

majority which has followed a generally wise financial policy. Besides reducing the indebtedness without increasing the tax levy, the Council has secured a much more extended service for the same money than was given two years ago, in several respects. And the taxpayers who have to furnish the cash will feel gratified that there is no call for an increased tax rate, but that virtually there is a slight decrease in the general levy, opening a prospect for further reduction in the future.

SUBMARINE NAVIGATION.

If the reports that come from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, of the results of tests of the Raddatz submarine boat be accurate, then a revolution will be inaugurated in maritime affairs, especially in matters of coast warfare. A brief reference to this boat has been made in the dispatches, in which the vessel's operations were said to be successful. The final trial was set for Monday of this week, and is claimed to have resulted in a most satisfactory way. The boat is now being provisioned for an extended voyage on Lakes Michigan and Huron, for purposes of submarine exploration and survey. It is said the vessel can be made to rise and fall in the water at the wish of the operator, a complete submersion of the craft requiring less than eighteen seconds, and that it can be navigated beneath the surface for a day at a time. One man can navigate the vessel, which is sixty-five feet long, four feet wide, and seven and a half feet high; is built of steel plates on a framework of angle iron, with an estimated strength sufficient to withstand the water pressure at a submersion of 500 feet; and carries two sets of propelling machinery—a hot-air engine and electric motor. The statements regarding the boat's success in submarine navigation are very positive, and, if borne out in subsequent practice, will make expensive and energetic work necessary to guard the present big navies of the world from destruction by these cheaper but superior-protected vessels, which can use the ocean as an invulnerable shield, not only from heavy guns but from the searching eyes of the watchmen.

MR. DEBS'S UTOPIA.

The New York World in its issue of June 20th devotes a page to the colonization scheme of Mr. Eugene V. Debs, of which the press of the country has had much to say lately. Two letters, one from Governor Heber M. Wells of Utah, and one from Governor J. R. Rogers of Washington, in reference to the subject, will be read with interest. Governor Wells regards the project as utopian. He says:

The Debs-Bellamy plan of colonization and co-operation in this State is regarded here as chimerical. This State offers extraordinary inducements to home-seekers who desire to become actual settlers and tillers of the soil.

There is considerable unoccupied land which may be reclaimed by irrigation from its present desert character by the

construction of reservoirs for impounding the waters and of irrigation canals. This requires capital. The agricultural lands of the State where water may be more readily obtained for irrigation are already taken up. The construction of such reservoir plants for reclaiming arid lands is a far more difficult and expensive undertaking than the Debs people seem to realize, so far as may be judged from any statement made public.

The scheme of building up a community upon a co-operative plan without capital is not practical unless the people undertaking it are actuated by the most unselfish motives and are willing to consecrate their labors for the prosperity and general advancement of the community instead of the individual.

The Mormon people in early days in Utah carried on such a co-operative system with success, because a religious motive which they regarded as divine inspired them. The followers of Debs have apparently no such self-sacrificing interest upon which to anchor their project, and in my opinion if they settle here within a brief time their community would disintegrate and their co-operative plan result in failure. For these reasons our people do not approve Debs's project.

HEBER M. WELLS,
Governor.

Governor Rogers sends a similar message to Washington. He writes:

I do not know what Debs and Bellamy's plan is in full, therefore I cannot say how it may be regarded; but in general I will say that I am in favor of any plan consistent with our laws which promises to ameliorate the conditions surrounding the poorer classes, now enormously increasing in numbers.

Something must be done for these people, and the comfortable classes, in opposing any and every plan of relief proposed, are simply sitting on the safety valve.

I advise Wall street to read Ezekiel, chapter xvi, verses 49 and 50, and learn why Sodom was given the baptism of fire and brimstone.

J. R. ROGERS, Governor.

The verses from Ezekiel referred to are:

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

We do not know enough of the Debs plan to judge of its supposed peculiar merits, but there can be no doubt of the truth of the view expressed by Utah's Governor, that no co-operative plan without capital is practical, unless the people interested are actuated by the most unselfish motives. Does Mr. Debs hope to bring together thousands of people willing to consecrate themselves for the benefit of the new community?

According to the article in the World, the project is to colonize a state with enough voters to capture the entire governmental machinery. This done the state is to be transferred into a social community. Railroads, telegraph lines and other classes of business now operated by corporations are to be state property. There will be canal and road building. New structures will be reared and new industries developed by the state. There will be employment for all, money for all.

The idea is said to be similar to that

advanced in Mr. Bellamy's new publication Equality, where the author builds a state in which there are no rich, no poor, and no distinctions. In Bellamy's book this has been brought about by a gradual and natural revolution, slowly but surely disintegrating the old order of things when these have become impossible. The author indicates that before the final climax it will come to this, that laborers, learned men, clergymen, and even women gather in public squares and cry out to the "masters of the bread" to give them food in exchange for their services. "Do what you will with us, but let us serve you that we may eat and not die," is the burden of their daily supplications to the "masters of the bread." When this condition has been brought about the overthrow of the state is at hand and the dividing line between the capitalists and the starving multitudes is obliterated. The last act is a huge bonfire on the site of New York stock exchange and the ground is broken for the Bellamy Utopia.

Mr. Debs, however, proposes not to await the time when everything is ripe for the final harvest, but to force the plan to a realization. He intends capturing a state and transforming it into a socialistic community, confident that other states will follow the example as soon as its excellence has been demonstrated.

There is, it seems to us, at least one important point that reformers of this class generally miss, a fact which alone accounts for the many failures on record. It is this, that whatever else modern society may be guilty of in the direction of oppression and class distinction, are not due to a social system but to the absence in individuals of a strong sense of right and wrong. No system can be invented that will provide adequate protection against wrong, as long as the voice of conscience is silenced. On the other hand, the worst system is of very little consequence as long as those subject to it are striving to do to others as they would be done by. It follows that all reforms of this kind must commence with a moral awakening, an individual regeneration—or end in failure.

Mr. Debs's social experiment is evidently to be undertaken on a larger scale than ever before attempted. The claim has been made that so far socialism has never been put to a practical test sufficiently elaborate to enable anybody to judge of its merits. When the new scheme has been put in operation, this will have been done, and the world will know whether human wisdom is likely to succeed in ushering in a millennium.

HEAT AND HEALTH.

Gen. A. W. Greely, chief signal officer of the U. S. army, in the current number of Medical Record, discusses the climatic conditions in relation to health, and points out that the extreme heat of summer is injurious to human health in the United States, except along the immediate ocean coasts, in northern New England, in the lake regions, and on the elevated lands, say, from five hundred to two thousand feet; the elevation necessarily