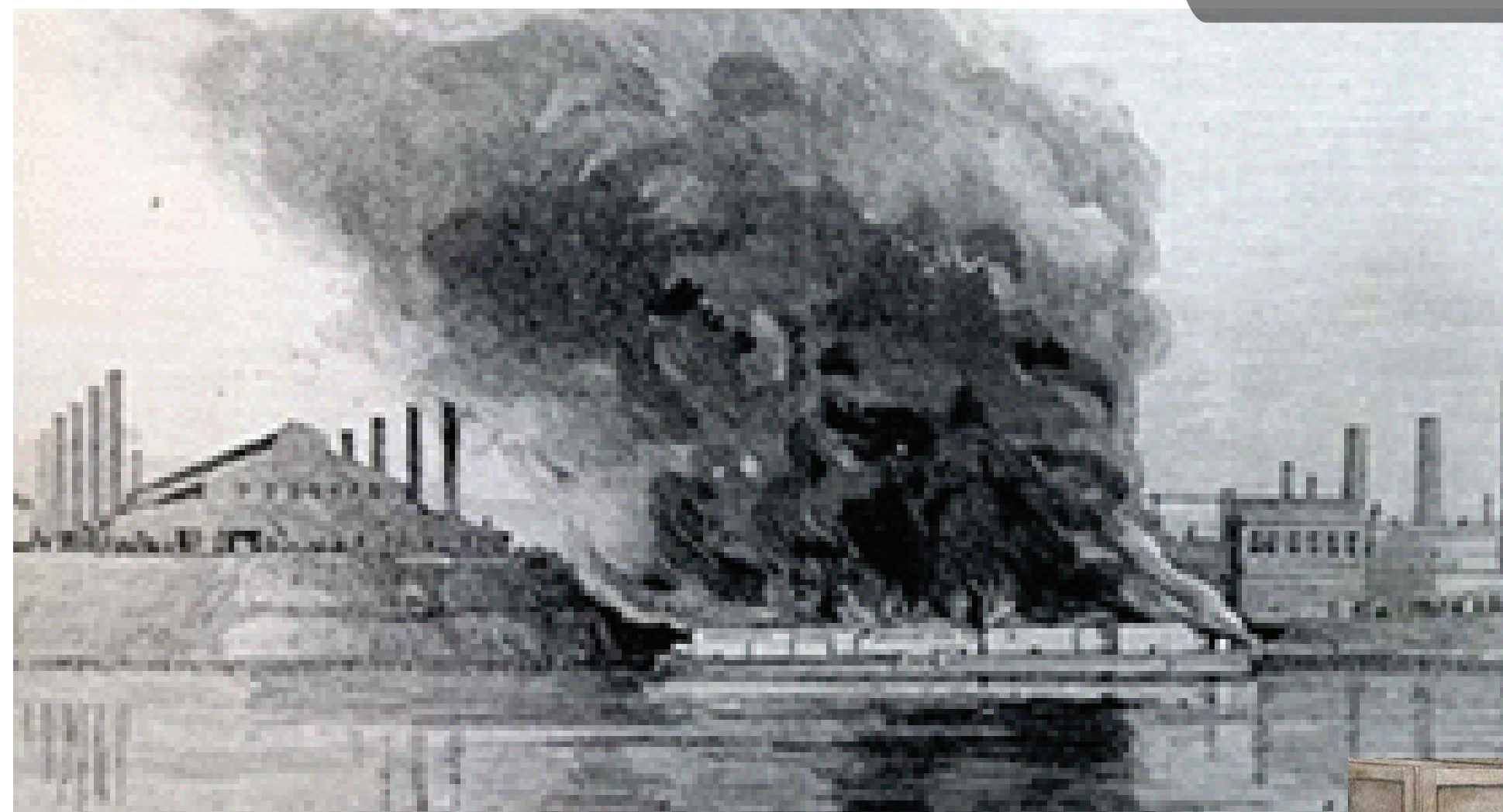


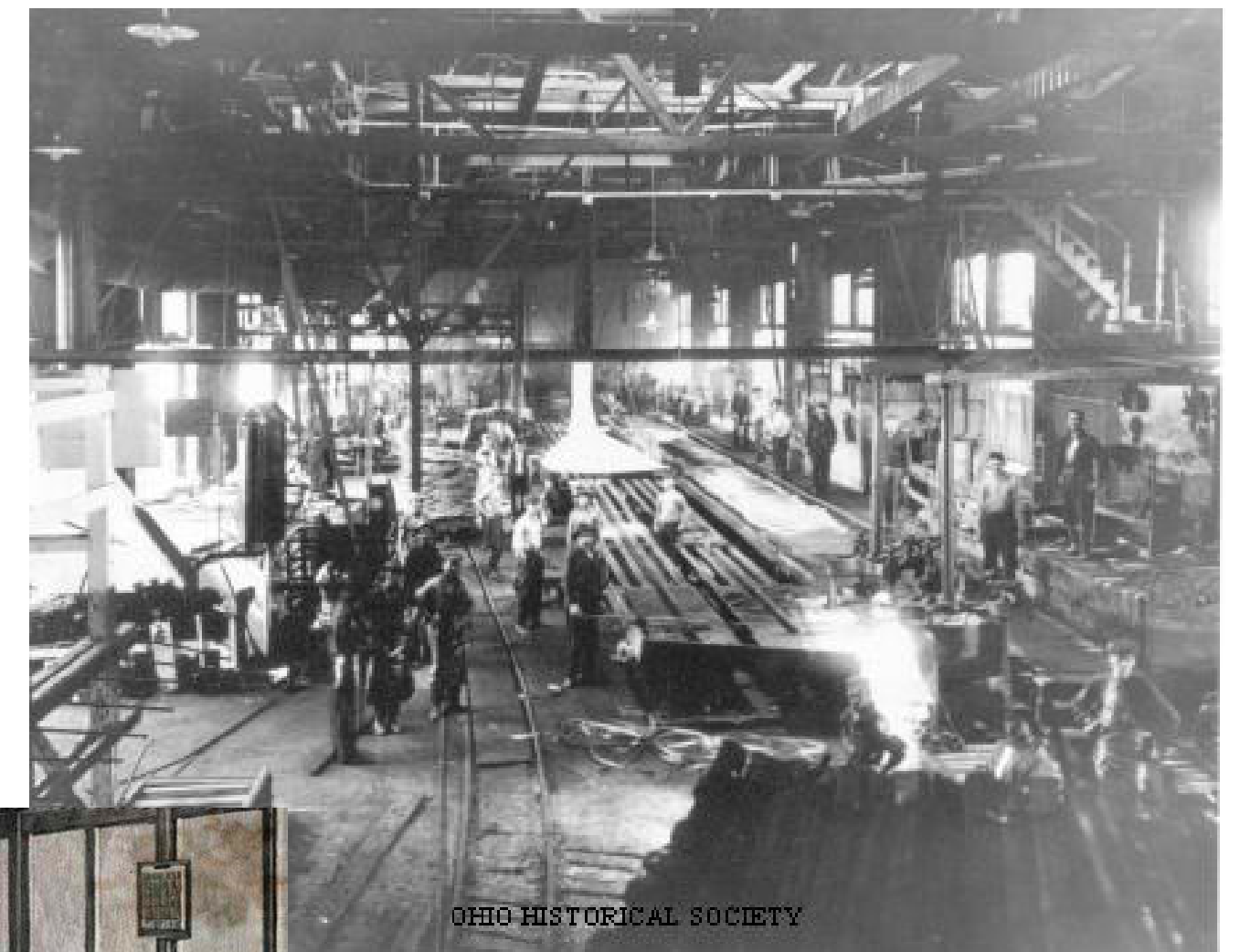


Battle of Homestead

Frick and Carnegie's partnership was strained over actions taken in response to the **Homestead Steel Strike**, an 1892 labor strike at the Homestead Works of the Carnegie Steel Company, called by the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers Union. At Homestead, striking workers, some of whom were armed, had locked the company staff out of the factory and surrounded it with pickets. Frick was known for his anti-union policy and as negotiations were still taking place, he ordered the construction of a solid board fence topped with barbed wire around mill property. The workers dubbed the newly fortified mill "Fort Frick." With the mill ringed by striking workers, Pinkerton agents planned to access the plant grounds from the river. Three hundred Pinkerton detectives assembled on the Davis Island Dam on the Ohio River about five miles below Pittsburgh at 10:30 p.m. on the night of July 5, 1892. They were given Winchester rifles, placed on two specially-equipped barges and towed upriver with the object of removing the workers by force. Upon landing, the resulting confrontation resulted in a large mêlée between workers and Pinkerton detectives. Several men were killed, nine workers among them, and the riot was ultimately quelled only by the intervention of 8,000 armed state militia. Among working-class Americans, Frick's actions against the strikers were condemned as excessive, and he soon became a target of even more union organizers.

