

# Filippelli's Memorandum.

## MUSSOLINI INSTIGATOR OF MURDER OF MATTEOTTI.

To those who, from a sort of mental habit, are always on the side of the strongest, Mussolini is the ideal statesman and the Fascisti Government the best in the best of all worlds.

Of the real nature of Mussolini's régime much has been written, and it is now acknowledged by nearly all the Conservative Press of Europe, such as the *Times*, the *Temps*, *Figaro*, etc., that his régime is a tyranny which can be coupled with the military dictatorships of Primo de Rivera in Spain and Tsankoff in Bulgaria.

The real position at this moment of the Fascist movement in Italy has been described in a few paragraphs by a recent correspondent of the *Evening Standard*, in which mention is made, amongst other things, of the appearance almost daily of handbills giving details of the murder of the Deputy Matteotti, of the Moderate Socialist Party, and the "confessions" of Mussolini's associates.

We reproduce here the notes of the *Evening Standard's* correspondent, followed by a translation of one of the most sensational of the handbills in question, which was published recently by the *Tribune*, of New York, and *Humanité* and *Quotidien*, of Paris, in which Filippelli, the late editor of the Fascist paper, *Corriere Italiano*, now under arrest, says that Dumini murdered Matteotti by order of two of Mussolini's lieutenants (Rossi and Marinelli), who in their turn had received formal authority from the dictator Mussolini.

### What the "Evening Standard" Says.

"Almost daily secret handbills are making their appearance, this being the only way in which, with a muzzled Press and the withdrawal of the right of assembly, public opinion can be influenced. These handbills press for the Matteotti trial to be held,

give details of the murder, and add the 'confessions' of Mussolini's associates.

"Among them is one reproducing the pastoral letter of Cardinal Maffi, of Pisa, which was suppressed on publication, though some of the milder paragraphs in it were reprinted by the Vatican official organ. My correspondent estimates that eighty per cent. of the industrial workers are against Fascism, and that with them are the whole of the Liberal groups, many of which supported Mussolini until the Matteotti revelation, and many active elements of the Roman Catholic Church.

"To these is now beginning to be added a new element. This is what Americans call 'Big Business,' which, headed by the Milan and Turin manufacturers, were largely instrumental in installing Fascism, and have since financed it.

"Without the funds supplied by the manufacturers' associations Fascism would be unable to pay its private militia and maintain its extensive secret police system. With the fear of Bolshevism departed for the time, 'Big Business' appears less willing to saddle itself with the expense, and there are indications of readiness to revert to normal methods of government."

## FILIPPELLI'S MEMORANDUM.

### Mussolini Instigator of Murder.

"Dumini is well known to Mussolini, and before the march on Rome took the name of Bianchi in order to baffle Justice, with whom he had some accounts to settle.

"I have known him at the *Popolo d'Italia*, which is edited by Mussolini's brother. Not only was he the principal friend of Mussolini, but he was also connected with well-known personalities of the Government entourage.

"He was introduced to me by Cesare Rossi, editor of the Press of the Home Office Ministry; and I engaged him as inspector at the *Corriere Italiano*. As his work gave no good results, I put him on half-pay.

"He was very often at the Home Office, and it is said that it was he who made an attempt on the life of the Deputy Misuri; that he operated in France, and then assailed Signor Forni by superior orders.

"As I had several motor cars at my disposal at the *Corriere Italiano*, which the Fascisti of Rome used very often, on June 9, 1924, Dumini asked me to lend him one, which he declared was to be used for an old ex-soldier friend of his; and of course I lent it to him.

"On Tuesday, June 10, I went to Anzio and returned at night to the office, where I found Dumini calmly conversing with the sub-editor of the paper.

"He asked me to give him the address of a garage for the night; and added, on my questioning him, that he had received certain formal instructions from Mussolini and that he had executed them. I was alarmed, and Dumini begged me to keep silent.

"On the morrow, Wednesday, being very upset at the disappearance of Matteotti, I looked for Rossi, the editor, as I have said, of the Home Office Press.

"Rossi, on his part, was looking for me in order to tell me that Dumini had used the machine lent by me; that their business was very serious; that Mussolini knew all; that Rossi had given orders in full agreement with Mussolini; and that by all means the matter should be hushed up to prevent the overthrow of Mussolini.

"The same day I thought it advisable to inform Signor De Bono (the High Commissioner of Police), Signor Finzi (Under-Secretary, Home Office), and others.

"I learned from Signor Finzi that Matteotti had fallen the victim of Dumini; that the order for the murder emanated from the Fascisti Tcheka, a special body of secret police; that the material executor of the crime had had an interview with Mussolini; and that Mussolini had received Matteotti's Deputy's identity card as a proof of the execution of the murder.

"Signor Finzi entreated me to do my best that nothing should be discovered, as it was State business; that the regime

would go to pieces and Mussolini would risk his head if it were made public.

"What could I do? If I had spoken I would have compromised Mussolini.

"On Thursday night I went to Finzi's residence and told him I could not live under such a nightmare. He tried to ease my fears, and so did De Bono.

"The latter told me that he was about to destroy all traces of the murder, namely, the bloody garments Dumini was wearing when placed under arrest.

"On the demand of Dumini, although reluctantly, I consented to have the motor car withdrawn by my chauffeur from the garage where it was concealed.

"The remainder is known. **FILIPPELLI.**"

After the reader has perused the above document we feel sure that he will consider Mussolini's régime the best in the best of all worlds, and the Italians the happiest of people!