

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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EMPIRE AND MURDER,

BY
C. H. NORMAN.

"I say that no man is good enough to govern another man
without that other man's consent."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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LONDON:
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY PRESS, LIMITED,
Trade Union and 48 hours,
37A AND 38, CLERKENWELL GREEN, E.C.

1906.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

In the pages of this pamphlet, we intend to give a few instances of the atrocities committed by the various nations in the course of their Empire building. We should be guilty of a ridiculous small-mindedness if we confined our attention to the oppressions of England and her colonies; we have, therefore, decided to quote, briefly, some instances of the misdeeds of foreign States in their dealings with the races over which they have endeavoured to extend their sway. Of course, it is impossible to deal with all the questions which arise in relation to Empires in the space of one pamphlet; our object has been to indicate one or two reasons why Socialists should resist the modern "Imperial" ideal.

In passing the proofs of this pamphlet, it has occurred to us that some of our expressions may be interpreted as minimising the efforts of some earnest opponents of Imperialism. While we urge strongly that Toryism and Liberalism in this country must, logically, develop into some sort of "Imperialism," we do not deny that many Liberals, and a few Tories have done good work in opposing the aggressions demanded by Imperialism. As instances, on the Liberal side we may point to Mr. John M. Robertson, who has strenuously fought against Militarism and Imperialism for many years; while on the Tory side, the unwearied campaign of Mr. Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, on behalf of Egypt and other States, has always commanded our sincere admiration. Lastly, it is only just to add that the Liberal Press, with a few exceptions, has consistently attacked Imperialist expansion—notably "The Speaker," "The Star," and "The Daily News."

This pamphlet is an amplification of an article entitled "Empire and Murder," which appeared in the May number of the "Social-Democrat."

C. H. NORMAN.

4, Hyde Park Mansions, N.W.
June, 1906.



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EMPIRE AND MURDER.

"I say that no man is good enough to govern another man without that other man's consent."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Of the many obstacles to the spread of Socialism, there is none more difficult to surmount, perhaps, than the strange idea that an Empire is essential to a nation's welfare or success. Without discussing the broad proposition whether an Empire is helpful to the nation which pieces it together, we contend that Socialists should oppose the creation of Empires on this simple ground—that Empire-building is accompanied by terrible misery and suffering for those subject races, as they are called, which are the chosen victims sacrificed on the altar of national cupidity and pride. History tells us how these wretched subject peoples have their life-blood sucked from them by the vampires which always fasten on the helpless and the weak—witness India! Lord Macaulay, in his essay on Warren Hastings, has shown us in a sentence how lucrative the profession of Empire-making is: "There was an interval between the time at which they (the Bengalees) became our subjects, and the time at which we began to reflect that we were bound to discharge towards them the duties of rulers. During that interval the business of a servant of the company was simply to wring out of the natives a hundred or two hundred thousand pounds as speedily as possible, that he might return home, before his constitution had suffered from the heat, to marry a peer's daughter, to buy rotten boroughs in Cornwall, and to give balls in St. James's Square." For a period of nearly 150 years, Englishmen have been the leeches of India, and there has been much blood-letting, can we wonder, then, at the poverty of India?

When we are asked why are we Socialists, we invariably reply: Because we object to the starvation of the people's bodies and souls which the other accepted political creeds of the day appear to involve. It is apparent to us that neither Liberalism, nor Toryism, nor Republicanism has prevented the slow starvation and industrial torture of the unhappy nations who have hitherto pinned their faith to those political theories, which, having been tried, have been found wanting in almost every essential requisite for the happiness of the people of this world. It may be that Socialism will, in its turn, fail in finding a remedy for the present discontents. Until Socialism has been given an opportunity of applying its salves to the gaping wounds which so weaken and impair the vitality of the working classes, even our bitterest opponents must admit that a condemnation of its principles cannot carry much weight; in other words, the strength of the Socialist case lies in the fact that its efficacy has not been tested. The Sweating Exhibition at the Queen's Hall, Chinese Labour in South Africa, and the Tinned Meat horrors of the U.S., are fitting monuments to the skill of the Liberal, Tory, and Republican fashioners of society.

Imperialists of to-day, frankly rely on the doctrine that "Might