ITALIAN WORKERS REFUSE TO TAKE THEIR PAY

Men Fear That It Was Company Scheme to Get Rid of Them and Haul Them Into Court.

At 11 o'clock this morning the street car company sent the general foreman and two or three office clerks to Nineteenth street to pay the Italians. For each man there was not only the regular pay check, but a time check also. The Italians wouldn't take the money.

The company officials said it was regular payday and that all they wanted was to square up with the men. The Italians, however, said it was a scheme to get hold of their right names so the company could get out legal papers forbidding them to appear on the works, and, aside from that, a time check was equivalent to a discharge.

Certain it is the company was trying to identify two or three of the leaders in order that injunction papers could be served, but so far as learned they only secured the name of Louie Stillo, the leader of the morning demonstration. The Italians have been working under numbers and English names given them by the company bosses, in order to distinguish them, and, with the one exception, the bosses were able to identify only a few of the older hands by name.

It was amusing to watch the efforts of the foremen to get the Italians to take their money.

"Peter," they would cry, "here's your money," handing out the check.

"No wanta da mon'," Peter would reply with a grin that displayed a mouthful of white teeth.

"Well, it's your last chance," the boss would tell him.

"Oh, no, da company good. No need da mon'. Gota plenta. No mon', no drink, no get madda. No need da mon'—you keep da mon'."

Stillo and other leaders urged the men on to this action by telling them that if they took the checks they would have no right to go back to work even if the company met their demands. To the reporter they explained that the men were better off without the money, with which they might buy whisky. At noon not a single drunken Italian had shown up at Nineteenth and Jefferson avenue. All were sober and good natured.