

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### ELDER GRANT'S CONDITION.

It is most painful to realize that Elder Heber J. Grant's physical condition is of a very critical character. Late Thursday night he was taken ill, and the trouble that developed proved to be of a most serious nature, so that today it became necessary to perform a surgical operation for a severe case of appendicitis. The best surgical skill was made available, and shortly after noon the patient rallied from the anesthetic administered. The trouble had made such a violent attack upon him that he was quite weak and low. His physical structure never has been very robust, but his having led an abstemious and careful life, and being yet a young man, are important advantages in favor of his restoration to perfect health. There is no use in withholding the fact that he is critically ill, but this is not to be taken as meaning that there is anything of hopelessness connected therewith. On the contrary, there are strong hopes and chances for his recovery, toward which the faith of the people will be drawn quickly and effectively, when the facts become known of the illness of so well-beloved and upright a citizen, and faithful servant of God. May Brother Grant's restoration to health be speedy and sure!

### DEBS'S CO-OPERATIVE SCHEME AND UTAH.

Eugene V. Debs has got back to Terre Haute, Indiana, and through The day's Chicago Record we hear much more of his intentions than he expressed publicly while in this State. How accurately Mr. Debs is reported, of course we cannot say, but from the high standing of the Record as a responsible paper and the correctness of its references in some particulars with which we are acquainted, we feel justified in believing that our Chicago contemporary has quoted the A. R. U. leader fairly. In one of these statements he refers to Mr. Boyce's speech here, before the Miners' federation, quoting therefrom the advice for the miners to purchase arms. He says of the members of the federation that "they are in an ugly temper," and cites in support of his assertion the fact of Mr. Boyce being endorsed by the organization.

There are several interesting features in Mr. Debs's new proposition, as now outlined; and there are some that are of special concern to Utah. One is that the American Railway Union, whose convention is called for June 15, will be merged into the new Brotherhood of the Co-operative Commonwealth, whose membership is expected to reach the million mark within six months. Then the new organization

will endeavor to get political possession of some western state, and there try the experiment of a state co-operative commonwealth.

The process by which this is to be

accomplished is to have a million members contribute regular sums of money. Then,

The fund thus raised would be used in sending men into that western or south-western state where the effort is to be made to obtain political control. After this has been accomplished, a constitutional convention would be called, and the organic law of the state changed in such a manner as to permit of the complete introduction of the co-operative plan.

A special interest on the part of Utah is its liability, implied in the present statement, to be selected, although the state to be captured has not been determined upon, but will be chosen at the convention in Chicago in about three weeks. The transformation of Utah into such a State as proposed may find some difficulty, however, in the process which would have to be followed in securing a change, so that the people here need not worry much in advance, as some neighboring commonwealth may be agreed on as the fortunate spot, if the scheme really be entered upon.

The new organization is acting upon an idea that has some force, viz., the general impression that there is to be a radical change in the industrial system throughout the country; but the capacity of the organization to inaugurate the change is a different matter entirely. As to the detail of taking possession of some western state, we are now assured that it will not be done by a horde of men as mendicants, but that they will start from various points in bodies of a thousand or so, and march overland, to the number of about 200,000, having money to support them. The first army is to start from Chicago; and by the time it reaches its destination on foot it will have some idea of the hardships of the enterprise. Mr. Debs thinks money enough can be raised in the organization to keep the co-operative commonwealth going till it is firmly established.

While the most sanguine friends of the plan outlined may as well prepare to meet the failure which is not only possible but quite probable, the support which the scheme has received and will secure in the future is suggestive of two notable features, viz.: that in a harmonious combination for mutual benefit is the only hope for the industrial classes, and that "the West" is the place of refuge or safety from the ills that portend. The Mormon people have acted upon these propositions from their early history, and the truth of the Mormon theory is being impressed on the masses in a way the latter do not thoroughly comprehend as yet. But the culmination is not yet reached; nor will it be in this scheme of the Brotherhood of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

As to the early work of the Mormons in Utah, which Mr. Debs cites frequently as showing the practicability of his plans, it may be well to give

the Record's account of what the labor leader has to say:

Mr. Debs says that while in Utah he made close investigation of the workings of the original co-operative scheme of the Mormons. He found that it was perfect until the spirit of commercialism came upon the leaders of the Church. He thinks that the work of the Mormons in building up Utah out of a desert has not been fully understood, because the public knows Mormonism only by its upholding of polygamy. The details of the co-operative scheme of the Mormons, however, show that it was perfect. When asked if the Church discipline did not have a great deal to do with making the Mormons prosperous and content with their lot, he said it undoubtedly did, but that in the new co-operative movement there would be equally as strong influences in the belief of those who undertake it in the doctrine of co-operation. Only such men as believe in the doctrine as devout Christians believe in their religion would take part in the movement. There are thousands of men who are now believers in the doctrine who a few years ago would not give it thought.

One of the mistakes Mr. Debs makes is that he will find men who believe in the doctrine of co-operation, independently of religious ties and aims, as devout Christians believe in their religion. He cannot do it for the reason that without religion the higher forces are not applied. The mistake is one made by atheists everywhere, and proves fatal to all their schemes of success without God; it is a foolish blunder to make, but many men are foolish.

One other item shows that Mr. Debs has lost faith in trade unionism as a panacea for industrial ills. He says there is no hope from these or from political parties, and adds:

Trade unions are utterly unable to stop the constantly lowering of wages, simply because these reductions are part of a natural law and are inevitable. The grinding process is the natural result of the rule of capitalism, and no organization of men can uphold wages when the heartless strife for gain is ruling all industry and commerce. Workingmen cannot be held in line for trade unionism when they see the futility of these organizations. They want something which gives promise of results, and the co-operative scheme appeals to them strongly now as it never did before.

In addition to this, the gentleman is credited with the statement that there is to be a reduction of wages all along the line in mining, railroad service, and in all the industries, within the next ninety days, and he does not see how it can be prevented. He also says that the miners are going into co-operative mining as fast as they can do so. Altogether, he takes a very gloomy view of the industrial outlook from the operations of the system now in vogue, and this perhaps, by contrast, casts a more resolute hue about his co-operative scheme.

### THE WOMEN'S CLUB MOVEMENT.

The session of the Utah Federation of Women's clubs, which closed yesterday, May 27, was an event of more importance and significance, in its immediate consequences as well as in its promises for the future, than the general public of the State is aware.