

Beat Back the Fascist Terror

By MARTIN ABERN.

THE latest assault of the Mussolini Fascist Terror against the Italian labor movement has resulted in sentencing 36 leaders of the workers to imprisonment for terms varying from two to fifteen years, with the additional imposition of heavy fines. The Special Military Defense Court, instituted recently by Monsieur Mussolini to speed up "Fascist justice" condemned these Italian Communist revolutionaries. The customary charges were levelled at the accused; namely: "conspiracy against the safety of the state, the fomentation of class hatred, sub-



Italian worker, Angelo Capanelli, before and after being blinded by Fascists.

version of the powers of the state and offense against Mussolini. Mussolini spits; the Italian worker bleed. To such heights of terrorism against the workers does Mussolini reach, that Fascists in other parts of the earth fairly burst with envy.

The 36 Communists were arrested in raids between September, 1925, and the summer of 1926 in Tuscany, where they are alleged to have organized "Red Cells" or nuclei which were formed it is charged, to support revolutionary activities.

The wave of bloody orgies and repressions by the Fascist government continues unabated against Communists, socialists, Maximalists and democrats. Hundreds assassinated, thousands wounded, tens of thousands arrested and thousands of these sentenc-

ed to long prison terms. The dimensions of the terror are almost incredible—Mussolini's regime puts the Neros and Borgias in the shade. Murder, arrests, tortures, long imprisonment, searches, destroying and burning of houses and buildings; depriving the opposition of their freedom of speech and movement; banishment and deportation to sparsely inhabited Mediterranean islands. Thus deals Mussolini with working class fighters or the slightest opposition.

The Fascist Reign of Blood has brought in its wake, too, the suppression of all political parties, the crushing of the trade unions and co-operatives, the smashing of the organized proletariat and all opposition. Over 1500 papers have been confiscated. More than 60 organizations have been disbanded. Between January and December, 1926, there were approximately 500 political trials in which more than 1200 persons were condemned to 689 years of imprisonment. There are close to 15,000 political prisoners confined in Italian dungeons. The entire Communist fraction in parliament, socialists, Maximalists and democrats have been deported to deserted Mediterranean islands. The 128 members of the opposition elected in 1924, despite fascist terror have had their parliamentary rights taken away. Even the "Red Aid," which tries to attain some legal protection for the persecuted workers, is outlawed.

The working class of the world, the peasantry, the intellectuals, all who yet hope for a civilized humanity, must protest vigorously against the fascist dictatorship and its slaughter of the oppressed of Italy. All must unite to crush the criminals and murderers of the Italian people. Material aid must be given to the prisoners, the children,

the families of the victims of Mussolini. Only solidarity and action on the part of the world's workers can halt the Fascist Terror.



Illegal Italian Communist papers issued after last attempt upon Mussolini (now proved fascist frame-up).

INTERNATIONAL RED AID CONFERENCE.

MOSCOW.—The Second International Conference of the International Red Aid was opened on March 24th in the Meyerhold Theater in Moscow. A presidium was elected which consisted of representatives of all sections and a presidium of honor was formed of the political prisoners of various countries, among them Lanzuski, Taraskiewicz, Rakosi, Buzor, Sacco and Vanzetti.

Clara Zetkin and Henri Barbusse, were prevented from coming by illness and wrote letters of encouragement to the conference. Com. Katayama conveyed the greetings of the Comintern, Comrade Knorin welcomed the conference in the name of the C. C. of the C. P. of the Soviet Union, Comrade Braginski spoke in the name of the E. C. of the R. I. L. U.