

RED RUBBER

The story of the Rubber Slave Trade
which flourished on the Congo
for twenty years, 1890-1910.

By

E. D. MOREL

ORIGINAL PUBLICATION.

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| FIRST EDITION | - - | NOVEMBER, 1906 |
| SECOND EDITION | - - | JANUARY, 1907 |
| THIRD EDITION | - - | APRIL, 1907 |
| | SECOND IMPRESSION | } 1907-1909 |
| | THIRD .. | |
| | FOURTH .. | |

NEW AND REVISED EDITION

(With a Frontispiece)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| FIRST PUBLISHED | - - - - | 1919 |
| SECOND IMPRESSION | - - | JANUARY, 1920 |

Books by the same Author: "Affairs of West Africa"; "The British Case in French Congo"; "King Leopold's Rule in Africa"; "Great Britain and the Congo"; "Nigeria: its Peoples and its Problems"; "Morocco in Diplomacy" (Reprinted in 1915 under the title of "Ten Years of Secret Diplomacy"); "Truth and the War"; "Africa and the Peace of Europe"; "The Black Man's Burden" (ready shortly).

THE NATIONAL LABOUR PRESS, LTD.,

30, Blackfriars Street, Manchester;

8 & 9, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street London, E.C. 4.

RED RUBBER

“The standard of emancipation is now unfurled.
Let all the enemies of the persecuted blacks tremble
I will be as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice.
I am in earnest ;
I will not equivocate ,
I will not excuse ;
I will not retreat a single inch :
And I will be heard.
Posterity will bear testimony that I was right.”

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON



MAPS

MAP OF EUROPE SHOWING, IN RED, THE PROPORTIONATE
AREA COVERED BY THE CONGO RIVER AND ITS
AFFLUENTS *Facing Page 1.*

MAP SHOWING REVENUE DIVISIONS OF THE "CONGO FREE
STATE" *Facing Page 119.*

DEDICATION TO THE NEW AND REVISED
EDITION.

TO
WINIFRID L. RICHARDSON,
SOMETIME HON. SECRETARY OF THE
DEVONSHIRE BRANCH
OF THE CONGO REFORM ASSOCIATION.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

IN the past four years there has been a steady demand for a new edition of "Red Rubber," provoked in part no doubt by the attacks upon the Author for having—in conjunction with other public men—anticipated the constructive Peace programme of President Wilson by a couple of years; and for having, in his individual capacity, enunciated views as to the fundamental causes of the Great War of 1914-1918 which are now very widely held.

Apart from this personal aspect of the case, the terrible catastrophe which fell upon Belgium, following so swiftly in the wake of the prolonged effort—in which a number of Belgians played a prominent and distinguished part—to free the Congo from the far more appalling visitations inflicted upon its people for twenty years, was a dramatic historical episode calculated powerfully to affect the imagination, and to revive interest in the Congo tragedy.

* * * * *

It is now possible for me to comply with this demand and to complete a story unique in contemporary annals, the final incidents of which had still to be evolved when "Red Rubber" made its appearance.

I desire to add here the briefest of personal allusions. As everyone acquainted with the modern history of Africa is aware, it was not I, but the late Sir Charles Dilke,¹

¹Gwynn and Tuckwell's "Life of Sir Charles W. Dilke" may be usefully consulted. Vol. II., chapter liii. (John Murray.)

AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO NEW EDITION

than whom aboriginal races have had no warmer or so competent an advocate among British statesmen since Burke, and the late Mr. H. R. Fox-Bourne, the devoted Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society, who first called public attention to the crime of the Congo.

Some years after these initial steps had been taken and had failed to cause more than a momentary sensation, accident put me in the way of discovering what the so-called "Congo Free State" really was. The discovery was of such an extraordinary and unprecedented character that it was only after laborious investigation and after applying every measure then open to me of testing the accuracy of the facts I had acquired, that I ventured to launch the charges which in the course of the ensuing twelve years were so fully corroborated.

During the prolonged struggle which followed, it fell to my lot, as Hon. Secretary of the Congo Reform Association, to lead an agitation which eventually received the support of every section of the community, and the official endorsement of the Governments of Britain and of the United States. The agitation was finally successful in accomplishing its objects. When the purpose for which the Congo Reform Association was formed had been achieved, the Association voluntarily dissolved. This event took place on June 16, 1913. Since that date I have had nothing to do with the affairs of the Congo.

King's Langley,
1919.

ORIGINAL DEDICATION

TO
THE BRITISH PUBLIC
THIS BOOK IS
RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED

AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL PREFACE

THIS book is written with the object of putting into the hands of the British public, at a cost which places it within the reach of many, a brief and up-to-date narrative of the Congo tragedy, avoiding side issues, and dealing with the main features of the story.

Much of it will be new to all save those who have followed the Congo question as students, and even as regards the latter it is hoped that the cumulative force of recent revelations here presented in their natural sequence may lead to an even clearer perception of the problem.

A crisis in this history has arrived.

