

SUBJECT:Investigation of Carnegie Steel Company  
by House Naval Affairs Committee*to Senator Kilgore*DATE:

1894

*Runn*  
*me*

On August 23, 1894 the House Naval Affairs Committee reported to the House of Representatives on an investigation of the condition and character of armor plates delivered to the United States Government by the Carnegie Steel Company, Ltd. and by Carnegie Phipps and Company.

The Committee reported on eleven charges including the following:

"Second. False reports of the treatment of the plates were systematically made to the Government inspectors.

"Fourth. Specimens taken from the plates both before and after treatment to ascertain the tensile strength of each plate were stretched without the knowledge of the Government inspectors, so as to increase their apparent tensile strength when actually tested.

"Fifth. False specimens taken from other plates were substituted for the specimens selected by the Government inspectors.

"Sixth. The testing machine was repeatedly manipulated by order of the superintendent of the armor plate mill so as to increase the apparent tensile strength of the specimens. These specimens were juggled in measurement so as to increase their apparent ductility.

"Ninth. In violation of the specifications of the contract, pipes or shrinking cavities, erroneously called blowholes, in the plates were plugged by the contractors and the defects concealed from the Government inspectors. These cavities, in some cases, diminished the resistance and value of the plate.

The Committee found that these charges were substantially admitted by the Company employees who appeared before it. It is interesting that the Company's defense was substantially the same as that which it made before this Committee. The House Naval Affairs Committee found that:

"Notwithstanding all the admissions made by the superintendents employed by the Carnegie company, they claim that all the plates paid for by the Government are up to the specifications of the contracts."

The record of this investigation is incorporated in the House Report for the Fifty-third Congress, Second Session, Volume 5.

*Rudolph Halley*