## THE CO-OPERATORS' DEPARTMENT.

By the Christian Corporation.

Collectivism, or Communism. [Paper read before a Populist club in Omaha by Mr. Waiter Breen, of that city.]

(CONCLUDED FROM LAST WEEK.) Earnestness of purpose and hard work are the great elements of success in all those enterprises which have succeeded n the United States, and indeed, everywhere, and it is needless to say that all individuals who compose such a party must a neerely believe in socialism and must forget their individual self as far as possible in laboring for the common good. The mainspring which held the majority of the American societies together, and which started them, was some peculiar religious idea or form of creed; some would not marry, like the Economists; some, like the Oneida Perfectionists went to the opposite extreme and showed that a society founded on the ideas laid

down by Plato could make a success even

in this nineteenth century.

The Amana Community of Iowa, are inspirationists, and the Shakers of New York state-some at least of them-are celibates. Some forbade smoking and some required abstinence from spirituous liquors, and so forth. The Icarians, which had their origin in Cabet's utopian dream in 1848, came the nearest to realizing an example of what a rational, sound, Democratic commune could do more than any of the others. They had no religion; in fact were positivists and materialists. Starting originally as a colony in Texas, which failed, they moved to Nauvoo Illinois, which colony likewise failed, and then some families and members to Icaria, Iowa, where, as far as shown, they still exist and are settled on 2,000 acres of land. Their history is one of disageeements and dissensions and withdrawals down to 1880, but since then they have had smooth sailing. The Economites of Penn. came to America in 1825, and their motto is "Economy and Harmony." They own about 3,000 acres of splendid land and do not marry. They are estimated to be worth about \$15,-000,000, but their number is now reduced to about fifty, and as they take few converts, their extinction is probable in a few years. The Amana Community of Iowa settled seventy miles west of port, and are rated as being worth

3,000,000. They number about ousand souls. They devote their to farming, manufacturing, and wising. Outside of personal effects every using is held in common, and they own twenty-four thousand acres of land and are prosperous and happy. These people allow their members to marry. They allow indulgence in moderation in rum, beer, and tobacco, but are very punctillious about a peculiar, ugly dress which they insist upon their women wear-

The Zoar Co-operation Colony of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, is mostly composed of Germans, though there are Americans and others among their number. They own seven thousand acres of land and engaged in manufacturing and producing everything they use or consume. All trades are represented. They have weavers, shoemakers, and tanners. This is a good example of a successful, co-operative colony. They started forty years ago, with a heavy debt hanging over them and 1,000 acres of land; they now have seven thousand. They were obliged to work for the neighboring farmers as they had practically nothing of their own, but by patient industry and co-operation, and throwing their propertywhat they had of it-and everything they acquired, into a common fund, they gradually extinguished their debts, and today the two thousand people who compose the colony are members of a concern which is worth over one million, and whose credit rating is the very highest of any concern in this republic.

So much for societies formed in the the past which turned out successfully-They have led the way and proved that combined effort is as far superior to individual effort as night is to day. If the members who formed these societies had separately pursued each their own paths in this world, apart from the glory of being pioneers (sometimes unconsciously) in this great cause, would they have attained the same degree of comfort, contentment and happiness that they have attained today? I hardly think so. Some few might have become wealthy my one in a hundred, but the ninety-nine would have been just in the same position, and have the same amount of wealth as the average American citizen has today, a trafing amount, and as they grow old they have no commune to fall back on to protect and shelter them.

Now let us turn to what the study of these old societies is leading us modern pioneers to in the way of Co-operation and Communism. In a letter I have from Mrs. Francis J. Allen, who edits the Co-operators' Directory of Pittsburgh, Kans (the best book for Co-operators which I have ever read) she says she regards the depressed condition of the business world and the consequent distress and straits of the people, almost as a blessing in dis-guise; the hitherto unnoticed system of corporate work of these religious enthu-siasts which have been held together by a common religious belief, is being studied and their business methods applied in new colonies whose name will soon be legion, and the new religion which will in time cement them together as firmly as any of our century old communities will be the glorious creed whose foundation principle is "The Brotherhood of Man." This principle the French revolutionists enun-ciated in the belief in liberty, equality and

fraternity one hundred years ago. While the new plans of work in colonies have in many cases been copied from older societies, says Mrs. Allen, yet many have been greatly improved upon, while others fell short in their plans and consequently failed. The most successful work is the labor exchange, which may be used in cities and towns, and is equally successful in colonial work, for having been thoroughly tested in a business point of view, the practicality of the scheme is be-

One great difficulty in co-operative work has been a disposition to limit, to draw lines of conduct and conscience, draw lines of conduct and conscience, making persons who have fled from the tyrrany or bad temper of the employer feel that they have exchanged the tyran-ny of the individual for the tyranny of the community. The labor exchange, being a purely business arrangement, interferes with neither conscience nor creed and therefore becomes what it should be a remunerative republic, free, prosperous

and happy.
In conclusion I want to call attention to some colonies which have advanced be yond the stage of talking and discussion and are showing the world today what modern ideas applied to every day co-operation will do.

