

# Gramsci's Life Must Be Saved!

## HEROIC FIGHTER AGAINST ITALIAN FASCISM

By F. BROWN.

Towards the end of September, 1926, the fascist government of Italy, already stained with the blood of many murders, secretly prepared the last coup for the ruthless suppression of the different parties in opposition and of the still remaining parliamentary opposition. The deputies of the opposition were arrested even before the publication of the infamous decree that prohibited the political parties that were in opposition to fascism. An act so monstrous even from the bourgeois legal viewpoint—repeated eight years later by Hitler—but an act which the bourgeoisie does not hesitate to carry through when its profits, its very existence, is in danger.

Most of the Communist deputies, constituting the only real opposition, representing the irreconcilable stand of the Italian proletariat to fascism were arrested in Rome and other cities. All over Italy through a new wave of terror, the combined forces of the fascist militia and police were murdering and throwing into jail hundreds of leaders of the Party, thousands of the best fighters of the Italian proletariat.

### Irreconcilable Fighter Against the Fascist Dictatorship.

Among the arrested whose every step had been shadowed for days and days by the fascist stool pigeons, was the leader of the Communist Party of Italy, leader of the Communist parliamentary fraction, who openly defied fascism, the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, daily on the parliamentary tribune: **Antonio Gramsci.**

Fascism did not dare to murder Gramsci, Terracini, Licausi and other outstanding leaders of the party widely known to the Italian masses and to the revolutionary workers all over the world. It was too dangerous. Mass indignation against the many assassinations of prominent oppositionists was still too strong. Fascism condemned them to a slow and torturous death in the medieval prisons of Italy or on the desert islands infested with malaria.

But the revolutionary spirit of our racini and others are still alive. Their physical sufferings. Gramsci, Terracini and others are still live. Their lives, however, are slowly flickering out! Tuberculosis, nurtured by the barbarous conditions under which the prisoners are kept, is slowly eating their lives away. A few weeks ago the news also reached the American proletariat through Paris: **Gramsci is dying!** This is a call that has to be answered by the proletariat. Gramsci, Terracini, victims of Italian fascism already in jail for seven

years, as well as Thaelmann, Dimitroff and other leaders of the German proletariat now captives of German fascism must be saved!

### His Action Is the Action of a Real Leader.

On June 4, 1928, the prosecuting attorney at the trial of the leaders of the Communist Party of Italy in his speech for the state declared:

It is Gramsci that led with his hand the Party in 1926, after having defeated the opposition led by engineer Bordiga at the Lyons congress. It is Gramsci who is the spirit of the entire movement, it is he who showed the path that the Party shall follow. The political past of Gramsci indicates that he is the outstanding and most beloved leader of the masses. In reality he predominated during the occupation of the factories by the proletariat of Piedmonte. His action is the action of a real leader of the Party."

Yes, it was Gramsci who showed the Leninist path to be followed by the Italian proletariat if it is to be emancipated from capitalism. The enemy was well informed about his position in the party and in the ranks of the Italian working class. Gramsci the leader, the spirit of the Italian proletarian revolution, sick of tuberculosis, was condemned to a slow death by the sentence of 24 years imposed on him.

Gramsci, the leader of the Communist Party of Italy who laid the foundation of the Party, whose Leninist analysis of the class forces in Italy and whose strategy of the Italian revolution, made in 1924, still holds good today, must be saved for the Italian revolution, for the international proletarian struggle against capitalism.

Forward to a mighty protest which will force Italian fascism to free Gramsci.

Forward in the struggle for the freedom of the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in the jails of fascist Italy, Germany, Poland and the Balkans!

We must free them!

We must save them for the cause of the proletarian revolution!