Lenin's Death and After.

By D. Jvon Jones.

I wrote a few notes for "The International" a few days after Lenin's death, which I trust you received. Now a month has passed. But the pages of the "Pravda" and "Iskra" are filled with letters of the provinces, how they felt at the loss of their leader, and what is to be done now. One gets the impression that everybody from the foremost to the rank and file working people has explained his personal relations to Lenin, but his feelings towards Lenin, and all under a sense that it is all in vain, that this peculiarly intimate relation cannot be expressed, cannot be described.

How great a personality was this, when everybody, a whole nation leaned upon him as upon an everlasting rock, as the "tovarisch," whose friendship seemed to permeate a whole people. And yet he spread this all-pervading friendliness without seeking to. He was ever concerned about the nuts and screws of the machine of emancipation.

In the villages the death of Lenin produced an equally profound impression. Meetings of the mir were immediately called. The resolutions and questions are exceedingly scanty. For the peasant, the petty property owner, Lenin's death did not mean so much as for the worker the loss of a great "tovarisch" with whom they had fought the revolution and who had led them from victory to victory, and through all their sorrows and troubles, and whom they designate as his successor: "He did leave a will providing for the future conduct of affairs:" "Did he gather his disciples about him to give them his last advice?" The peasant, like the petty producer everywhere, is inclined to magnify the role of personality, not understanding that the great man himself, of course, gives more to the richer peasants, as the comrade's letter shows, who meanwhile fear that "the taxes on them will now be very heavy." Everything good came from Lenin, and everywhere the laws of还不是 impairment, but a cause that is on the eve of universal achievement.

I see that Chicherin has issued a communique dealing with a campaign of lies which broke out from the Riga and Helingscia lie factories, directed to the reputation of Russia by England. We were innocently ignorant of all these bloody statesmanlike: the Terry Press. People here, no matter how they simply smile. The Soviets Power was never so strong. What is the basis of it? The proletariat. And what better proof does one need than the rush of revolutionaries into the party.

The mists are lying smirking, the coinage is not put into circulation again. There is a small circulation in the spring. Money is a capitalist expedient. But under the dictatorship of the proletariat every step forward in capitalist efficiency becomes a step forward on the straitish to Socialism. We have put Socialism in the place of capitalist accumulation by way of the apparatus, state industries and the cooperatives.

I might mention one sign of the increased strength of the Soviets shown in the administration of the sanatoriums here in Yalta. Last year there was not a single Communist doctor. In the last four months, however, there have been two Communist doctors from Petrograd brought here during the life of this institute—the largest in Russia. Why is this? In Petrograd as in Moscow you hear, for example, calling you "tovarisch." They are for the Soviets. And within the last few months the great mass of the scientific professions have formally and in organizational form declared their allegiance to the Soviets. Hence Communist doctors can be spared for the outlying parts. New strength, new revolutionary energy everlastingly wells out from that fountain of revolutionary situation in Petrograd, that prophet and strategist Zinoviev declares that the number of metal workers employed in Leningrad has doubled within the last year and a half.

Another good step forward is proposed by the Central Control Committee of the party. The plan of last month proposes it means (it has to be done). I don't know if it has been sufficiently explained to you the new role of the Central Control Committee of the party. This committee formerly performed the function of a central and disciplined members for breaches of the constitution, etc. It was one of Lenin's last acts, so to speak, which proposed to increase the C.C.C. to 50 members, and to set it up with the Commissariat of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, reform this Commissariat from top to bottom, and by virtue of its close identity with the all-powerful C.C.C. give it power to interfere in the affairs of every State Department in the direction of greater economy, giving the state apparatus a people's control, destroying bureaucracy, making it approachable to every illiterate peasant and every worker, in short to make the state body an instrument of the people. This proposal was adopted by the 12th Congress of the party. The results of the proposal will be enormous, a mark in Soviet history, as the greatest achievement in the wheel of Nepeanism. The chairman of the C.C.C. is also ex-officio Commissary of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection. It has already done great work. Now the C.C.C. proposes to sharpen the class character of the penal laws. Compulsory labour as a punishment to be applied only to non-workers. With growing class antagonism there is the danger that classes of minor thieves by persons of the working class shall be tried by the factory committees to which the offenders belong, and these trials are then to be overruled by the courts, but by their revolutionary conscience they beg to reform the offender. That is in the case of first offences.

If my letter seems, alas, incipitantly optimistic, that is not because I wish to deceive you, but because the future is lovely. No! But what is unluckily is not significant of the trend of things—indeed it is only interesting to use as the vanguard of Communism. And one must write about those things which show that it is leading on to victory.

Yalta, February 24th, 1924.