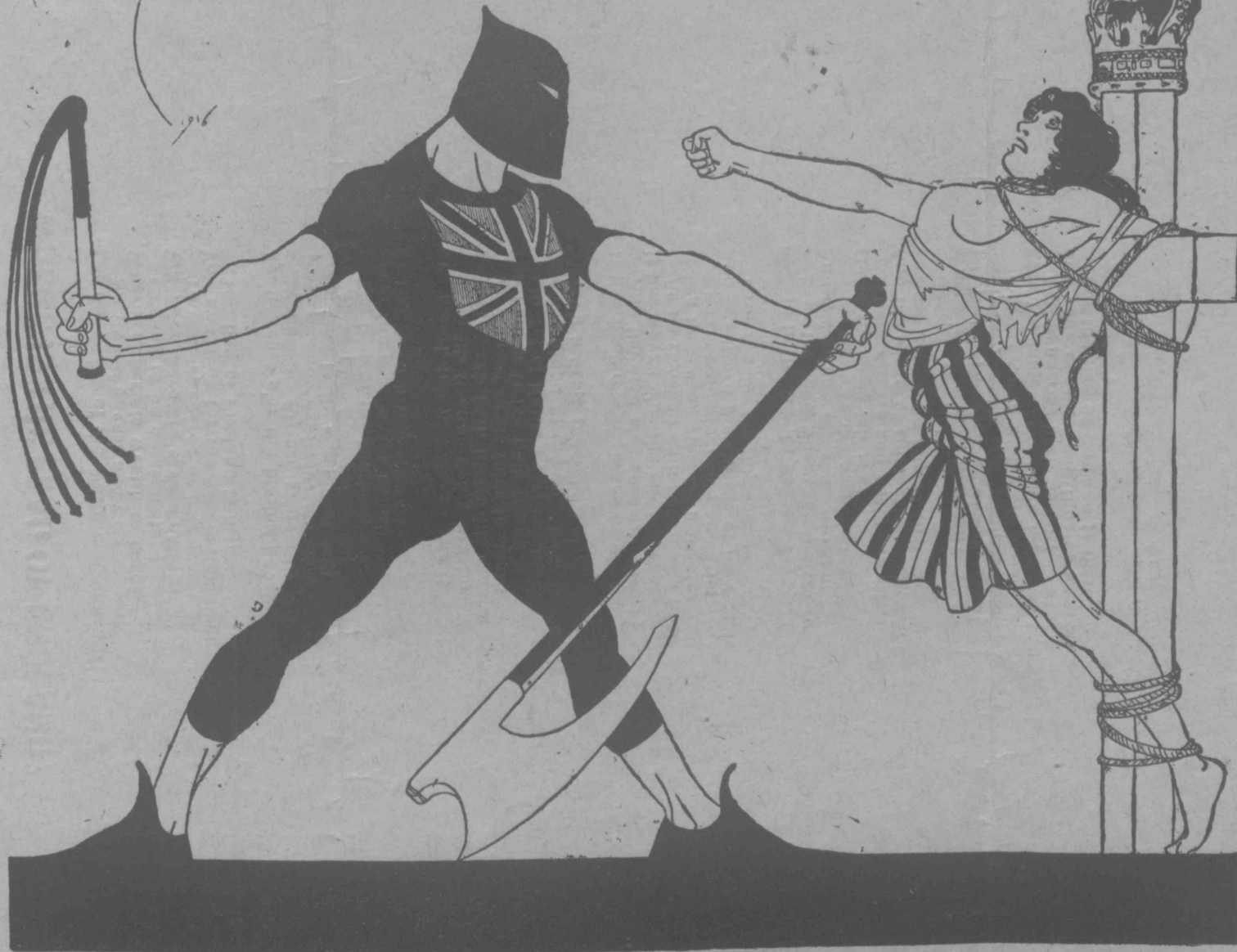


A. III. CAY

THE PATH OF THE HANGMAN.



John Bull, the Beast-of-Prey-That-Walks-Like-a-Man, pursuing his path of Blood, Tears and Ruin across the world amidst the cries of agony and despair rising day and night from throttled Ireland, India, Egypt and the latest victims of his greed, falsehood and ferocity. (P. T. O.)

WHERE IS THE FLAG OF ENGLAND?

Let the winds of the world make answer!
North, south, east and west — —
Where'er there is wealth to covet
Or land to be possessed;
Where'er there are savage nations
To coddle, coerce or scare,
You may look for the vaunted emblem — —
The flag of England is there.

Ay, it waves o'er the blazing hovels
Whence its African victims fly
To be shot by explosive bullets,
Or wretchedly starve and die;
Or where the beachcomber harrows
The isles of the southern sea,
From the peak of his hellish vessel,
The English flag flies free.

The Maori, full of hate, spurns it
With his fleeting dying breath,
And the Arab hath hissed his curses
As he spat at its folds in death.
The hapless fellah hath feared it
On Tel el Kebir's parched plain,
And the blood of the Zulu hath stained it
With a deep, indelible stain.

It has floated o'er scenes of pillage
And flaunted o'er deeds of shame;
It has waved o'er the fell marauder
As he ravished with sword and flame
It has looked on ruthless slaughter
And assassination, dire and grim —
And has heard the shrieks of its victims
Drown even the Jingo hymn.

Where is the flag of England?
Seek the land where the natives rot
And decay, and assured extinction
Must soon be the people's lot.
Go to the once fair island
Where disease and death are rife,
And the greed of colossal commerce
Now fattens on human life.

Where is the flag of England?
Go sail where rich galleons come
With their shoddy and loaded cotton,
And beer, and Bibles and rum.
Seek the land where brute force has triumphed
And hypocrisy hath its lair,
And your question will thus be answered — —
For the flag of England is there.

*Henry Labouchère, in London "Truth"
during the Boer War.*