

Mac Easmainn i Meiriceá Theas

Casement in South America



Ins na 1850dí d'aithin an Bhreatain acmhainneacht eacnamaíoch an rubair fhiáin a bhí le fáil ó fhoraois bháistí na hAmasóine. Bhí caipiteal na Breataine agus Mheiriceá Theas infheistithe sa cheantar. Bhí cuideachta rubair amháin darbh ainm an Peruvian Amazon Company (PAC) cláraithe i Londain. Bhí sí faoi úinéireacht Pheiriúigh, Julio César Arana. Bhí smacht aige ar an bpobal dúchasach sclábhaithe, ag baint úsáide as maoirseoirí a tógadh isteach ó Bharbadós. Cuireadh Mac Easmainn ar post sa Bhrasaíl i 1906 mar Chonsal. Sa bhliain 1910 chuaigh sé go dtí an ceantar Putumayo mar chuid de choimisiún chun na hainghníomhartha a rinne an PAC a imscrúdú. Fuair Mac Easmainn cuid mhaith dá chuid fianaise ó fhir ó Bharbadós.

In the 1850s Britain realised the economic potential of the wild rubber obtainable from the Amazon rain forest. British and South American capital was invested in the area. One rubber company called the Peruvian Amazon Company (PAC) was registered in London. It was owned by a Peruvian, Julio César Arana. He controlled the enslaved indigenous population using overseers brought in from Barbados. Casement was posted to Brazil in 1906 as Consul. In 1910 he went to the Putumayo area as part of a commission to investigate atrocities being carried out by the PAC. Much of Casement's evidence was obtained from the men from Barbados.

D'aimsigh Mac Easmainn córas sclábháíochta dintiúir agus gnéasach agus caitheamh níos measa fós leis an daonra dúchasach ná a bhí feicthe aige sa Chongó. Bhí thart ar 40,000 duine dúchasach díothaithe sa réigiún Putumayo amháin trí dhúmharú, chiorrú agus ghorta d'aon ghnó. Foilsíodh a chuid cinní i 1912 agus bhí uafás ar fud an domhain fúthu. Leachtaigh Arana an PAC agus d'éalaigh an chuid ba mhó de dhéantóirí na gcoireanna go dtí tíortha comharsanacha. Ainneoin a bheith saor ó mhallacht an rubair, lean an dúshaothrú ar aghaidh i roinnt áiteanna trí eastóscadh tráchtearraí eile mar adhmaid agus ola.

Casement found a system of indentured and sexual slavery and even worse treatment of the indigenous population than he had seen in the Congo. Through murder, mutilation and deliberate starvation around 40,000 indigenous people had been exterminated in the Putumayo region alone. His findings were published in 1912 and caused global outrage. The PAC was liquidated by Arana and most of the perpetrators of the atrocities escaped to neighbouring countries. Although freed from the curse of rubber, exploitation continued in some places through the extraction of other commodities such as wood and oil.



Ruairí Mac Easmainn ag La Chorrera (féach ar an léarscáil) le Juan A. Tizon ó Peruvian Amazon Company (iomhá le cainchead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)

Roger Casement at La Chorrera (see map) with Juan A. Tizon of the Peruvian Amazon Company (image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



Piosa criadóireachta eachaíochta, Stát Pará, an Bhrasaíl (© Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann)

Pattery equestrian piece, State of Pará, Brazil (© National Museum of Ireland)



Triúr bailitheoir rubair agus maoirseoir ó Barbados, réigiún Abhann Putumayo (iomhá le cainchead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)

Three rubber collectors and an overseer from Barbados, Putumayo River Region (image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



Buachaill ag iompar ciseáin rubair, réigiún Abhann Putumayo (iomhá le cainchead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann)

A boy carrying a rubber basket, Putumayo River region (image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)

