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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {175}

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**U** NCLE SAM—One thing is gained.

BROTHER JONATHAN—Which?

U.S.—The road is cleared of one fad.

B.J.—Which?

U.S.—The free silver fad. These fads come periodically across the path of progress and retard it much. The lightheaded are taken in, while the timorous flock like sheep to uphold the ills they have rather than walk into obvious ills of greater danger. The free silver fad is one of these. It held out the prospect of a national crash; whoever could see anything could see that. All those who did see it and

yet were not clear upon the situation flocked like sheep to the gold standard. Now that fad is killed. The path to Socialism is clear.

B.J.—You count without your host. These free silver faddists have bitten themselves fast on their nonsense. They will not give over so soon. Their agitation will continue, and it will continue for some time to stand in the way of healthy political progress.

U.S.—You err. It is a feature of political fads that once rebuffed, they die.

B.J.—Outright?

U.S.—For all practical purposes, yes. Do you remember the greenback fad?

B.J.—I do.

U.S.—The notion of fiat money under capitalism was a crazy one. That fad sprung up; it was rebuffed; and—

B.J.—It collapsed true enough.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

U.S.—Then do you recollect that craziest of fads—the single tax fad?

B.J. (grinning broadly)—I do.

U.S.—Didn't it come up boisterously? But although it received 70,000 votes in this State in 1887, the wind got clean outside of it on the spot, and—

B.J.—Dead it is, true enough.

U.S.—Now we had the free silver fad. The “Money of the Constitution” fad.

B.J.—I see.

U.S.—It sailed along for a while; gathered all the intellectual riff-raff of the country; made a big noise; and finally had to toe the mark. Last Tuesday it got punched. It, too, is now dead and gone.

B.J. nods his head approvingly.

U.S.—The individual faddists remain nailed to their fads. So do you find to-day along the roads individual Greenbackers and individual Single-taxers, and so will you find in the future individual “Money of the Constitution” or Free-Silverites. But as a movement the thing is dead and gone.

B.J.—So it has been in the past, evidently; so it may be now.

U.S.—It will. I repeat it: “A fad rebuffed is a fad killed.” The road for Socialism is cleared of one more bit of rubbish, one more encumbrance.

B.J.—I hope so. The storms raised by these fads produce an irritating delay.

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

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