

The People.

VOL. VII, NO. 34.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1897.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {230}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Well, the Socialist Labor Party did pretty well this election.

UNCLE SAM—Yes, it grew everywhere.

B.J.—And yet there must be something wrong about that party that it don't grow faster. Think of all the Hazletons, think of all the lowerings of wages, think of all the distress. The S.L.P. should have polled millions of votes this year.

U.S.—And as it would have done if it only could reach the people.

B.J.—Why don't it?

U.S.—The principal reason is lack of funds to establish a daily paper. The other parties can deluge the country with their rubbish and almost drown our voice. We need money, and we are collecting it.

B.J. (throwing his arms wildly around)—“Money?” I'm glad you admit there is a money question at the bottom of it all. Only last year you were denying that.

U.S.—Denying what?

B.J.—That the people need more money.

U.S.—We did not deny that, and don't deny it now.

B.J.—You didn't?!

U.S.—No. What we did deny was that they had no money because the per capita of money was not large; what we did deny was that the way to make the workers better off was to enrich the silver-mine barons still more. That's what we denied and still deny.

B.J.—And what's the difference?



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

U.S.—All the difference in the world. If a man is starving he does so for want of food, eh?

B.J.—Sure.

U.S.—Would he cease starving if you put more food into someone else's stomach, you egregious mutton head?

B.J.—Who is the mutton head?

U.S.—You, of course. People have no money. To make them get it, you propose, what? Letting them have more money? No. Letting the silver-mine barons, who now have more money than they know what to do with, have still more. And yet you wonder that the S.L.P. does not grow faster! You would not talk such rot if the Socialist press were larger, and could counteract such errors as the silver and other capitalist papers set afloat. There are lots of such bookies as yourself floating around. You say what you say, not because you understand it, but because you have heard and read it so often that you at last believed it. And now you repeat it like a parrot. But have patience. The Socialist movement is gathering strength. That increasing strength will bring the sufficient funds for its propaganda; and these two elements being combined its voice will be heard with such effect that its progress will no longer seem slow.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

Uploaded February 2008

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