room, what was the first thing that you said?

A I said: "How do you do, Mr. Klein".

Q Didn't you ask in English if his name was Lingg?

A No sir.

Q If this man's name was not Lingg?

A I don't recollect that I did.

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

Illinois vs. August Spies et al. trial transcript no. 1

Assignment of Errors: WP Black and Salomon & Zeisler, attorneys for plaintiffs in error, ov 1886

Black, W. P. (William Perkins), 1842-1916., Salomon & Zeisler (Firm). Swett, Leonard, 1825-1889., Attorneys.

State of Illinois Northern Grand Division ss

In the Supreme Court.

To the March Term A. D. 1887.

August Spies, Michael Schwab, Samuel Fielden, Albert R. Parsons

Adolph Fischer, Oscar Neebe, Louis Lingg and George Engel

Plaintiffs in Error

vs.

The People of the State of Illinois

Defendant in Error Assignment of Errors.

And now come August Spies, Michael Schwab, Samuel Fielden, Albert R. Parsons, Adolph Fischer, Oscar Neebe, Louis Lingg and George Engel severally and each for himself says that in the record and proceedings aforesaid there is manifest and material error in this, to wit:

- I. The Court erred in refusing to quash the indictment.
- II. The Court erred in refusing to grant a separate trial to the defendants Spies, Schwab, Fielden, Neebe and Parsons.
- III. The Court erred in not allowing the defendants' challenge for cause to the jurors named in the bill of exceptions.
- IV. The Court in refusing to permit the defendants to ask questions of jurors calculated to ascertain their bias or prejudice and qualifications as jurors.
- V. The Court erred in refusing defendants' motion to have the jurors summoned from the jury list prepared by the County Board, after the regular panel was exhausted.
- VI. The Court erred in denying defendants' several challenges to the array of jurors.
- VII. The Court erred in permitting the States Attorney to exercise more than twenty peremptory challenges.
- VIII. The Court erred in compelling the defendants to tender the State a panel of four instead of requiring the State to tender the defendants a panel of four jurors.
- IX. The Court erred in refusing to permit the defendants to pass upon the jurors and exercise the right of peremptory challenge, after the State had passed upon the jurors.
- X. The Court erred in admitting improper evidence offered on behalf of the People.
- XI. The Court in refusing to admit proper evidence offered by the defendants.
- XII. The Court erred in allowing the State's Attorney, on cross examination of defendants and their witnesses on behalf of defendants, to ask irrelevant and improper questions.
- XIII. The Court erred in refusing to grant the motion to direct a verdict of not guilty as to the defendants other than Spies and Fischer, at the close of the evidence on behalf of the State.
- XIV. The Court erred in refusing to send out the jury previous to argument on motion to direct a verdict of not guilty as to Oscar Neebe and other defendants.
- XV. The Court erred in refusing a new trial because the verdict is manifestly against the law and the evidence in the case.
- XVI. The Court erred in giving People's Instructions Nos. 3, 4, 5, 5 1/2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 13 1/2.
- XVII. The Court erred in refusing to give Defendants' Instructions marked "Refused" (See Record, Vol. O. pp 10 to 18 incl.)
- XVIII. The Court erred in giving the instruction sua motu.
- XIX. The Court erred in reading the instruction on behalf of the defendant Ling in particular, the making oral remarks in connection therewith, and finally withdrawing said instruction and marking it "Refused" in the presence of the jury. (Record Vol. O. pp 32 33.
- XX. The Court erred in refusing to order the examination of Otis S. Favor, on the motion for new trial, as to the misconduct of the special bailiff.
- XXI. The Court erred in permitting the States Attorney to ask improper questions of witness is called to testify to the character of Harry L. Gilmer for truth and veracity.
- XXII. The Court erred in admitting improper evidence offered by the State in rebuttal.
- XXIII. The Court erred in refusing anew trial asked on the ground of the misconduct of the States Attorney in his closing argument to the jury.
- XXIV. The Court erred in refusing to grant a new trial by reason of the misconduct of the jurors in taking notes of the evidence during the trial.
- XXV. The Court in making improper remarks in the presence and hearing of the jury.
- XXVI. The Court erred in overruling the defendants' motion in arrest of Judgment.
- XXVII. The Court erred in giving judgment on the verdict.
- XXVIII. There is other manifest and material error in the record by reason whereof plaintiff's severally pray that said judgment may be reversed &c.