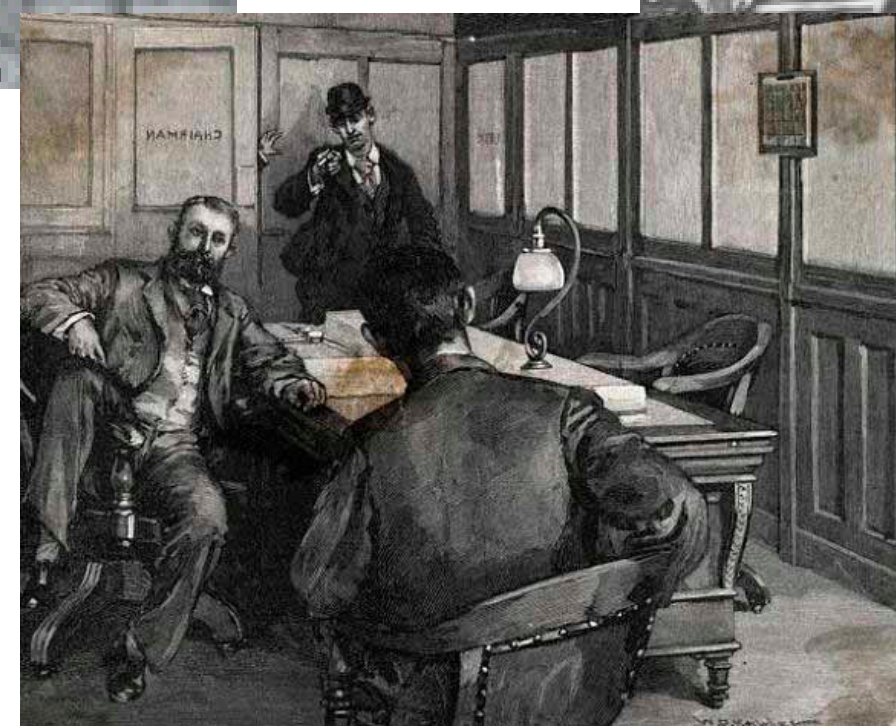


Carnegie Steel Works during the "Battle of Homestead," July 1892.



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CARNEGIE / FRICK HOMESTEAD STRIKE



Berkman meets Frick in office

On 22 July 1892, infuriated by industrialist Henry Clay Frick's hiring of thugs and killers to break a strike, Berkman burst into Frick's office in Pittsburgh and shot him, then stabbed him. Frick was not seriously injured.



1892, Carnegie Mills, Homestead Steel Strike. Barge on the waterfront

As the barges came into sight, they were greeted with a barrage of gun fire and stones hurled through the air. Nearly 10,000 men, women, and children gathered on the river banks armed with anything they could find. Some carried fire arms dating from the civil war, but many others grabbed anything they could find from sticks, stones, and even clubs made from boards pried from fences.

As the barges pulled up to the entrance, the strikers began to charge the fence that Frick built around the mill. In a matter of minutes, it was flattened and thousands of strikers and their supporters poured into the mill to meet the Pinkerton guards.



