

# The People.

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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {63}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—I am tickled to death.

UNCLE SAM—Let me join.

B.J.—Here is a letter from Senator George Frisbie Hoar to our friend Morrison I. Swift.

U.S.—Does Hoar put his foot into it again as usual?

B.J.—No; I think for once he comes out with flying colors.

U.S.—That would be next door to a miracle.

B.J.—Miracle or no miracle, it is so.

U.S.—How?

B.J.—Frisbie says: “The persons who belong to your company or to the company of Mr. Coxey, so far as they are decent and well-intentioned American citizens, are entitled to all the privileges of American citizenship. But I can not recognize their title to speak for the American people. Five or ten thousand men have no right to dictate to the other 65,000,000 or to dictate to the Government which the other 65,000,000 have established. I hold a commission from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as do my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives, and we have the sole title to express the will of the people of Massachusetts in national legislation until, in the exercise of their constitutional rights, they select others to supply our places. We can recognize no master except the Commonwealth itself. Certainly no body of men less than a majority of the entire people can call upon us to act otherwise than in accord with our judgments.”



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

U.S.—Frisbie has again made an ass of himself, as usual.

B.J.—Why, pray you?

U.S.—Don't you see that the people are coming rapidly to the understanding that they must elect their own officers, and that these Senators, Representatives, Governors, Presidents, and what all that we have of late been having are not the people's but the capitalists' representatives?

B.J.—Certainly!

U.S.—The people are finding that out. Time was when they thought differently. Elections in this country have virtually been going by default. The people have imagined they could always by petition correct their negligence of election day. They are discovering that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. They see that not 10,000, but half a dozen capitalists will meet, resolute, send a sub-committee to Washington—

B.J.—And these are received—

U.S.—Yes, and listened to and OBEYED.

B.J.— That's so!

U.S.—Well now, when this egregious donkey of George Frisbie brings out glaringly the contrast between the treatment given by the present government to a mere handful of capitalists and that which the government proposes to give to 10,000 workingmen—

B.J.—Why, yes; that is asinine!

U.S.—And when, on top of that, he points out to the already awakening masses how they should go about to obtain control of the government—

B.J.—Yes, yes; he did put his foot into it squarely.

U.S.—By doing these things he helps us greatly and diminishes the days when he and his will be “petitioned.”

B.J.—As that passage is so foolish I won't mention another that I also thought good.

U.S.—Let us have it, all the same.

B.J.—He says: “It is also impossible that the government can provide work for the people.” I thought this was sound under the Constitution.

U.S.—Sound!?!? Do not the Frisbies provide capital for the skimmers of the people? Do they not give away large grants of land to prospective railroad corporations? Do they

not make gigantic appropriations for the draining of rivers that do not exist; for the building of buildings that are not wanted—

B.J.—Why, that is so; I never thought of that.

U.S.—All such appropriations are intended to be gifts to their henchmen. That's all right. But when the workers want appropriations for public and needed works and thereby get something to do, the Frisbies suddenly sing a different song.

B.J.—Hang the rascals!

U.S.—No; don't hang them, but vote them out and give them a chance, before they die, to live the lives of decent men, earning their living by useful services performed in the Co-operative Commonwealth.

B.J.—Yes, that were better.

U.S.—To work, then, and let the watchword be, “To the polls; straight Socialist Labor ballots!”

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

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