
Perhaps a Change of Name:
Statement to the *Chicago Inter Ocean*
(June 16, 1897)

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Mr. Debs said last evening [June 16, 1897] that the American Railway Union would not be disbanded:

All that will be done will be to perhaps change the name and make the scope of the organization more comprehensive so as to take in the cooperative movement. The opposition to this has been satisfactorily met and it will undoubtedly be adopted today by a unanimous vote of the delegates. As to the Brotherhood of the Cooperative Commonwealth, we have arranged for the meeting of a committee with its representatives. We hope to strike a harmonious ground where the interests that both organizations are after can be preserved and encouraged. If we do not really unite in the commonwealth scheme, we will at least get into reciprocal relations for the furthering of the new movement.

As to the prospects of getting the commonwealth colony started in the near future, Mr. Debs said:

I have received letters from all parts of the country telling of those who are willing to come into the movement. As yet I am unable to make any definite estimate of the number, but it will be near to 100,000. Our plan does not contemplate the movement of large bodies of men. We will utilize the local branches of the ARU as recruiting offices and the first pioneers will be carefully selected and be men that can be relied upon, as I have formerly outlined. The colony will be made up of members of the various crafts so that it can be self-reliant.

Last night Professor Frank Parsons of Boston, and A.S. Edwards of Thomaston, Maine, representing the Brotherhood of the Cooperative Commonwealth, held a joint session with the ARU committee, and discussed a plan of uniting their forces. This will be explained at the meeting of the general convention tomorrow.

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