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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {339}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN (looking radiant)—I heard Bryan speak three times last Tuesday!

UNCLE SAM—That's good!

B.J.—I'm going to vote for him!

U.S.—That's bad!

B.J.—Do you know the point that fetched me? It would have fetched you too.

U.S.—Which?

B.J.—The militarism point.

U.S.—Make it clear to me.

B.J.—Will you deny that the Republican claim of wanting to subdue the Filipinos for the sake of the glory of the country is a sham?

U.S.—I won't deny that. Sham it is.

B.J.—That's point No. 1. Will you deny that the real object is to have a large standing army?

U.S.—I won't deny that either. That's the object!

B.J. (elated)—That's point No. 2. Now then, will you deny that the purpose for which this army is being raised is to forcibly put down the discontent that is rising on all sides?

U.S.—I won't deny that either. The Republican Party is of the opinion that nothing but a large standing army will be able to cope with the discontent that's cropping up everywhere.

B.J. (rubbing his hands in great glee)—Good! Good! Now, haven't I made clear



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to you why none of us should vote for McKinley?

U.S.—Perfectly clear.

B.J.—And that’s why we should vote for Bryan!

U.S.—How you trot!

B.J.—Ain’t I right?

U.S.—You are dead wrong!

B.J.—I declare!

U.S.—If you are in the frying-pan, does it follow that you would fare any better by jumping into the fire?

B.J.—Would Bryan be “the fire” in this case?

U.S.—That’s the size of it.

B.J.—How do you make that out?

U.S.—Did you ever hear of the Idaho “Bull Pen”?

B.J.—Didn’t I?

U.S.—You remember what it was?

B.J.—It was a stockade into which, without warrant of law, innocent striking miners were flung, and herded like cattle, and shot down,—

U.S.—By whom?

B.J.—By Federal troops.

U.S.—And who ordered the Bull Pen?

B.J.—The Governor of Idaho.

U.S.—Steunenberg?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—And who fetched in the Federal troops?

B.J.—That same Governor.

U.S.—Steunenberg?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—A McKinley man, or a Bryan man?

B.J. (looks as if he had got a blow in the stomach: and had been kicked in the mouth)—Bryan Democrat!

U.S.—The discontent in Idaho was, accordingly, suppressed?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—And thoroughly so?

B.J.—Thoroughly!

U.S.—The present army, at the disposal of the Gold-Bug and Silver-Bug capitalists was found ample to do the job of crushing the workingmen?

B.J.—Unhappily it was!

U.S.—And the McKinley administration cooperated heartily with the Bryan Democratic administration of Steunenberg to put down the discontent?

B.J. (sighs)—Yes.

U.S.—Now, will you admit that to vote for Bryan, in order to escape McKinleyism, is actually to jump into the fire out of the frying pan?

B.J. (after long scratching of his head)—But what on earth is, then, the difference between the two? Why DO they raise such an issue as that of the army?

U.S.—This is the difference and this is the reason: The McKinley party is of the opinion that nothing short of a big standing army will be able to knock down the workingmen; the Bryan party, on the other hand, hold that the present outfit is large enough to do the job. That's all that the fight is about.

B.J.—Looks cheap.

U.S.—Now, how do you, a workingman, like the taking of sides on such an issue!

B.J. (shivers as tho' he were throwing off a nightmare)—A precious brace of scamps these two old parties are, for sure, to come with such issues for the support of the workingmen! I thought to vote the Socialist Labor Party ticket next time. I shall vote it straight this time, and from now on!

U.S.—Here is at least one soul saved. On with the work of Redemption!

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