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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {330}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN (looking forlorn)—This is a pesky pickle to be in!

UNCLE SAM—Which?

B.J.—This election pickle.

U.S.—Inasmuch?

B.J.—I've been to the meetings of the three parties. I've listened carefully to what the Bryan folks got to say; I've listened carefully to what the McKinley people got to say; I've listened carefully and critically to what the Socialist Labor Party speakers had to say; and the result is—

U.S.—Which?

B.J.—That I am now all at sea.

U.S.—Did these speakers all talk so incoherently that they mixed you up?

B.J.—No; just the reverse. I understood them all perfectly well. The Socialist speeches particularly helped me to understand the other two all the better.

U.S.—Then what is it that causes your confusion?

B.J.—You see it is this way: I see with perfect clearness the correctness of the Socialist position that the only thing worth a workingman's attention is how to abolish the system of wage slavery that is keeping him down.

U.S.—Correct!

B.J.—I also fully perceive that both Bryan and McKinley are planted upon that very principle of wage-slavery; and that, just as the Socialist Labor Party speakers



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tersely express it, the two old parties differ only in the method by which we workingmen are to be skinned.

U.S.—Correct, again!

B.J.—And, last not least, it is perfectly clear to me that the Socialist Labor Party alone stands upon the principle that the working class must not be skinned;—

U.S.—And it alone points the path by which the skinning process is to be stopped.

B.J.—Yes; that's all clear as clear can be.

U.S.—On what possible ground can you, then, be mixed?

B.J.—I'll tell you. Has Malloney one chance in a thousand of being elected!

U.S.—Not one chance in a million: The Socialist Labor Party can not yet reach a sufficient number of workingmen, to enlighten and redeem them. Its funds are too small for that as yet, and it has not been long enough in the field to overcome the obstacles in its way. No; Malloney will not be elected.

B.J.—That's the point that throws me into a pickle.

U.S. (beginning to see the "point")—Make it a little clearer to me.

B.J.—If I vote for Bryan or McKinley my man has an even chance because one of the two will be elected; if, however, I vote for Malloney my vote is surely lost.

U.S.—LOST?!?!

B.J.—Wouldn't it be?

U.S.—If you were to vote for Bryan and he WAS elected, would you get what you want?

B.J.—No; what I want is to abolish the system of wage-slavery whereby I am skinned in the shop. If Bryan is elected, what I'd get would be a flaying in a capitalist Silver-Bug frying pan.

U.S.—And if you were to vote for McKinley, and he WAS elected, would you, perchance, then get what you want?

B.J.—Not much! I would then get a flaying in a capitalist Gold-Bug frying pan.

U.S.—Now, suppose you voted for Malloney and Rimmel and they WERE elected, what then?

B.J.—Oh! that would be something worth getting! I would become a free man. No longer would I and my class have to submit to be flayed by the Capitalist Class.

Then, he who worked would have his full social share of the wealth he produced, while the idle Capitalist Class, that now lives in idleness and luxury at our expense, would have to go to work or starve. But, you see, Malloney and Rimmel won't be elected.

U.S.—Now, Jonathan, what is more sensible, to vote for what you want, even if you yet don't get it, or to vote for what you don't want,—and get it in the neck, as we have been getting it right along, as the miners in Pennsylvania, the switch-men in Buffalo, the trolley-men in Brooklyn, the miners in Idaho and Colorado, the textile workers and shoemakers in New England, and so on?

B.J.—I'm knocked out!

U.S.—Guess you are! Our ticket is headed Malloney and Rimmel. Let's vote it straight. The bigger that vote is now, all the sooner will be that morrow when we shall triumph, and both vote and get what we are after—the Socialist Republic.

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