The Homestead Riot

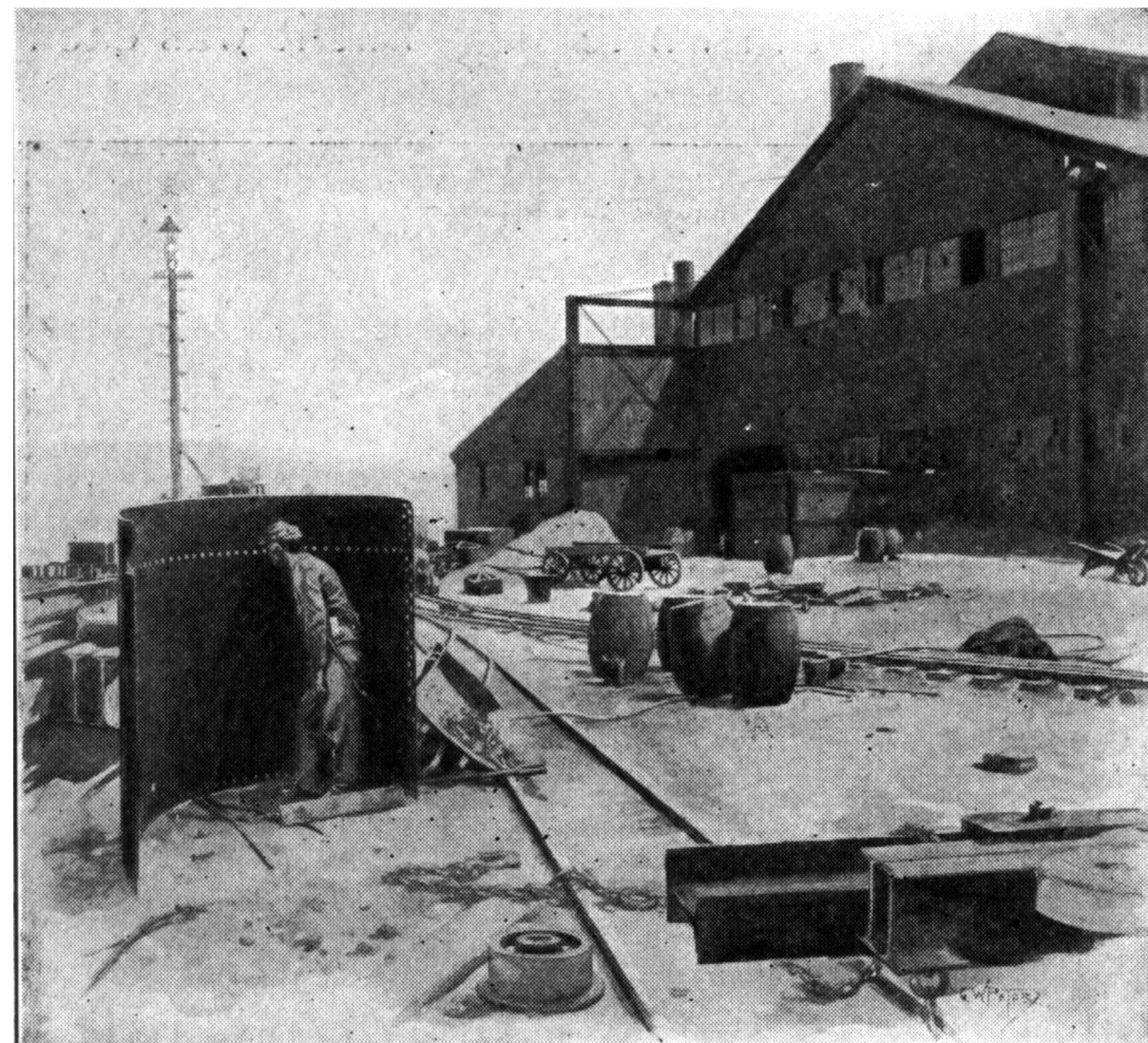
The events that would follow the Pinkertons' arrival would go down in history as the Battle of the Monongahela, and would make the Homestead strike vastly different from most strikes that had come before.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER. [October 21, 1892. 155



OHIO—THE MENHO TROUBLES IN ROCKING VALLEY—SCENE IN THE TOWN OF BUCHTEL—THE STRIKING MINERS RECEPTION OF "BLACKLIED" WORKMEN WHEN RETURNING FROM THEIR WORK INTERRUPTED BY A DETACHMENT OF PINKERTON'S DETECTIVES.—From a Drawing by Justice Borkin.—See Page 151.

Steelworkers confront Pinkerton agents sent to break the strike at Carnegie Mills, Homestead, 1892.



Homestead Strike. Worker behind shield at Carnegie Steel



All the remains of the Homestead Mill. Photo taken 1990

CARNEGIE / FRICK HOMESTEAD STRIKE