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EDITORIAL

## HILL'S ECONOMIC MAXIMS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“FIXED prices mean ruin,” is the political economic maxim announced to the Stanley Investigation Committee by the railroad magnate J.J. Hill.

The Hill maxim is surely sound—only, it should be given in full.

In full, the Hill maxim, and the maxims that it flows from, are:—

“If a capitalist could have made 100 per cent. profit but did not, and, whether through oversight or legal intrusion, made only 30 per cent. profit, then he was ruined to the extent of the difference between 30 and 100 per cent.”

“Any profit below the full amount that, if left alone, the capitalist could have sponged up, means ruin to him, in that it causes him grief.”

“Bankruptcy, suffered by the small fry capitalists as a consequence of ideal profits raked in by the Top-capitalist, is not ruin. That is ‘manuring the tree of Prosperity.’”

“Poor health, frequent sickness, even death, through underfeeding and other unsanitary conditions, or through Accidents, suffered by the wage-earning class, are not instances of ruin. They are signs of Progress.”

“Nothing is ‘ruin’ but what checks, or registers a check to, the inflation of the capitalist’s affluence. Whatever promotes the inflation is ‘roaring trade’ and ‘smiles of fortune.’”

The climax of these maxims is the one propounded by Mr. Hill. Nothing but ruin can be the consequence of any governmental act that would stay the hand of capitalism in getting “all that the trade will bear”—ruin to the Top Capitalist: none others count.

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