
“Farmers Will Form the Vanguard” :
Statement to the *Chicago Chronicle*
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Such is the outline of the constitution [said Eugene V. Debs after giving a summary]. Changes may be made by the convention, but the ideas of the delegates have been substantially set forth. There are many minutiae to be discussed and adopted, and these are being drawn up with a view to having everything done with precision and by specification. The foundation of the cooperative community will be carefully laid and the structure will be built solidly.

First, the farmers, who will form the vanguard, will clear the forests, cultivate the soil, and prepare land for habitation. They will be supported by funds from the organizations and will, of course, live in primitive houses. Stock ranches will be built and crops will be grown. Then the carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, and other builders will follow, and they will erect substantial dwellings and structures for factories, workshops, and stores. Then will come the pilgrimage of artisans.

We will take these starving garment workers from Chicago. They will have every comfort given them. They will make the clothes for the community. And we do not contemplate that wages shall be paid, but that products shall be interchangeable and that everything shall be free to everyone. Each shall be given according to his needs and each shall produce according to his capabilities. Such is our ideal.

Recruiting headquarters will be established as soon after the convention adjourns as possible. The transporting of the first regiment will follow as quickly as sufficient funds have been raised. In addition to the constitutional sources of revenue we have been promised financial aid from a great number of people. Communications are received daily from professional men, among them preachers, and from small merchants and working people, pledging their sympathy and support. As the preliminary work progresses and people are more thoroughly informed as to its practicability and beneficence we shall not want for encouragement from all kinds and conditions of people.

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