

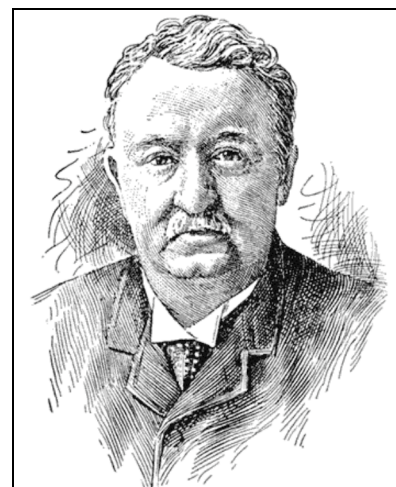
EDITORIAL

CECIL RHODES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IF, as reported, the vast fortune of Cecil Rhodes is to be devoted to the organization of a tremendous educational system to instil into the minds of all members of the British Empire the idea of imperialism, there will be accomplished, out of the wreck of Cecil Rhodes' aspirations, at least a portion of the great work to which he set himself.

Cecil Rhodes was undoubtedly the most massive capitalistic mind of the last century. He saw the growth of his own empire. He saw and appreciated the material basis of that growth. He was rich, he desired further wealth, and, always with an eye upon his own promotion, with vistas of Vice-royalty rising before him, he forwarded the stupendous plan of a greater and increasingly greater British Empire. Rhodes dreamed of making the whole of South Africa a colony of that one little island in the North Sea. He dreamed of uniting it firmly into a vast reserve from which men and money should flow to make England richer and more powerful—with Cecil Rhodes, or the Rhodes dynasty as a modern Warwick.



CECIL RHODES (1853–1902)

Accordingly, Cecil Rhodes was the typical imperialist; and he stuck consistently to his ideal. When he practically involved his own nation in a war that has cost millions of money and tens of thousands of men, he saw and felt but one thing, and that was that the realization of his aspirations was prevented by the existence of the Transvaal (so-called) Republic. This Republic stood in his way. Rhodes bent all his energies to crush it.

Perhaps the Republic is crushed; perhaps it is not. Relatively and absolutely,

the Transvaal is to-day stronger than the remnant of the Netherlands that continued to withstand the Spanish empire in 1572 and finally wrested its independence. But whether the Republic is crushed or not, and even in sight of the manifest failure of the bulk of Rhodes' stupendous plans, now that grief and disappointment prematurely carried him off, his money is to be used to inculcate and realize the schemes on which he spent his life.

The lives of Kaffirs, Boers, Englishmen; the lives of untold thousands and hundreds of thousands go to cement the plan—but it is all empire building.

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