

LEADER LAUDS DEBS AS WORLD PROPHET

Non-Partisan League Is Angered by President's Speech.

NORTH DAKOTA AROUSED

Parents Resent Attempt to Make State University Institution for Teaching of Socialism.

BY GEORGE K. AIKEN.
BISMARCK, N. D., July 5.—(Special.)—What would the people of Oregon think if a state official, head of the administrative board of the educational institutions of the state were to make the declaration that Eugene V. Debs is one of the nation's greatest souls, one of its prophets, whose name will be revered long after President Wilson is forgotten?

Yet this is the statement attributed to ex-Rev. George A. Totten, chairman of the board of administration, which administers all the public schools of the state. It is set forth in a report by Dr. Thomas W. Kane, president of the state university at Grand Forks. This is the same Dr. Kane who was president of the University of Washington, and because of his loyalty, and his unwillingness to bow to the Townley yoke is one of the best hated men in this state, by the Townley crew. To the credit of the people of North Dakota, he it said, however, that they have sustained Dr. Kane and the attempt to oust him has failed, so far.

Report Quotes Totten's Speech.
The statements quoted in the beginning of this story were made in the office of the board of regents, a body now defunct, shortly after President Wilson's address at Bismarck, and are set forth in Dr. Kane's report to the board, a copy of which I read at Grand Forks and there transcribed the following excerpts:

"President Wilson's reference in his Bismarck address to the Bolshevik regime in Russia, with its bloodshed and prospect of starvation, very much angered Mr. Totten, on the theory that this was a reflection on the Non-Partisan league."

"In the afternoon of that day, at a board meeting in the regent's room, Mr. Totten commented on this reference in President Wilson's speech as follows:

"President Wilson referred to the Bolsheviks and the fact of their shedding blood. Yes, that is true, but there is one thing that he said about them. They are shedding blood in the interest of the people, in the interests of the masses of the people."

"As head of the federal government, President Wilson is a great man to be talking about freedom. Our prisons today are filled with men because they had the courage to express their honest convictions, in the interest of the people."

"Look at Eugene V. Debs! He is one of the greatest souls in the United States, one of our prophets. His memory will be revered after Wilson is forgotten."

"Think of Kate O'Hare! They have railroaded her to prison. The people that sent her to prison are not worthy to tie her shoes."

In another section of the report is set forth this man Totten's attitude on the war, as expressed to a member of the faculty and an alumnus of the university when he is reported to have said:

"It is too bad to think of thousands of men, yes literally millions, laying down their lives just for the dollar, just for the dollar."

Parents Resent Radical Teaching.
The body of the report which deals with the attempts on the part of this man and others of the Townley regime to usurp the prerogatives of the president and to colonize the university with known socialists, is almost beyond belief.

The report also sets forth the fact that when a young man was sent throughout the state during the summer vacation, he found many fathers and mothers who declared they would not send their children to the university because of the socialist teaching on the part of the professors.

When this fact was reported to the board of administration this socialist ex-preacher demanded that the names of every parent who had taken this attitude be furnished him.

The report also set forth in detail his attempts to prevent the continuance of military training at the university, despite the fact that it was required by law. When members of the board who upheld military training suggested that the one way it could be done was to amend the law, Totten and his clique ignored the suggestion, knowing full well that the Non-Partisan legislature would not make this public its position, fearing the wrath of the patriotic citizens of the state.

In another of this series will be related the recently discovered efforts on the part of Townleyized professors to coerce students at the university, and having failed in this to secure revenge by "flunking them."



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