



DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {51-52}

By DANIEL DE LEON

UNCLE SAM—The Socialist Labor Party is steadily gaining strength.

BROTHER JONATHAN—The way matters look to me, it is now rather meeting with greater opposition.

U.S.—How do you make that out?

B.J.—I don't remember ever to have heard so many people denouncing it and with so much bitterness.

U.S.—In that fact lies one of the best evidences of its growing strength. The people you hear denounce the Socialist Labor Party are those who for years have been making a trade of the Labor vote, and otherwise trafficking on workingmen. These people made their living that way; at election time, by direct political activity with the capitalists, and between elections by getting little jobs from their union on the strength of their supposed "influence." This precious lot could thrive only in proportion to the ignorance of their deluded followers; such ignorance only light could dispel; the Socialist Labor Party is a sort of electric light affair; its growth dispels ignorance; and in proportion as ignorance is dispelled among the rank and file, the "professionals" find fewer bones to gnaw on, and these harder to get. A big, general and increasingly loud growl from that quarter is the inevitable result. The loudness of this growl is a good barometer to measure the growth of the S.L.P. by; the louder the growl, the greater the growth. Honest progressive Labor is falling in line with hurrahs.

B.J.—Yes; yes. It makes all the difference who does the denouncing.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

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BROTHER JONATHAN—I see the *Brewers' Journal* is very happy.

UNCLE SAM—At what?

B.J.—It declares that the Cigarmakers' Union No. 90 was now sure to get out of the New York Central Labor Federation.

U.S.—That paper has shouted before it was out of the woods; guess it is now all knocked up in a heap at the outcome.

B.J.—Did they not withdraw?

U.S.—Not much. Every lunk-head in the Movement began to rub his hands in the expectation that No. 90 would make an ass of itself and withdraw from the leading New Trade Unionist central organization in the land; but No. 90 refused to listen to the crooks who so advised her, and didn't care how much she disappointed the lunk-heads; she decided by a big majority to remain in the front rank of the genuine trades union movement.

B.J.—Then that *Brewers' Journal* must feel sore.

U.S.—Sore as a scorched cat.

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

Uploaded October 2007

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