The Report of the Commission of Inquiry, wrung from King Leopold by the pressure of British public opinion, Professor Cattier's volume, and the five days' debate on these two publications which took place last February in the Belgian House of Representatives,¹ have removed the last doubts which remained as to the accuracy of the charges publicly brought against the personal, uncontrolled, and unfettered management of the Congo territories by King Leopold.

Contention as to facts has disappeared. The controversial stage has, in that respect, gone for ever.

The truth, in all its international dangers, its greed, its

¹ Translated by E. D. Morel. Published by the Congo Reform Association, price 1s.

AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL PREFACE

disordered ambitions, above everything in its horror, stands out naked.

Will the British Public, which in the ultimate resort has compelled exposure of a crime unparalleled in the annals of the world, compel the cessation of that crime?

It has the driving force to do so if it will.

E. D. MOREL.

HAWARDEN, *October*, 1906.

SOME NEWSPAPER REVIEWS

If there are any who are not yet believers in the reality of the Congo Government's misdeeds, Mr. Morel's new book may be recommended as a certain means of conviction. To the author more than to any man alive is due the ventilation of this crime against civilisation. He has fought a long uphill battle against apathy, misrepresentation and the power of an unscrupulous purse. And he has been successful. He has made Congo Reform a part of the sworn creed of many of our chief public men.—*The Spectator*.

It is an eloquent book and a ghastly book. It is one of the most tremendous indictments ever drawn up. It is one of the most lofty and impassioned appeals ever yet written for the salvation of a human race.—*The Labour Leader*.

It can safely be asserted that never in history has there been more fiendish cruelty, and the comparison with the declarations of the Powers when they first recognised the Congo flag, justifies all that Mr. Morel has here written. Mr. Morel's gallantry in flinging himself into the fight will never be forgotten so long as history records the iniquities of the Congo State.—SIR CHARLES DILKE in the *Evening News*.

Mr. Morel understands clearly the difficult position in which Belgium finds herself in her relations with the Congo State. Annexation by Belgium appears to him the best solution because, as he says, it would free Belgium from an intolerable moral situation.—*Le Peuple* (Brussels).

The Story of the Congo, one of the most complicated and astonishing of modern times, is told by Mr. Morel with a force and sincerity which can scarcely fail to impress all who are anxious to appreciate the elements of the present situation. Mr. Morel's personal enthusiasm in unveiling the inner workings of the Congo question has already been rewarded by an almost unparalleled expression of feeling in all classes in this country.—*Morning Post*.

An indictment prodigious in its scope because of the scrupulous care in which dates, names and localities are given for the crimes recorded.—*Journal de Genève* (Geneva).

Mr. Morel, unlike the Congo Government, publishes not only the conclusions to which his inquiry has led him, but also the evidence upon which they are based. He quotes all his authorities, and he gives chapter and verse for all his statements.—*The Times*.

The most appalling indictment of personal rapacity, cruelty, expropriation of life and labour, maladministration and tyrannical atrocity ever recorded on irrefutable proof against any one man in any country or in any age. Contention as to facts has disappeared. The truth in all its international dangers—the horror of it all—stands out naked.—*Daily Mail*.

SOME NEWSPAPER REVIEWS

The author gives us a mass of carefully-sifted facts, and the book constitutes a tremendously strong indictment of the system prevailing.—*Westminster Gazette*.

A terrible exposure of inhuman oppression and ghastly crime.—*Globe*.

"Red Rubber" places every reader in possession of the whole case. Every line of it is irrefragably buttressed.—*Liverpool Daily Post*.

Every fact in this volume has been placed beyond dispute by official investigation, and will thrill every human soul with horror and indignation.—*Lloyd's Newspaper*.

Rubber black with promises broken before the Powers of Europe and the United States, rubber red with blood, rubber which should stink in the nostrils of the Englishmen who—to their shame—grow fat on the profits of shipping it home.—*Daily Chronicle*.

The detailed story of a grim tragedy.—*Northern Daily Telegraph*.

For years past Mr. Morel has been forcing this matter upon public attention, and in this book he summarises the whole awful story.—*Yorkshire Weekly Post*.

An impassioned and unanswerable indictment.—*Daily Express*.

The record of a stupendous crime against humanity.—*The Inquirer*.

We trust this book will succeed in rousing through all England the deep indignation that every page in it stirs up.—*Morning Leader*.

Seldom has a more terrible indictment been made against a Sovereign and a policy.—*North Mail*.

Among the most terrible—the most horrible—human and historical documents which have ever seen the light of day.—*Daily Mirror*.

Never has a crusade against man's inhumanity to man more loudly called for support.—*Yorkshire Post*.

This is a terrible indictment, but the proofs which Mr. Morel here collects are painfully convincing.—*Glasgow News*.

It is a story which should make every Christian hang his head for shame, and every European blush for our common humanity.—*Justice*.

This is a story which should burn its way to the heart and conscience of the whole British nation, and cause such an irresistible wave of feeling to arise as shall once and for all put a stop to this awful business.—*Free Church Chronicle*.

