


NEW YORK.—THE CONSTRUCTION GANG RIGHTING OVERTURNED CARS AT CORNING, UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE MILITIA.





RAILROAD STRIKE OF 1877

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On July 16, 1877, workers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad went on strike and closed this railroad yard to protest a cut in wages. Their action sparked the largest nationwide strike the country had seen. Extensive damage was done to company property at Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Wheeling, and over 50 workers were killed before the strike was crushed. Federal troops were used for the first time in a labor dispute. As the country's first general strike, it focused national attention on labor's grievances and made workers aware of the power of collective action.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND HISTORY, 1978

