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EDITORIAL

## INDIGNANT JAMES J. HILL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**J**AMES J. HILL is doubly indignant.

The great railroad magnate is indignant at the way “the government is taxing the people”; and he is indignant at the way “American Money is being carried away to and spent in Europe.”

As to Mr. Hill’s first indignation, the gentleman is unlucky in his illustration. He illustrates his point with railroad taxation. “What would the average citizen say,” he exclaims indignantly, “to an income tax of 32 per cent. on his yearly earnings!”—What the average citizen not would but does say, and thinks even if he does not say it, is: “Give me the millions income of a railroad, and I shall not begrudge the Government a 32 per cent. tax on my income, wherewith to keep the wheels of the political force machine in running order to protect me in squeezing out of Labor the full 100 per cent., and in keeping the 68 per cent. left to me after the tax is collected.”

As to Mr. Hill’s second indignation, the gentleman is not exactly unlucky, he is rather dull. For instance, he says: “A thousand persons sailed from New York in a single day this week for Europe. If each spends \$1,000 while abroad there is \$1,000,000 gone out of the country.” Of course, and legitimately so. American capitalism looks at America exactly in the light that the Southern slave holder of old looked at his plantation. He kept a house there, to be sure; to be sure, he stopped at that house occasionally, and entertained grandly. But his heart lay in Europe, with New York as a way station. In these two places, especially the former, he “lived”—there he really spent his money. That was the purpose of his Southern plantation. Such a plantation the whole country has become to our “Rich.” It is a place to make the money in. No sheep yield so rich a clip as the sheep of the American proletariat. Such a sheep “plantation” America is. How silly on the part of

James J. Hill to wonder that millions are carried every year to Europe, and dumped there. It is a matter of course.

James J. Hill enjoys a reputation, in the West especially, for being a keen man. If he is, then his present double-indignation does him injustice.

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