

# STRIKERS RIOT; THREE INJURED

## Italian Laborers Force Austrians to Join Them in Canal Strike

## SOLDIERS CALLED FOR GUARD DUTY

## Rocks Hurlled Down From Height on Those Who Stay at Work

From a Staff Reporter.

Thorold, May 2.—Soldiers last night patrolled a square mile of Section 3 on the Welland Canal, just outside of the city limits, after three men had been injured in a riot precipitated by 630 striking laborers. Work is at a standstill to-day. Further trouble is anticipated when strike-breakers are brought in from Toronto and Montreal.

One hundred and fifty Italian laborers, who, for two years have been at work on the 2,000-foot cut at the northeast boundary of the city, walked out yesterday morning when their demand for a twenty-five cent an hour wage was refused. The men are employed by the Confederation Construction Company, Ltd., of Montreal. Their present wage is twenty cents an hour.

Austrian workmen, numbering 250, at first refused to go on a sympathy strike, fearing internment should they stop working.

Standing at the edge of the excavation yesterday morning, the Italians dropped rocks upon the Austrians toiling 125 feet below them. Three were injured and the intimidated men joined the strikers.

Another party of Italians stormed the crusher-house and forced the workmen there to join them.

Mayor Battle, fearing armed warfare, called upon the 176th Niagara Rangers for aid. Twenty men, under Capt. S. F. Speck, hurried to the canal. Their presence had a salutary effect upon the strikers, and further conflict did not result.

### Forced to Stay on Strike.

Most of the Austrians attempted to return to work this morning, but were met, on their arrival at the cut, by a group of Italians, who advised them to return to the city. The advice was taken, and 250 mechanics and helpers, who have no interest in the strike, are idle to-day as a result. With no laborers, there is no work for the skilled workmen.

About fifty foreigners were brought out from Toronto to-day to break the strike. When the men learned of the situation they refused to work. Others will be hired within a day or two, if necessary.

Executives of the Confederation Construction Company do not believe that the strike will last another forty-eight hours. They point out that they successfully handled similar trouble about a month ago in the work on Section 1 of the canal, located near Pt. Weller.