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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {49–50}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—What do you think of that passage in Congressman Joseph H. Walker’s speech that “the wealth of this country is created by the genius and inventive power of this country; by the ‘fortune builders,’ the great ‘captains of industry,’ using, in creating it and helping them, the wage earners.”

UNCLE SAM—There surely are a few mistakes in it. What Walker said or should have said is this: “The wealth of this country is created by the genius and inventive power of this country, i.e., its working class; and that wealth was raked in by the ‘fortune builders,’ the great ‘captains of thievery’ who helped themselves to the wage earners’.”

B.J.—That would have been an improvement.

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BROTHER JONATHAN—This James P. Archibald, or Jerry Poppy, as I hear him called, must be a very brave bold man.

UNCLE SAM—(Roars out aloud.)

B.J.—What makes you laugh?

U.S.—To think of Jerry Poppy as a “brave bold” man.

B.J.—Why, only the other day he declared he was not afraid of 10,000 Socialists.

U.S.—Do you remember the day he threatened in the Central Labor Union to punch the nose of George K. Lloyd at the next meeting?



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—I heard something about that. Did he “punch?”

U.S.—Not much, he did!

B.J.—He didn’t?

U.S.—One Socialist before him is much more awe-inspiring than 10,000 absent ones.

B.J.—Then you mean to say he is like the lap pug dog that barks when the man with the stick is at a distance, but crawls down when the man is near?

U.S.—You got it now exactly. If you would like further information upon this head, see Sullivan of the Building Constructors’ District.

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