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NO PROFITS OUT OF WAR

[This manifesto is the opinion of 85,000 organized farmers in the Northwest, and to judge by the overflow meetings that have cheered it through the Dakotas and Minnesota and Montana, it is the opinion of Western America. It was also the opinion of President Wilson a few months ago when he declared for "peace without victory," as it is the matured opinion today of the Russian revolutionary party and of Socialists all over the world, including those of Grat Britain and Spain.—ED.]

UR country being involved in a world war, it is fitting that the National Nonpartisan League, while expressing its loyalty and willingness to support the government in its every necessity, should declare the principles and purposes which we as citizens of the United States believe should guide our nation in the conduct of the war.

Whatever ideas we as individuals may have had, as to the wisdom of our nation engaging in this war, we realize that a crisis now confronts us in which it becomes necessary that we all stand unreservedly pledged to safeguard, defend and preserve our country.

In making this declaration of our position, we declare unequivocally that we stand for our country, right or wrong, as against foreign governments with whom we are actually engaged in war. Still we hold that when we believe our country wrong, we should endeavor to set her right.

The only justification for war is to establish and maintain human rights and interests the world over. For this reason we are opposed to waging war for annexation, either on our part or that of our allies, or demanding indemnity as terms of peace. Bitter experience has proved that any exactions, whether of land or revenue, serve only

to deepen resentments and hatreds which inevitably incite to future wars.

We therefore urge that our government, before proceeding further in support of our European allies, insist that they, in common with it, make immediate public declaration of terms of peace, without annexations of territory, indemnities, contributions, or interference with the right of any nation to live and manage its own internal affairs, thus being in harmony with and supporting the new democracy of Russia in her declaration of these fundamental principles.

We demand of no nation any concession which should be hid from the world. We concede to no nation any right of which we are ashamed. Therefore we demand the abolition of secret diplomacy. The secret agreements of kings, presidents and other rulers, made, broken or kept, without the knowledge of the people, constitute a continual menace to peaceful relations.

We demand that the guarantees of human conservation be recognized, and the standard of living be maintained. To this end we demand that gambling in the necessaries of life be made a felony, and that the federal government control the food supply of the nation, and establish prices for producer and consumer.

As a direct result of the war, private corporations in our country have reaped unparalleled profits. The net earnings of the United States Steel Corporation for 1916 were \$271,531,730, as against \$23,496,768 in 1914, an increase of \$248,034,962.

The Du Pont Powder Company shows a similar record. Its net earnings for 1916 were \$82,107,693, as against \$4,831,793 in 1914, an increase of \$77,275,900.

We are unalterably opposed to permitting stockholders of private corporations to pocket these enormous profits, while at the same time a species of coercion is encouraged toward already poorly paid employees of both sexes, in urging them to purchase government bonds to help finance the war. Patriotism demands service from all according to their capacity. To conscript men and exempt the blood-stained wealth coined from the sufferings of humanity is repugnant to the spirit of America and contrary to the ideals of democracy.

We declare freedom of speech to be the bulwark of human liberty, and we decry all attempts to muzzle the public press or individuals, upon any pretext whatsoever. A declaration of war does not repeal the Constitution of the United States, and the unwarranted interference of military and other authorities with the rights of individuals must cease.

The contributory causes of the present war are various; but above the horrible slaughter loom the ugly incitings of an economic system based upon exploitation. It is largely a convulsive effort on the part of the adroit rulers of warring nations for control of a constantly diminishing market. Rival groups of monopolists are playing a deadly game for commercial supremacy.

At the close of this war sound international standards must be established on the basis of a true democracy. Our economic organizations must be completely purged of privilege. Private monopolies must be supplanted by public administration of credit, finance and natural resources. The rule of jobbers and speculators must be overthrown if we are to produce a real democracy; otherwise this war will have been fought in vain.

Only in this spirit do we justify war, and only thus can lasting peace be established.