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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {325}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Hip! Hip!
Hoo—
UNCLE SAM—What are you hip-hipping about?

B.J.—I'm "hip-hipping" for McKinley, who is expanding our markets!

U.S.—Is that a thing for you, a hard worked and underpaid workingman to hip-hip about?

B.J. (with a supercilious look)—Why, you don't seem to have studied the question! Let me make it clear to you and you will vote for McKinley and Expansion along with me.

U.S.—Go ahead, make it clear.

B.J.—I shall explain to you the way I hear an illustrious Republican speaker explain it. You see, it is this way: If a man has too much blood in his veins he suffocates and may die of apoplexy, ain't it?

U.S.—Just so.

B.J.—What is done to such a man?

U.S.—He is bled.

B.J.—That's it. The blood is lost to him; and, altho' the loss saves his life, it leaves him weaker, ain't it?

U.S.—Go ahead!

B.J.—Now, it is with a Nation as with a man. If the Nation has more goods than it can consume, it suffocates. And if the Nation were to be bled like a man, by destroying the goods, it would be saved, like he, but, like he, it would be weakened. Now, herein



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

comes the transcendent statesmanship of McKinley and the Republican party.—

U.S. puts his right hand to his right ear.

B.J.—In the United States we now have \$2,000,000,000 worth of goods more than we can consume—

U.S.—How was that!?! “More—than—we—can—consume”?

B.J. (looking alarmed)—Anything wrong in that?

U.S.—“Wrong”? No! Ridiculous. See here. You are hungry, I see it by your face, and I know how low your wages are. Look over to yonder butchershop. Its windows are full of chops and steaks. You can’t consume them. Why? Is it because you are physically unable to?

B.J.—No, by God!

U.S.—Is it because your insides are too full of chops and steaks?

B.J.—I haven’t eaten meat in two weeks!

U.S.—Why, then, can’t you “consume” them?

B.J.—Because I’m too poor to buy them.

U.S. (with towering indignation)—Do you perceive the damnably ridiculous juggling of words that your “illustrious Republican speaker” has treated you to? To say that our people “can’t consume” the \$2,000,000,000 worth of goods that our stores are bursting with is to insinuate a falsehood. The statement implies that our people “can’t consume” that amount because already they are full of all that they want. Such an insinuated falsehood is as dastardly and cruel as to say that you “can’t consume” yonder chops and steaks, and therefore they are superfluous to us.

B.J. looks as if he is beginning to see light.

U.S.—You don’t need to go further with your Republican explanation. It amounts to this: The country, the working people are starving.

B.J.—So we are!

U.S.—Yet we produced a tremendous pile of wealth;—

B.J.—So we have!

U.S.—If, then, this notwithstanding, we are starving it is not because we are glutted, but because we have been plundered of the lion’s share of our product. And that is just the case. The economic system that the McKinley party, jointly with the Bryan party, upholds, this capitalist system of production, robs us, workers, of the lion’s share of our

product. The plunder cannot be all disposed of by our plunderers. Presently, large piles of wealth—\$2,000,000,000 worth of wealth—overstocks the market. This pile is a barometer of the wholesale theft perpetrated upon us. What, at that juncture, do these Republican capitalists propose? Do they propose to return it to us? No! They propose that we enlist in armies: and that, after having been robbed at home, we expose our lives abroad and butcher fellow beings, so that this, our home robber class may dispose of the goods, stolen from us at home, in markets abroad.

B.J.—Why, this is rubbing it into us! Hang the Republican party! Let's vote for Bryan,—

U.S.—And jump from the frying pan into the fire! Suppose Bryan is elected, and expansion is knocked in the head, will that restore our goods?

B.J. scratches his head.

U.S.—Not a whit! Bryan, as well as McKinley, stands for the system that disables us from consuming our products, by plundering us on pay-day.

B.J.—What's to do?

U.S.—Smash both Reps and Dems. Vote straight the Socialist Labor Party ticket!

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

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slpns@slp.org