
The Triumph of Federation

by Eugene V. Debs

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From the day that the *Magazine* declared for federating organizations of railroad organizations for mutual protection to the present, doubts have here and there, now and then, been expressed, first as to the feasibility of federation, as also of the benefits it would confer. At present the doubters are less vociferous and objections have degenerated to mere croakings.

Three great organizations have federated. From the start, from the word “go,” federation has been a victory, a splendid triumph — not a disturbing element has appeared, harmony has reigned supreme. The feasibility, the wisdom of federation crushes every discordant note. The federated organizations are satisfied; indeed they are more than satisfied. It was an experiment. That it should have been a success from its initial condition, emphasizes not only the wisdom and the necessity of the undertaking, but the sagacity of those who had the courage to make the venture.

It was claimed by those who favored federation that it would promote arbitration and prevent strikes. The Supreme Council has been in existence six months. In this time one grievance that threatened a strike has been amicably adjusted by the Supreme Council. Someone may say “one swallow does not make summer.” True, but one swallow tells of the coming of the vernal season, of summer, and of the harvest. One trouble has been adjusted. It shows what may be done in the future. It inspires confidence, it silences doubts, and presages “the good time coming” when strikes shall forever disappear, and a reign of good feeling exist between the railroad employer and employee. What more could be asked? Federation voices strength, harmony, and victory, and those who want such things may advocate federation with the assurance that they are right.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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