No such indictment, probably, has ever been made against a monarch.—*Church Times*.

This is a book written by a strong man for strong men to act upon.—*Regions Beyond*.

The story owes nothing to word painting. It is a grim, bare record of facts—facts that are all the more startling and impressive because they are set forth absolutely unadorned.—*British Congregationalist*.

We have been alternately stirred and sickened by the terrible revelations contained in Mr. Morel's volume.—*Methodist Times*.

The fact that Mr. Morel writes from Hawarden reminds us of the great name and voice always raised against crushed humanity,

SOME NEWSPAPER REVIEWS

and it is to be hoped this book will help in freeing the Congo from the Belgian curse.—*Grimsby News*.

The courageous, faithful and persistent work of Mr. Morel for the natives of the Congo will not be forgotten.—*Concord*.

The striking sentence that ends the book voices the sentiments of every man and woman in the United Kingdom.—*Answers*.

By the production of "Red Rubber" Mr. Morel has laid all lovers of humanity under a great obligation.—*Primitive Methodist Leader*.

Many of the facts given by Mr. Morel are of such a description that we dare not reproduce them for general reading.—*Manchester City News*.

The publication of "Red Rubber" by E. D. Morel marks an epoch in the history of the terrible atrocities which for thirteen years have been perpetrated in Central Africa. Mr. Morel has laboured for six years to secure and to sift the evidence concerning well-nigh unbelievable barbarities, and to bring that evidence before responsible persons and Governments.—*Manchester Daily Dispatch*.

Mr. Morel wisely sees that the unutterable tortures and miseries of the natives are not the first point of attack. He has looked deeper, and from the first has endeavoured to show that "given certain premises—the repudiation of native rights in the land and in the produce of the soil, and the destruction of trade as the basic factor in relationship between the European and the native in tropical Africa, of which this repudiation was the logical accompaniment—these deeds must of necessity take place." The last words deserve to be inwardly digested by all humanitarians.—*The New Age*.

"Red Rubber" condenses much of the valuable material Mr. Morel has given in his three larger books and voluminous writings. The book has been written in hours stolen from sleep and recreation and in the midst of vast correspondence and literary work. He is graphic, direct and simple in style, and the book abounds in passages of deep feeling and eloquent utterance.—*Christian Endeavour Times*.

Mr. Morel's indictment is not a hysterical one. He formulates his charges and then brings forward evidence which sustains them.—*Northern Whig*.

This is a tremendous book.—*The Christian Commonwealth*.

With deadly details, remorseless logic and flaming scorn Mr. Morel endeavours to awaken the British people to the sense of their responsibility.—*Christian World*.

The story of the iniquities perpetrated upon the Congo natives is told in all its horror in "Red Rubber" by Mr. Morel, who has so long and so courageously stood out as the champion of humanity against this vile oppression.—*Bristol Times*.

A damning indictment of King Leopold and his subordinates.—*Nottingham Express*.

Mr. E. D. Morel's volume will come as a revelation of things that had been deemed impossible.—*The People*.

Surely the issue of such a book as this must strike the death-knell of one of the most portentous abominations of iniquity the world has ever known.—*Baptist Times*.

SOME PUBLISHED OPINIONS

I have read most things published in English on the Congo, but I know of nothing, not even your own other publications, which tells the horrible way in which the Congo has been governed by King Leopold so effectively as "Red Rubber." If it could be put in the hands of every man and woman in the country possessed of the tiniest particle of humane feeling it would have such an effect that Great Britain would be bound to recognise its responsibility for what is going on, and would be compelled to take some action to make itself clean.—Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

No more powerful means of rousing the conscience of this country to demand the reform of unspeakable wrongs could be found than the circulation of this volume.—Dr. J. SCOTT LIDGETT.

It is just the book to convince English people that the righteous indignation which is growing in this country at the oppression and tyranny exercised in the Congo State, which England helped to erect, is not "without cause."—BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

I regard this book as a most valuable contribution to the problem of the Congo.—Sir T. FOWELL BUXTON (the late).

All men should read it through, for it gives clearly and distinctly—chapter and verse—witness for every atrocious act, and brings home the special responsibility which rests upon Great Britain.—BISHOP OF LONDON.

The story it contains will light the flame of indignation in every heart that cares for the well-being of humanity, irrespective of race and colour, and its widespread circulation cannot fail to stir up public feeling in such a way as to press upon the Government the need of immediate and resolute action.—Sir GEORGE WHITE (the late).

This is a positive marvel. I shall be exceedingly surprised if it does not make the greatest stir of anything you have written. What strikes me most is the crushingly convincing manner of the compilation. My feeling is that it is the *coup de grace*.—Mr. JOHN H. HARRIS.

"Red Rubber" is sane, strong, masterly in its marshalling of facts, figures and arguments, and throbbing with noble emotion. Buy it, read it, circulate it!—Rev. F. B. MEYER.

It will further the great cause immensely.—Dr. CLIFFORD.

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