

CHAPTER II

AGITATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD CULMINATES IN SHIPYARD STRIKE

ABOUT the time of Col. Roosevelt's death and my visit to the *Record* office the I. W. W.'s became even more threatening in their attitude toward the city authorities. One evening E. I. Chamberlain, a general secretary of the I. W. W., called me on the 'phone and demanded the release of all prisoners in the city jail who belonged to his order, and also a permit to open the I. W. W. halls. Of course I told him "No." He then said: "Do you want your jail overcrowded with I. W. W.'s?" My reply to his question was that our jail was a little overcrowded, but we would always find sufficient quarters to house "all law breakers." As a parting shot he said: "Well, the battle is on; we'll show you."

Apparently, orders went out to increase I. W. W. activities. The police next raided an office in the Pacific Block, and a great quantity of new literature aimed at the Government was confiscated and destroyed. I felt that trouble could not long be averted and that it was necessary to have a larger police force, but the Public Safety Committee of the council on January 8, 1918, had refused the request of the chief of