By W. P. Black
and Salomon & Zeisler,
Attorneys for Plaintiffs in Error.
Leonard Swett, of counsel.

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

In the State of Illinois Grand Division, Supreme Court. Motion made by the counsel for the convicted (now the plaintiffs) for an Assignment of Errors. Errors of the first case argued in the motion to the Illinois Supreme Court include: error in refusing to quash the indictment; error in refusal to grant separate trials; errors in the empanelling of the jury; error in admitting improper evidence and the refusal to allow proper evidence offered by the defendants; error in refusing a new trial and; error in the giving of the instructions to the jury. Signed by W. P. Black, Salomon & Zeisler, and Leonard Swett, of counsel.

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/transcript/volumeo/151-200/O155-159.htm>

AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

To THE AMERICAN PEOPLE—Fellow Citizens: As all the world knows I have been convicted and sentenced to die for the crime of murder—the most heinous offense that can be committed. Under the forms of law two courts—viz, the criminal and supreme courts of the state of Illinois—have sentenced me to death as an accessory before the fact to the murder of Officer Degan on May 4, 1886. Nevertheless I am innocent of the crime charged, and to a candid and unprejudiced world I submit the proof.

In the decision affirming the sentence of death upon me, the supreme court of the state of Illinois says: "It is undisputed that the bomb was thrown, that caused the death of Degan. It is conceded that no one of the defendants threw the bomb with his own hands. Plaintiffs in error are charged with being accessories before the fact."

If I did not throw the bomb myself it becomes necessary to prove that I sided, encouraged, and advised the person who did throw it. Is that fact proven? The supreme court says it is. The record says it is not. I appeal to the American people to judge between them.

The supreme court quotes articles from *The Alarm*, the paper edited by me, and from my speeches running back three years before the Haymarket tragedy of May 4, 1886. Upon said articles and speeches the court affirms my sentence of death as an accessory. The court says: "The articles in *The Alarm* were most of them written by the defendant Parsons, and some of them by the defendant Spies," and then proceeds to quote these articles. I refer to the record to prove that of all the articles quoted only one was shown to have been written by me. I wrote, of course, a great many articles for my paper *The Alarm*, but the record will show that only one of these many quoted by the supreme court to prove my guilt as an accessory was written by me, and this article appeared in *The Alarm* Dec. 6, 1884, one year and a half before the Haymarket meeting.

As to Mr. Spies, the record will show that during the three years I was editor of *The Alarm* he did not write for the paper half a dozen articles. For proof as to this I appeal to the record.

The Alarm was a labor paper, and, as is well known, a labor paper is conducted as a medium through which working people can make known their grievances. *The Alarm* was no exception to this rule. I not only did not write "most of the articles," but wrote comparatively few of them. This the record will also show.

In referring to my Haymarket speech the court says: "To the men then listening to him he had addressed the incendiary appeals that had been appearing in *The Alarm* for two years." The court then quotes the "incendiary" article which I did write, and

which is as follows: "One dynamite bomb properly placed will destroy a regiment of soldiers; a weapon easily made and carried with perfect safety in the pockets of one's clothing."

The record will show by referring to *The Alarm* that this is a garbled extract taken from a statement made by General Philip Sheridan in his annual report to congress. It was simply a reiteration of Gen. Sheridan's statement that dynamite was easily made, perfectly safe to handle, and a very destructive

WEAPON OF WARFARE.)

The article in full as it appeared in *The Alarm* is as follows:

"Dynamite. The protection of the poor against the armies of the rich. In submitting his annual report Nov. 10, 1884, Gen. Philip Sheridan, commander of the United States army, says: "This nation is growing so rapidly that there are signs of other troubles which I hope will not occur, and which will probably not come upon us if both capital and labor will only be conservative. Still it should be remembered destructive explosives are easily made, and that banks, United States sub-treasuries, public buildings, and large mercantile houses can be readily demolished, and the commerce of entire cities destroyed by an infuriated people with means carried with perfect safety to themselves in the pockets of their clothing."

