

DITCH GANGS IN RIOTOUS STRIKE

Hundred Italians March in a
Body Three Miles Across
Town.

COMPEL 6TH AVENUE MEN
TO JOIN IN WALK-OUT

Unwilling Strikers Lifted Bodily
From Gas Company's Ditches
—Police Quell Disturbance
Without Resistance, and the
Strikers Move Downtown—
Demand More Than \$2.25.

Laying down their tools without warning and declaring a strike for higher wages, 100 Italian laborers engaged in digging ditches for the Tacona Gas company at South 40th and Sheridan avenue formed a mob at 9 o'clock this morning, marched en masse to 6th avenue and State street and forced another gang of 100 men to join their movement. Then, unable to obtain the increase in pay, they drew their time checks and marched defiantly downtown, declaring a general strike of Italians against the gas company. The company was forced to stop work in two large gas main districts and may be harassed for lack of men for a few days.

The striking Italians threatened violence and in several instances seized the tools from men who resisted the movement and dragged the men from the ditches where they were at work. One man was bruised and his clothing was torn to shreds at 40th street when he persisted in climbing back into the ditch to resume his work.

At 6th avenue a dozen Americans were engaged with the Italian workers. They were seized by the collar and dragged violently from the ditches in defiance of the gang foremen, who threatened the strikers with picks and shovels.