

EDITORIAL

## PROSPECTIVE DON QUIXOTES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ASHINGTON despatches purporting to report the views of “intelligent Republicans all Democrats” set forth that both sets of “intelligents” are agreed upon the necessity of “preventing great corporate enterprises of the country from having advantage over smaller accumulations of capital.”

As well might these “intelligents” agree to control the sun and moon eclipses.

“Great corporate enterprises” need no governmental aid in their competitive struggle with “smaller accumulations of capital.” The governmental aids that “great corporate enterprises” seek from government, and generally secure, are the fruit, not of any economic necessity, they are the fruit of impatience. Without any such aids the “smaller accumulations of capital” are bound to down before the “great corporate enterprises,” only it would take a little longer. That’s the only difference.

Production is carried on for sale in the market. The identical market in which “great corporate enterprises” set up their goods, wares and merchandises, is the place where the “smaller accumulations of capital” bring theirs. The two sets, ranged beside each other, will attract the purchaser according as each combines the qualities of cheapness and goodness. With hardly an exception, and that only temporarily, the goods offered by the “great corporate enterprises” excel those offered by the “smaller accumulations of capital” in both respects. Production can be carried on by great accumulations of capital with greater economies and more plentifully than by smaller accumulations. Larger production carried on with greater economies means cheaper goods. Along with cheapness comes the improvement of the article. The machine works more accurately than the human hand.

These are elemental principles in economics. In these principles stands written the doom of “smaller accumulations of capital”—as clearly as is written the doom of

the wild rose before the approaching blasts of Winter. Between the wild rose, wilting before the Winter, and “smaller accumulations of capital” there is, however, this vital difference:—for the latter there is no returning Spring to revive their bloom. The “smaller accumulations of capital” fall, like Lucifer, never to rise again. It is a mathematical proposition.

No Don Quixote assailing windmills ever was more crackbrained than the Washingtonian “intelligents” who are setting lance in rest to assail the advantage that great corporate enterprises have over smaller accumulations of capital—nor will Don Quixote, slammed down by the windmill’s flaps, be a circumstance to these “intelligents” after the flaps of economic law will have got through with them.

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