The editorial comment upon the above, as it appeared in *The Alarm*, is as follows: "A hint to the wise is sufficient. Of course Gen. Sheridan is too modest to tell us that himself. The army will be powerless in the coming revolution between the propertied and propertyless classes. Only in foreign wars can the usual weapons of warfare be used to any advantage. One dynamite bomb properly placed will destroy a regiment of soldiers; a weapon easily made and carried with perfect safety in the pockets of one's clothing. The 1st regiment may as well disband, for if it should ever level its guns upon the workmen of Chicago it can be totally annihilated."

(Again the court says: "He [Parsons] had said to them [referring to the people assembled at the Haymarket] Saturday, April 24, 1886, just ten days before May 4, in the last issue of *The Alarm* that had appeared: "Workmen, to arms! War to the palace, peace to the cottage, and death to luxurious idleness! The wage system is the only cause of the world's misery. It is supported by the rich classes, and to destroy it they must be either made to work or die. One pound of dynamite is better than a bushel of ballots! Make your demand for eight hours with weapons in your hands to meet the capitalist bloodhounds—police and militia—in a proper manner.")

The record will show that this article was not written by me, but was published as a

news item. By referring to the columns of *The Alarm*, the following comment appears attached to the above article—viz: "The above handbill was sent to us from Indianapolis, Ind., as having been posted all over that city last week. Our correspondent says that the police tore them down wherever they found them."

The court, continuing, says: "At the close of another article in the same issue he said: 'The social war has come, and whoever is not with us is against us.'" Asst. State's Atty. Walker read this article to the jury, and at its conclusion stated that it bore my initials and was my article. It is a matter within the knowledge of everyone then present, that I interrupted him and called his attention to the fact that the article did not bear my initials and that I was not its author. Mr. Walker corrected his mistake to the jury.

Now these are the three articles quoted by the supreme court as proof of my guilt as an accessory in a conspiracy to murder Officer Degan. The record will

PROVE WHAT I SAY.

Now as to my speeches. All of them with one exception purporting to be my utterances at the Haymarket are given from the excited imagination and perverted memories of newspaper reporters. Mr. English, who alone took shorthand notes and swore to their correctness, reports me as saying: "It is time to raise a note of warning. There is nothing in the eight-hour movement to excite the capitalist. Don't you know that the military are under arms and a Gatling gun is ready to mow you down? Was this Germany, or Russia, or Spain? [A voice: 'It looks like it.'] Whenever you make a demand for eight hours' pay, or increase of pay, the militia and deputy sheriffs and the Pinkerton men are called out, and you are shot and clubbed and murdered in the streets. I am not here for the purpose of inciting anybody, but to speak out—to tell the facts as they exist, even though it shall cost me my life before morning!"

Mr. English, continuing, said: "There is another part of it [the speech] right here. 'It behoves you, as you love your wife and children, if you don't want to see them perish with hunger, killed, or cut down like dogs on the street—Americans, in the interest of your liberty and your independence, to arm, arm yourselves!'"

This, be it remembered, is a garbled extract, and it is a matter of record that Reporter English testified that he was instructed by the proprietor of his paper to report only the inflammatory portions of the speeches made at that meeting. Mayor Harrison, who was present and heard this speech, testified before the jury that it was simply "a violent and political harangue," and did not call for his interference as a peace officer.

The speech delivered by me at the Hay-

Haymarket Affair: Case Files

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A. R. PARSONS.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 21, 1887. [Prison cell No. 29]

[Excerpt printed for full version go to: <http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc/books/b07/B07.htm>]

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after sending the message.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THEOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REQD BY	CHECK
Om 653 hr	Kw	15 paid	Rush

Received at Cor. LaSalle & Washington Streets, CHICAGO, Ills. Nov. ~~10~~ 11 1887

Dated San Francisco Calif 10 10 AM, Standard Time.

To Mr A R Parsons 2561

County Jail

Bravo Parsons; your name will live when people will ask each other who was Oglesby

Your Citizens

[Front]

Received at Cor. LaSalle & Washington Streets, CHICAGO, Ills. M. Standard Time. Nov - 11 1887

Dated - San Francisco Calif 10

To - Mr A R Parsons

County Jail

Bravo Parsons; your name will live when people will ask each other who was Oglesby

Four Citizens

[Back]



1889 Monument to the policeman of Haymarket, originally at the site of the Haymarket Affair, now in the Chicago Police Education and Training Division facility.



1893 Haymarket Martyrs' Monument at Waldheim Cemetery near where the four are buried.

2004 Haymarket Monument; photograph by Douglas Knox
<http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/11545.html>

