Ready for Another Fight: From an Interview with the Associated Press, April 10, 1896

by Eugene V. Debs

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CHICAGO, April 10 [1896].— Eugene V. Debs, President of the American Railway Union, says that organization will be ready for another fight by August 15, at which time the railway employees throughout the country will ask for the redress of a number of alleged grievances and a general advance on wages on a number of the most important trunk lines in the country.

"We do not want another big strike," said Debs today, "and will try to avoid it. All labor troubles should be adjusted through arbitration, and that is our aim. However, while hoping for the best, we will be prepared for the worst. We can make a much longer and harder fight than two years ago. We are well organized in both the East and the West, and the membership is as large as ever and increasing rapidly. I have just returned from a trip through Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. We organized 4,000 men in two week and I never witnessed such enthusiasm. We were also very successful in Buffalo and other eastern cities. Our organization is stronger than ever in the West and Northwest. The only places we are weak is in Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, and the other cities where the effects of the big strike were felt most. We will begin the work of reorganization in Chicago within 90 days, and will have a larger membership here than ever before."