

# The People.

VOL. VI, NO. 36.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1896.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {179}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**U**NCLE SAM—Socialism is the salvation of the people.

BROTHER JONATHAN—I don't quite see it in those lamps. It will be a boon to the trade workers, that is to say, to the manual workers, the workingmen; that I admit. But they are not the people. Where do the bookkeepers, clerks, small store keepers, and business men come in? They surely make up a good portion of our population.

U.S.—The trouble with you is that you have not yet grasped Socialism.

B.J.—Well?

U.S.—Socialism maintains that the private ownership of the land on which to work and of the machinery with which to work makes it impossible for all others who have not as much machinery and land, to compete with those who have.

B.J.—Very well.

U.S.—Consequently Socialism tells all such people that they are engaged in an impossible fight. They are bound to lose and go down. Consequently, that if they want to save their necks they must throw off the millstone of "a little capital" that now drags them down, and strive to establish the Co-operative Commonwealth where there will be no such competition, and where they will be all equal stock-holders in the national business house. Don't that cover the small store keeper and business man?

B.J.—Yes, but he will have to cease doing his little business.

U.S.—Exactly. But there is this difference, that, if he upholds capitalism, he will



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have to cease doing business anyhow; he will be swallowed up by the big concerns and he will become a pauper. If he ceases to “do his little business” by the introduction of Socialism, he will not only be freed from his present wearing anxiety, but he will be a partner in the national concern, where his industry will assure to him affluence.

B.J.—Yes, that would be a benefit. But what about the clerks, and such?

U.S.—Socialism further maintains that the private ownership of land on which and the machinery with which to work, compels all those who do not own those two requisites to the earning of a living to sell themselves into wage slavery.

B.J.—That’s so of the manual workers—

U.S.—And it is so of all those others who would spurn the title of manual workers. It is so of clerks, bookkeepers, and all such. All of these are wage slaves just the same as the carpenter or bricklayer—

B.J.—Eh!

U.S.—Yes. There is no “Eh!” about it. What is a wage slave?

B.J.—A manual worker.

U.S.—He is only one of the wage slaves. A wage slave is he who cannot earn a living without he gets some one to give him wages. No one will give him wages except the man who is a capitalist. No capitalist will give him wages unless he can produce more than his wages are worth. When a capitalist pays a worker \$1 a day the worker will produce at least \$1.50 of wealth a day. The difference between the wages which the worker gets and the value of his products, is squeezed out of him by his capitalist employer, and that is what the employer lives upon.

B.J.—I know that.

U.S.—Now, take a bookkeeper. If he gets \$1,500 a year he is getting plenty. Now, that amount does not represent but a portion of what he has actually produced. The other portion is stolen by the capitalist the same as he steals from the manual laborer.

B.J.—Well, I never thought of it in that light.

U.S.—Now, where does the bookkeeper, the clerk, etc., come in under Socialism? As human beings anxious to work and live upon their work, not upon the work of others, all such people shall certainly have an opportunity to work, and as in the Co-operative Commonwealth, there will be no drones to feed, the clerk and the bookkeeper will retain

the full value of their labor.

B.J.—That certainly would be a benefit.

U.S.—But that's not all. Under the capitalist system all wage slaves who are fortunate enough to get a job must work hard; there is no enjoyment of life for them; and they must die poor. Under the Socialist system, there being no loafers to feed and no heiresses abroad to keep in luxury, and no idle retainers of capitalists to clothe, the workers could with 4 hours' work have an abundance, with the rest of their time to enjoy life. Is not that a benefit?

B.J.—It is.

U.S.—The only ones who would suffer are the idle capitalists. But they are few and their suffering will consist only in that they will have to die if they won't work.

B.J.—Truly Socialism is the salvation of the people.

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

Uploaded December 2007

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)