

# COLONEL CONDEMNS FARMERS' LEAGUE

## Roosevelt Tells Montanans It Is "Playing the Game of Disloyalty."

### ADMITS FARMERS' WRONGS

#### But Suggests Federal Control of Elevators Instead of State So- cialism as a Remedy.

**BILLINGS, Mon., Oct. 5.**—America cannot afford to accept the lead of any party or of any organization calling itself nonpartisan, but really acting as a party, which is not first and foremost American and nothing but American. This was the declaration of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in an address delivered today to several thousand Montanans on behalf of the Liberty Loan.

"There are real and grave causes for complaint among the farmers here in the Northwest," the former President continued, as he read from a paper of figures which purported to show discrepancies in connection with the prices paid for wheat and in freight rates, but he asserted that "many of the remedies proposed are not only false, but mischievous, and very grave harm may be caused by the character of the agitation conducted by some of the men who profess to be seeking these remedies.

"To introduce State Socialism as a relief for these conditions would result in nothing but widespread damage. There should be Federal control of elevators and flour mills, with established terminal elevators at convenient points.

"When the Non-partisan League first appeared, I was inclined to welcome it, and it was with real reluctance that I was obliged to believe that the leadership that controlled it was of such a character as to threaten this country with evils analogous to those which came from Bolshevism abroad and from I. W. W. ism at home.

"Finally, the meeting of the league about a year ago was turned into a ghost dance of the Huns within our gates, and it became evident to me that, in so far as they dared, the most prominent leaders of the league were playing the game of sedition and disloyalty, and that they were seeking to acquire power by pandering to and influencing the base spirit of greed and envy and ignorance and class hatred. They are trying to do what Lenine and Trotzky have done in Russia.

"The I. W. W. leaders have been convicted of disloyalty, and yet it was to the head of this organization, W. D. Haywood, that the secretary of the Non-partisan League wrote on April 15, 1917, a letter in which he spoke of 'this damned war business.'

"There isn't a German abroad, or a pro-German at home, who does not wish success to the Non-partisan League as at present controlled, and to the I. W. W."

The Colonel advocated the recognition of the Yugoslavs, Armenians, Poles, and other oppressed nationalities, as well as the Czechoslovaks.

"We must not expect from a league of peace more than it can do," he said, "nor ourselves promise more than we can perform; and we must never forget that such a league to enforce peace, or league of nations, must be treated as an addition to, and under no circumstances as a substitute for, the preparing of our own defense. Uncle Sam must, in the last analysis, rely on himself for his safety, and not on scraps of paper signed by others.

*The New York Times*

Published: October 6, 1918

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