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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {350}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN.—What do you think are this year's chances of the Socialist Labor Party carrying the Sixteenth Assembly District?

UNCLE SAM.—We Socialists don't sit up at night to figure out such things. What we devote our full attention to is how to sweep out of the workingmen's heads the capitalist cobwebs that their capitalist employers have spread there and to impart to them sound Socialist information. The rest will take care of itself. We are ready to be elected every year, if election comes; if not yet elected it means that there is more education to be done. We work for victory, confident that it must come.

B.J.—But this year there is a particularly good chance to carry the district.

U.S.—Every year there is a better chance than the previous year. Every year the working people's fund of experience is larger. Every year the capitalist outrages increase; and thereby the workers who listened to the Socialists the previous year, find the Socialist teachings verified by events. Hence, it is that you find the Socialist Labor Party increasing steadily particularly in the Sixteenth Assembly District where the agitation is strongest.

B.J.—It must be that, because I find the Tammany captains in that district particularly alarmed this year.

U.S.—Oh, that has its good reason.

B.J.—Which?



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

U.S.—In the first place, these Tammany captains know that Socialist education is bearing tremendous fruit in the district—

B.J.—And what is the other reason?

U.S.—The other reason is that Tammany Hall is split up this year.

B.J.—Split?

U.S.—Yes; there is the Social Democracy, alias Debs Democracy, alias Hand with the Radish ticket, alias Chimney Brush ticket; now then—

B.J.—Why, I always was under the impression that that was a Republican decoy duck affair. The Brewster letters and Debs' endorsement of the Philadelphia *North American*, besides many other circumstances, pointed to that.

U.S.—So it is. Would the Reps set up a decoy duck ticket against themselves?

B.J.—Why, right you are! That ticket must split up Tammany Hall.

U.S.—And so it does. The funny part of it is that in the Sixteenth Assembly district, Tammany Hall helped the fraud along in the stupid belief that it would smash the Socialist Labor Party. Now they find out their mistake; the fraud has helped the Socialist Labor Party greatly to make its position clear. But it is now too late for Tammany Hall to withdraw that Hand with the Radish ticket. The Tammany Hall heelers in the Sixteenth Assembly District are doing all they can to recover that vote. They will get some of it back, but not all. It never amounted to much, but the little that they may lose frightens them. They know they are fighting a losing game, and everything alarms them greatly.

B.J.—Well don't you think that that split in Tammany will help your ticket in the Sixteenth Assembly district, where the Socialists are so nearly on top.

U.S.—Oh, yes; it will help and it may carry the district for the Socialist Labor Party. And that's why the Tammany heelers are so scared. They stand a good chance of being hoisted with their own petard. But election or no election the Socialist vote will bound up. The Social Democracy fraud only helps us. At any rate, the Socialist hosts will march down upon the ballot box in swollen numbers all along the line next November 6. You may hear the whirl of the buzz-saw.

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