
Letter to the Editor of the *New York World*
(June 15, 1897)

Chicago, June 15 [1897].

To the Editor of *The World*:—

To find work for the unemployed is the immediate purpose of the new movement. Tens of thousands of men are in distress, many of them actually verging on starvation.

There is no hope of relief in sight. Congress will do nothing. The constant improvement in machinery is increasing the army of unemployed at an alarming rate, and as their condition becomes more precarious the very peace and order of society will be menaced.

In this supreme crisis something must be done at once. The American Railway Union has a remedy and will proceed to apply it. It will be along peaceable, constitutional, and patriotic lines.

The boundless West is sparsely settled and has fabulous resources. Land can be procured, machinery purchased, and the unemployed set to work and enabled to provide themselves and dependent ones with clothing, food, and shelter.

A million altruists will be organized to provide the means, each voluntarily making a monthly contribution, according to his means. The work will be carried forward under the supervision of a board composed of men and women of the highest integrity and unquestioned business capacity.

The colonies to be established will be cooperative, and the whole movement will be carried forward on the same lines. The brotherhood of man is recognized as a fact in nature, and in obedience to natural law will form the basis of the new life, from which, it is confidently believed, there will spring a higher, nobler civilization.

Eugene V. Debs.