

Superintendent of the Pittsburg Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

It would take too long to tell how Mr. Carnegie "struck oil," both literally and financially, how he seized at its flood the tide that lifted him into the position of the foremost iron and steel producer in the world, but, nevertheless, it is a story well worth the reading. We will refer rather to his later days, and some facts in connection with his life, which are of more general interest.

When Mr. Carnegie finally decided to retire from business, he sold out his interests in the steel plant to the mammoth Trust for \$250,000,000. In speaking of this matter to the people of Pittsburg, he gave the reasons that prompted him, as follows:

"An opportunity to retire from business came to me unsought, which I considered my duty to accept. My resolve was made in youth to retire before old age. From what I have seen around me, I cannot doubt the wisdom of this course, although the change is great, even serious, and seldom brings the happiness expected. But this is because so many having abundance to retire upon, have so little to retire to. I have always felt that old age should be spent, not as the Scotch say, in 'makin' mickle mair,' but in making good use of what has been acquired, and I hope my friends at Pittsburg will approve of my action in retiring while still in full health and vigor, and I can reasonably expect many years of usefulness in fields which have other than personal aims."

Much ado has been made over the Homestead riots, and in consequence of the occurrence, great blame has been laid on Mr. Carnegie. Most people are unmindful of the fact that there are two sides to the question, but at all events, it must not be forgotten that Carnegie was in Scotland when the trouble took place. It must also be borne in mind that in twenty-six years there had been only one labor stoppage under his management.

If Mr. Carnegie worked his men hard, he paid them well. Not only this, he set

aside \$4,000,000 as a pension fund for his work people. He allowed any workman to deposit his savings in the business, and paid him 6 per cent. interest on the money invested. He also made loans to any employee who was desirous of building or purchasing a home. In addition, he made strenuous efforts to reduce the hours of labor in America, by working the eight-hour instead of the twelve-hour shifts. This system he introduced into his own works, but as no other competitors followed suit, he was obliged to abandon his position or be left behind in the fight, and Mr. Carnegie was certainly not the man to be "left."

The multi-millionaire, as every one knows, is an extreme radical, and strongly in favor of drastic social reform. His hatred and abhorrence of war amount almost to a passion. In religious matters, Mr. Carnegie takes up an independent position. He is not an agnostic, for he believes in Christianity, and in the goodness of God, but he will not be bound by formulas or creeds.

His dearest political project is the Federation of English-speaking peoples. He points out that it is only in political ideas that there is any dissimilarity. In language, literature, religion, and law, we are a united race. He contends that the welfare of humanity imperatively calls for the consolidation of an Anglo-American power, which would be invincible, both in arts of peace and war, for it would be the arbiter of the world's disputes, and the maintenance of bloated armaments would thus be forever stopped.

As a benefactor, his position is unique. Up to June, 1902, Mr. Carnegie had given away nearly \$100,000,000, the largest aggregate ever given away by one man. He believes, with an old writer, that "to amass money and to make no use of it, is as senseless as to hunt game and not roast it." The great philanthropist is anxious to prevent his mint of money from doing harm by disbursing it worthily during his lifetime.