The Gibsonville colony of Genesee county Michigan, was started in 1893, of land, which is being brought into a high state of cultivation. They have a basket factory, a creamery, blacksmithshop, etc. Their membership fee is \$250, that being the original amount that each individual or hand. individual or head of family put in when they joined. Their president in commenting upon it says that it is but a small part of what it is really worth, consider-ing that it carries with it a happy home, without want or the anticipation of want, and of course, care and attention to the aged and the sick; of the latter they appear to have had but little trouble; hard work, without being exhausting and without mental worry, keeps people well, and a community freed from the cares and anxieties of a competitive existence lives much longer than the average man ont in the world.

The Manistique Colony, unlike the Gibsonville Society,—(both are located in Michigan)—and, while composed of peo-ple of different religious views, the aim is to make the association a religious one. They have no community of goodsevery family has its own home, manages its own affairs; private property is com-plete,—what is being done is that they are communing their labor. This is not a good example of a socialistic colony, but is a step in the right direction, being a doctrine of the association that there is no other basis of ownership than that of production, and that all business transactions which involve the obtaining of something for nothing are usury.

The Ruskin Colony in Tennessee has been a grand success. It was first start-ed in July, 1894, and "The Coming Nation" is edited from that place and is a fitting representative of the spirit that dominates the individuals that compe e the Society.

(Cont nued on 5th page.)

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The state auditor tells me that it was not his intention to have the county mutuals examined, and that he gave Mr. Dorsey no authority to do so, at \$10 per day and expenses, or at any other price, and that if Mr. Dorsey told me that he was going to do so by authority from him he was mistaken. But Mr. Moore claims that he has the right to do so.

We are of the adverse opinion, but do not now refuse nor have we refused to al low his man to examine our books, and I presume that there is not a secretary in the state that would refuse to have his books examined, because Mr. Moore would not send out a man unless he was an expert accountant, and we secretaries would all no doubt get pointers as to how others kept their books. But from the letters received in answer to the article in this department, on the 7th inst., not one secretary was in favor of allowing any man to collect \$10 per day and expenses from them unless he had legal authority. Some of the secretaries proposed to send their books to the auditor at the expense of the state if he wanted to examine them.

All who wrote me expressed the same

By the way, it is no more than fair to say that Dorsey agreed to come down to \$7.50 per day with me, because I was the secretary of two companies and he could board at home. I am the secretary of the Lancaster county company, and the Nebraska mutual fire, lightning, and cyclone company. Two days each would amount to \$30. I considered this luxury too rich for my blood (or for the blood of the companies), hence all the trouble. Several secretaries have expressed them-

selves in favor of a meeting of representatives of all mutual companies in the state, for the purpose of comparing notes. I will say that we have had two meetings of this kind, and would have had one this winter had the times not been so hard. None of our companies having any money to spare to pay ex-penses of this kind we did not make the call. I hope every company will elect one or more delegates to attend a meeting of this kind next win'er, as no one can attend a meeting of mutual insurance men, without taking home with him ideas that he will put in practice in his company that will more than pay for the expense of the trip. I was in attendance at the 14th annual meeting of the Iowa mutual insurance association, and met men there, whose companies had been represented all these years and considered that the expense they incurred was a good investment. I assure you it was a school to me. The lowa association has an official organ, the Financial Institute which will be a great help to the companies in that state and our people could profit by it if they would read it. I will have a copy sent to each president and secretury in this state, and will make this proposal: I will send the Institute and Wealth Makens for one year for \$1.10, to any or every mutual insursample copies. If you are now a subscriber for THE WEALTH MAKERS I will give you credit for one year from date of expiration, or if preferred will send you the Financial Institute for 25 cents. Every officer or agent should have both

papers.
In this department we hope to interest all members of all companies, the same as the Financial Institute does the mutual men in Iowa, and ask that each secretary will give us a report of all losses whether fire, lightning or cyclone, on what, and amount; and as the first three months in this year will soon be gone, I hope that each secretary will write me on the 1st of April in answer to the following: Amount of insurance January 1st, amount April 1st, amount of loss last three months by fire and by lightning, amount collected for fees, amount per \$100 if assessment has been made, name and post office of all officers, directors,

and agents. Now brother secretaries, if you will comply with this request, I think that we can make the insurance department of April 11, one of the best it has ever been. I will promise to do my part if you will do yours, and will send a copy to all whom you may name, even if you name every member of your companies.

We are anxious to give the people all the education in insurance matters that we can, and hence this offer. While this paper is a political paper, this insurance department is non-political; but will if we have the chance visit all mutual men through this medium.

We would like to have short articles from all secretaries on such subjects as would be of general interest to mutual

The Lancaster county company on January 12 paid G. E. Cox of Lincoln, for damages by fire, on harness and wagon, \$22, no assessment.

## MILLET CANE CLOVER.

Reward of \$1,000 for Murderers. Denver, Colo., March 19.-Saturday hight Gov. McIntyre gave out a proclamation announcing a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of those who wer implicated in the killing of the Italians at Walsenberg. He declares his intention to give the matter his close personal attention and see that the law

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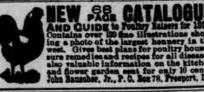
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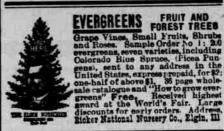
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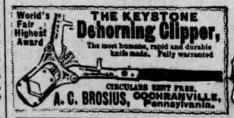
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