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# **“Socialism is the Only Remedy”:**

## **An Interview with Eugene V. Debs, Woodstock Jail — June 26, 1895**

Published in *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 29, 1895. Reprinted as “Eugene V. Debs in 1895,” in *Appeal to Reason* [Girard, KS], whole no. 246 (Aug. 18, 1900), pg. 2.

*The following appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer of June 29, 1895, while Debs was still a prisoner in Woodstock jail:*

Woodstock, Ill., June 26 [1895].— Sitting in his cell, with malefactors on every side, serving a sentence for contempt of law, Eugene V. Debs cheerfully prophesies that the labor movement is not dead, but that its reverses are strengthening it, and that finally the cause for which he contended must prevail.

The *Enquirer* correspondent visited Mr. Debs in the Woodstock jail today. His tenure in jail has not affected him apparently, for he yet has the firm, flushing eye which distinguished him, and was busy writing to his followers.

### **Hope for the Future.**

“I never took a more hopeful view of labor’s future. There is a mighty mustering of the forces of labor going forward. They are doing some powerful thinking. When the supreme hour is reached they will instinctively and spontaneously unite their tremendous forces and hew out their pathway to emancipation.

### **Socialism the Remedy.**

“Socialism is the only remedy. The philosophy of cooperation is rational, humane, and all-embracing, and I sub-

scribe to it without reservation. The trend is toward the cooperative commonwealth. It is the hope of the world. Vested iniquity will contest every inch of its progress, but it will come as certain as the dawn. The competitive system has had its day; it has blotted out all the stars of hope; filled the world with groans and reduced humanity to slavery. The strong have devoured the weak. The highways of the centuries are strewn with the bones of countless victims.

“Competition is the mother of selfishness and greed. Competition develops fangs, not souls, and is fit only for savages and beasts. Competition has spawned a brood of vices which have filled our highways with tramps, our asylums with insanity, our prisons with crime, and the whole land with unspeakable woe; and the verdict of an awakened public intelligence will relegate it to the relic chamber of the barbarous past.

“Socialism, cooperation, which contemplates the ‘brotherhood of man’ will come as certain as the earth revolves upon its axis, soon after the sunrise of the 20th Century.”

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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