

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 347.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## LOCKING HORNS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Czar has blown his counterblast. The peasants of Russia having sounded the bugle call to the tune of: "Whose is the sweat, his is the land," the Czar, through the mouth of his minister Goremykin, has responded with the counter-note: "To contest the right of the private possession of land would in fact be to contest the right to possess any private property at all." The horns are locked. The Russian Revolution has run up the flag which symbolizes the principle that he who does not work neither shall he live; the Russian Counter-Revolution takes up the gauntlet by running up the flag which symbolizes the principle that he who does not work is entitled to the better living. Revolution and Counter-Revolution understand each other to perfection.

As to the Revolution, it is clear upon the fact that the existing social order is cornerstoned upon the private ownership of the things that are necessary for the production of wealth. Such private ownership equips the possessor with the power to levy tribute upon the non-possessor; it works like a highwayman's pistol that covers the wayfarer, holds him up, orders: "Stand and deliver!" and enforces the order. The Revolution is perfectly clear upon the fact that private ownership of the necessaries of production has the effect of breeding the social sponge that lives by virtue of such ownership, sucking up its living from the toil of those who, deprived of ownership, must pay blackmail to the private owner. Clear upon these facts, the Revolution plants itself upon the principle "whose is the sweat, his is the land."

No less clear is the Counter-Revolution upon what such a slogan portends. The most clear-sighted of things are Counter-Revolutionaries. The eyes of a Revolution might not see at the start all that there is to be seen; Revolutions often are born like kittens—blind; they see by degrees. Not so with Counter-Revolution. All there is to be seen they see from the start, often more than is above the horizon. The Russian

Counter-Revolution is not misled by the cry for land. It sees through that, even if the peasant himself did not yet. The Counter-Revolution has taken the pulse of the Revolution. The Counter-Revolution, accordingly, perceives that, to yield the principle “Whose is the sweat, his is the land” means for Usurpation to throw up the sponge, in that it means “Whose the toil, his the goods.”

The two opposing principles are thus clearly expressed—so clearly that the adherents of each will hearken the summons, and flock to their respective standards.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded March 2009

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