

DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {355}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—The events in the Sixteenth Assembly District, it seems to me, knock a big hole into the Socialist theories.

UNCLE SAM—Into which of them?

B.J.—Take, for instance, the theory about Democrats and Republicans being actual friends, and enemies only in seeming for the purpose of dividing the workingman's vote.

U.S.—I know of nothing that has happened in the Sixteenth Assembly District, or anywhere else for that matter, to overthrow that theory. It is a sound theory. On the contrary, everything that happens goes to prove the theory.

B.J.—Well, what happened in the Sixteenth does not.

U.S.—What did happen?

B.J.—The Democratic and the Republican candidates for Assembly are there in each other's hair. They have come to blows. Would they, now, if their parties were the partnership that the Socialists claim them to be, fall out in that way?

U.S.—Did you ever watch partners in a business enterprise?

B.J.—I think I have.

U.S.—If the business prospers do they quarrel?

B.J.—No, they don't.

U.S.—If the business prospers each shuts the eyes to the other's mistakes, don't they?



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—They do.

U.S.—They then go arrum in arrum; are happy; and divide the swag; and are happy some more.

B.J.—Just so.

U.S.—No idea of quarreling crosses their minds as long as things prosper, eh?

B.J.—No; they are good friends.

U.S.—And fast friends; and will take each other's sides against attacks, eh?

B.J.—Yes. That's all so.

U.S.—Now, then, suppose business becomes slack; and profits sink and vanish; and bills become due; and there is no money to meet the bills and none to take home as profits; and money has to be raised; and the loans themselves come due with nothing to meet them; and bankruptcy looms up;—such things are all frequent incidents in partnerships. Will the friendship between the partners continue unbroken just as before?

B.J.—No! not likely.

U.S.—What usually happens in such cases is a row, is it not?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—Even blows occur?

B.J.—They do.

U.S.—And would such rows and blows indicate that the theory about partners being friends, and bent upon the identical pursuit, be therefore false?

B.J.—No, the theory would in no wise be affected, it seems to me.

U.S.—On the contrary, the theory would be proved. So long as they were succeeding, those partners were friends; they fell out only when they were failing in their common purpose.

B.J.—I grant all that; but what has it got to do with the falling out of the Democratic and the Republican candidates for Assembly in the Sixteenth?

U.S.—A good deal. These people were and are in the same business;—

B.J.—Which?

U.S.—The business of dividing the workingman's vote. In this business they prospered for a while. For a while, a long while, the workers were absolutely divided at the polls. One set voted Republican, another set Democratic; there was no labor ticket or

party; and thus the workers' vote, being cast for two allegedly opposed candidates, canceled itself. So long as that period lasted the two partners were fast friends.

B.J.—That was the size of it!

U.S.—Then started the Socialist Labor Party. Its agitation everywhere checked the business of the Democratic and Republican parties. Socialist propaganda unified the workers more and more, and the business enterprise of the Republican and Democratic parties began to flag.

B.J.—Sure!

U.S.—This was so particularly in the Sixteenth Assembly District. The S.L.P. vote grew there from year to year. The partnership in the business of dividing the labor vote began doing a steadily losing business; it became more losing every year. They, then, last year, tried the scheme of setting up a labor stool pigeon; but neither that worked. The percentage of the S.L.P. vote bounded upward. This year they started a bogus “Socialist” party in the land and have pushed that fraud in the Sixteenth Assembly District stronger than anywhere else; and the result is that they see their fraud uncovered and the current setting ever stronger toward the Socialist Labor Party, so strong that they stand this year in mortal fear of losing the District. Thus the partnership is about bankrupt in the District. Do you wonder that Prince hits Cohn under these circumstances?

B.J.—No. I now see it is quite natural. And I also understand the Why of the Wherefore.

U.S.—You will one of these days see this fight between the Democratic and Republican partners extend all over the country.

B.J.—Speed the day!

U.S.—Yes, for we bring the Jubilee!

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