

Oakland, Maryland, B&O Museum Exhibit The Great Railroad Strike of 1877

Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 started on July 14 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, after the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad cut wages of workers for the third time in a year. Meanwhile, the strike spread to Cumberland, Maryland, where workers stopped freight and passenger traffic. Because of economic problems and pressure on wages by the railroads, workers in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois and Missouri, also went out on strike. An estimated 100 people were killed in the unrest across the country.

The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 began to lose momentum when President Hayes sent federal troops from city to city. These troops suppressed strike after strike, until at last, approximately 45 days after it had started, the strike was over.

The Oakland B&O Museum is exhibiting The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 pictorial three-sided display from the B&O Museum in Baltimore. It will remain for six months. The museum is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. For information call 301-334-3204.



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