

News from Russia.

By D. IVON JONES.

In a letter from Aypka (Crimea), Comrade D. Ivon Jones writes that he is feeling much better, and may yet be of some use to the movement. "Thanks to the great generosity of the Russian comrades."

Referring to the Martial Law Commission's Report he comments on the amount of Communist propaganda which the Government has made free of charge, and hopes that the report will be well circulated. Continuing, he says: "The situation in Russia is steadily improving all round, although there is a certain amount of suffering in the Crimea and other parts. Moscow and Petrograd are now better off than Germany. The stability of the Soviet régime resembles that of a pyramid, broad-based. We are just celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Extraordinary Commission, now the Political Intelligence Department, and old Djerzhinsky still sits there. Lenin still Premier, Kalinin the same old Peasant President, Trotsky still at the head of the army, while in capitalist countries presidents topple over or are shot, and governments tumble in a night. The Proletarian Revolution has come to stand for stability, while the reaction has appropriated demagogic incendiarism. The New Economic Policy has been the salvation of the Revolution. The workers are again joining the Party. No more cataclysmic changes after the conquest of the Proletarian Dictatorship, but the slow, steady hand-over-hand work of reconstruction, a process of ripening into Communist society. The workers in the group of *amanturims*, of which this is one, are the least class-conscious in Russia, servants, nurses, etc., just being pandered to by Wrangel's White Guards. Last week one of their number committed an offence against orderly management, which the Doctor complained of. He could not dismiss her: It required a general meeting. The general meeting agreed, and only with its unanimous permission was the offender dismissed. These things are a matter of course, and are not so much appreciated by the non-class-conscious just now, when conditions are hard, but when there will be abundance again it will mean all the difference between capitalist and socialist society.

"(See, *en passant*, an interview with a delegate to the Soviet Congress from Ekaterinoslav. He repeats what seems to be a general phenomenon: 'The youth are with us.' Lenin has not yet appeared at the Congress. He is not his old self, I fancy. Kaméteff and one or two more are doing the detail work which he used to do. And this is right. Lenin is to bother only about large questions of policy. There never was god or king whose position was so unquestioned, universal, so identified with Russia. I saw an allusion to kiddies in the street making mud pies— one was 'Uncle Lenin.' To the workers in the factories he is 'our Hytch.' In quite a different category is Trotsky, also unquestioned in his sphere; one the Father, the other the great Champion—the Spartacus. I have just read an army order issued by him; every army order is a jewel of communist literature. It arraigns before the military tribunal certain Commandants for ill behaviour towards Red Army soldiers, and gives the whole army a lesson on what is meant by discipline in a Workers' Army. Orders must be given with respect, etc. Commandants are teachers, and command only by virtue of their superior wisdom.

"One can see from the 'Pravda' that the transition period is a continuation of the propaganda, agitation, etc., with eternal vigilance as the price of liberty. The Nepmen, as the traders are called, are continually trying to wrest advantages, economic and political, and have their agents in the Soviet institutions. A trader will go to the railway station first in the queue for an express and buy up all the places, then sell them to the rest of the queue at exorbitant rates. But of course this has been squashed, like many other abuses. It shows how desperate is the trading instinct among the petty bourgeois, especially when the big things are in the hands of the State and there is nothing left but to speculate.