

**THE PUTUMAYO RED BOOK.  
CONTAINING PROPOSALS FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES  
AND THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE PUTUMAYO REGIONS UNDER AN  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD**

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The Putumayo red book. Containing proposals for the protection of the aborigines and the effective administration of the putumayo regions under an international board by Norman Thomson

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**NORMAN THOMSON**

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## PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.

### THE PUTUMAYO QUESTION.

THE Publishers of "THE PUTUMAYO RED BOOK" beg to announce that they have now published a White Paper which MR. NORMAN THOMSON has been commissioned by the Colombian Government to prepare, in reply to the defence of the Peruvian Government in respect of the Putumayo territory as it appeared in the advertisement pages of *The Times South American Supplement*, on July 29th last. In view of the proposals for the formation of an International Board for the Protection of the Aborigines and the effective administration of the Putumayo Regions, its contents will be found invaluable to students of South American affairs.

Applications for copies, which will be forwarded post free, should be addressed to N. THOMSON & Co., 27, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

## PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

### THE PUTUMAYO RED BOOK

(FIRST EDITION)

#### SOME PRESS OPINIONS.

*Daily News and Leader.*—"Putumayo is not in Peru, but in Colombia. That is the outstanding fact in 'The Putumayo Red Book.'"

*Truth.*—"The book is indeed an indictment of Peru for her treatment of the indigenous inhabitants. Mr. Thomson . . . marshalls a strong body of evidence to show that the Peruvians are intruders into the district, which really belongs to Colombia. Undoubtedly if Colombia were in possession there would be a speedy end to the power of the Arana gang and that in itself would be a great step forward."

*Star.*—"The Colombian claim is well supported by evidence, in which, also, the Colombians figure humanely in their dealings with the Indians."

*Leicester Daily Post.*—"Shows that the territory is indisputably Colombian."

*Glasgow Herald.*—"Shows that the Republic (Colombia) has been deliberately outwitted and shabbily treated by its ambitious and unscrupulous neighbour Peru. In effect, a concise and luminous summary and argument."

*Daily Herald.*—"It is barefaced robbery, for up to the end of last century the regions in dispute were part of the Colombian Republic. It is a ghastly record of massacre, mutilation, slavery, and gigantic robbery. This little book is full of important facts and deserves a large circulation."

*Northern Whig.*—"Apparently the writer of this little volume thinks that the solution of all difficulties lies in proving the territorial rights of Colombia."

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Brief as the contents are a good case is made out. Excellently summarised . . . there could be scarcely anything more informative."

*Financial Critic.*—"The Putumayo Red Book" offers a constructive scheme by proving that the territory is Colombian, and not Peruvian."

*The Times.*—"The book itself, which is admirably written and arranged, is in part a restatement of the horrible scandal which is now so notorious; it breaks new ground, however, in its clear *exposé* of the diplomatic issues involved, a knowledge of which is essential to all those—and they are many—who have made up their minds that this monstrous reign of cruelty and injustice shall cease. It has, then, a special value as giving to the public, in a cheap and readable form, a statement not only of the goal to be aimed at, but of a definite way by which that goal may be attained. This will, it is to be hoped, do something to remove that natural sense of helplessness which prevents many people of good will from joining in the demand for action because they know from long experience that such a demand, if it be no more than the outcry of uninstructed sentiment, is doomed to end in mere empty demonstrations. . . . He (Mr. Thomson) certainly seems to prove that the Colombian system in dealing with the aboriginal races has been infinitely superior to that of Peru. To those who are inclined to regard all Latin-Americans as cruel fiends in their relation to the races they have conquered we recommend especially the account given in Chapter III. of the journey of a French missionary priest through the Putumayo region in 1895. The almost idyllic picture of the country and people here given heightens the horror of the atrocities, an account of which is given later on."

Leading article in *The Times South American Supplement.*—"It is this contested ownership which

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has tended to produce in this stricken region the horrible conditions which have attracted the attention of the civilised world. To interest the British public in a boundary dispute between remote States whose very relative position on the map is unknown to the average Englishman may be no easy matter; but to those who have studied the problem of the Putumayo there can be no question of the importance of this aspect of it. This is well brought out by Mr. Thomson in 'The Putumayo Red Book,' of which we print a notice elsewhere. It is an aspect that must be studied by all those who, having the cause of the oppressed Indians at heart, are not content to be carried by their emotions in pursuit of 'wandering fires,' but are anxious that whatever popular agitation may arise should be directed to some practical end."

*Edinburgh Evening News*.—"Interesting reading."

Leading article in *The Glasgow Evening News*.—"A most informative volume . . . that deserves widespread attention."

Leading article in *The East Anglian Daily Times*.—"A remarkable and impressive little book."

*The Investor's Summary*.—"A remarkable book."

*Daily Citizen*.—"A useful supplement to the . . . Blue Book."

*The Investor's Chronicle*.—"Contains the gist of the whole story."

*The Academy*.—"A bold, frank and trenchant indictment of the state of affairs in the Putumayo. . . . A fearless document such as this cannot fail to do good."

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# THE PUTUMAYO RED BOOK

(SECOND EDITION)

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BY

NORMAN THOMSON

*Illustrated with Four Maps.*

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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

THE publication of a second edition of this small volume, in view of the proposals contained in it for the future government of the Putumayo territory, is a circumstance of more than passing or academic interest. To bring a region occupying roughly 200,000 square miles and lying in the heart of the South American continent under the responsible administrative control of an International Board or Commission would be an event of some consequence. There are, however, other factors that go to make this proposal of vital interest to the civilised world. Nearly eighteen months ago the public mind in this country was keenly aroused by the revelations of the Blue Book, and popular indignation demanded immediate action to safeguard the unfortunate aborigines against a recurrence of the crimes; but no effective measures have been taken to prevent their continuance. The formation of an International Board for the protection of the Indians and the administration of the Putumayo is the first step in this direction.