

SOWING THE WIND AND REAPING THE  
WHIRLWIND.

A Bountiful Harvest to be Expected.

THE BOSTON "POST" COMPS. ON A STRIKE  
AGAINST THE FOREMAN.

For the second time within a year there is trouble among the printers employed in the composing-room of the *Boston Post*. It will be remembered that, about nine months ago, every compositor in the employ of the *Post*, many of whom had worked faithfully a long series of years, were discharged without a word of warning, and their places filled by "rats," or non-union men. At that time a contract was made with Mr. A. C. Cohick, of Philadelphia, to do the work for a specified sum, he to furnish his own men, making such terms with them as to the price to be paid for composition as he was able. Mr. Cohick had previously been employed on the Philadelphia *North American*, the Philadelphia *Press* and the New York *Tribune*, and, although a "rat" printer, was looked upon as a capable man. Shortly after making his contract with the proprietors of the *Post*, he appeared in Boston with a gang of men, all of whom were immediately set at work, and from that time until the afternoon of Thursday, May 27, as far as outward appearances go, the men were on the pleasantest terms imaginable with their foreman. At that time they waited upon the proprietors in a body and informed them that they would stop work immediately unless Mr. Cohick was discharged and his place filled by one of their number, P. J. Dunn. The substance of their complaint was that Mr. Cohick had promised them 35 cents per 1000 ems before they came there to work, which promise had not been fulfilled, and that he was profane and abusive, calling them by the most opprobrious epithets. Mr. Cohick was requested to step into the counting-room, and denied every accusation. The proprietors were helpless in the matter, having contracted with Mr. Cohick to do the work, and, as was to be expected under the circumstances, twenty-two men left. The printers say they are perfectly willing to work for the price agreed upon—35 cents per thousand—but that, under no consideration, will they again work under a man who abuses the men under him as Mr. Cohick has been in the habit of doing. They say, further, that, after inducing them to come to Boston by promises

of receiving 35 cents per 1000 ems, he took advantage of their necessities and compelled some of them to work for 25 and 30 cents per 1000 ems.

Mr. Cohick is reported to have said when they came to Boston, he promised to pay them, with the exception of department men and apprentices, 35 cents per 1000 ems. The department men he agreed to pay \$18 per week, but subsequently paid them \$20, without any obligation so to do. "I have," said he, "four apprentice boys and three department men. With these exceptions, every man in the office has been paid just what I agreed to pay him. As for my swearing at them, it is strange they have never found out what kind of a man I am, when many of them formerly worked with me in Philadelphia. I have never been notified that there was any grievance. If I had been, I would have tried in some way to settle the difficulty. On the contrary, without saying a word to me, they waited upon the proprietors and requested my discharge. They are a free-and-easy set of men, and, as for my using profane language, they were in the habit of using it among themselves every day. I have never even hinted at reducing the price of composition, but have tried in every way to make more work for the men, even going so far as to keep the sub-list way down, and, by requiring three men to lie off every day, have given the others more work. I may be embarrassed for a short time by this strike, but will issue the paper as usual, and on time also. I have twenty men now in the office, and by to-morrow night matters will be again in working order." The strike caused quite a commotion in newspaper circles. A policeman was on duty at the office during the evening, although no violence was apprehended or anticipated.

On Sunday morning following some fifteen printers arrived from New York to fill the place of the striking "rats." On arriving at the *Post* office they were stoutly denied admission by the strikers, and, finding it useless to remain in Boston with the state of affairs as above, they mostly all returned to New York on Monday evening, without having lifted a type. But on Saturday evening compositors had been advertised for and all who applied Sunday and for several days afterwards were given work. I cannot say why those who went to work on Sunday were not denied admission, the same as the others,