

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## WHICH WILL IT BE?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**OE is in the house of the workingman! His pittance is to be reduced some more! Not less than three bills have been introduced in the New York Legislature to tax mortgages!

The workingman, whose pockets bulge with mortgage deeds, seeing that his bank account is so large that he can invest large sums in mortgages, is now to be plundered even of his interest on his mortgages! A good chunk of this interest is to be taxed away from him! His hard-earned cash and savings are not to do him all the good that they should! Just at the moment when he expects some returns for his self-denial, and looks forward to the enjoyment of the returns on his investments in mortgages, the croil capitalist swoops down upon him with laws to tax mortgages, and thus proposes to pilfer from him a part of what is due him!

Reformers showed to the workingman with distinct statistical tables that his taxes had been increased by the Spanish War by \$100 a year. Seeing that his average wages are about \$400, it followed that he was left with only \$300 to get along with. The tax on bank checks, on real estate transfers, on Pullman cars and on all the other things that he daily indulges in, ate up about one-fourth of his income; and now come the threatened mortgage taxes to eat up some more!

Woe is the worker! Will none ever take pity upon him—except the reformers who will now, as they did during the Spanish War, appeal to him to join them in the effort to relieve HIS burden of taxation?!

\* \* \*

Joy is in the house of the workingman! His chance has come to do something for himself (?)

The reformers have succeeded in introducing no less than three bills in the New York Legislature to tax mortgages!

Mortgages are held by the bloated capitalists. They are the means to suck up the people's blood. The bloated capitalist watches his chances. Another's straits are his opportunity. He is ready to "give relief" with a loan—a mortgage. In that way he gets his clutches on the small property-holder, and gradually sucks up into his own pockets all the wealth of the nation. Mortgages are so many tentacles of the octopus. In that way the middle class is ruined. The middle class is a working class. (Did anyone say that the middle class is as vicious a fleecer of the workingman as the octopus himself, and that what the middle class objects to is not to fleecing, seeing that itself fleeces the worker, but to its being fleeced by a bigger plunderer? Did anyone whisper that?—Hush, don't "sling mud"!)

Down with the octopus! Let the taxes be piled upon him!

Joy to the worker! He now has the opportunity to give the octopus a crack in the face by joining the demand for good round taxes on the monster's mortgages!

\* \* \*

Which of the two songs will it be? Possibly both in different parts of the State.

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

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