

# THE FORUM

*Under this heading readers are invited to state their personal opinion upon any question of vital importance to the working class movement.*

## The "Workers' Life Page"

By D. IVON JONES

APROPOS OF COMRADE ROE- about 242 of these "worker corre-  
BUCK'S ARTICLE IN THE spondents." Here are the figures:--  
"COMMUNIST REVIEW."

On May 5th "Pravda" celebrates its "Press Day," it being the anniversary of the founding of the paper. On the "Workers' Life Page" a special greeting is devoted to Maria Ilinushna Ulianova (Lenin's sister), who reorganised this section of the paper in 1919 on the old pre-revolutionary lines. A note entitled "Our statistics," indicates the extent to which "Pravda" has organised its system of "worker correspondents" in all the factories and workshops of Russia.

"From the 5th May last year 8,000 letters were received in the 'Workers' Life' section. Who sent them?"

"2,200 persons from more than three hundred districts of Soviet Russia. Here are letters from Archangel, Odecea, Baku and Chita; in short, hardly an industrial centre is not represented. Workers wrote about their needs, about their efforts and ideas to build up a better life of labour. Many wrote particularly critical notes: about the increase of production and improvements in methods, about the defects of managers in tackling the problems of production, etc. During the last few months about 800 such letters were received from the Moscow district alone, which were so effective in this exposure of the defects of their respective managements, that they resulted in from 20 to 25 cases coming before the peoples' courts every month (purely as a result of the watch kept by workers' correspondents)."

"In addition to the correspondence from workers we received letters from peasants who also asked us to print what goes on in 'their world,' especially about linking up their village with some factory or workshop."

"Now, who were these 2,200 people who wrote during the year to the 'Workers' Life Page'? So far we have succeeded in analysing details

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"These figures show that the 'Workers' Life Page' is carried on by actual workers, irrespective of Party affiliation; and if the number of non-party correspondents is comparatively low, that is because the majority of those of whom details were received were Moscow correspondents."

### *How I became a Correspondent.*

A worker (V. Koukanov) says: "For a long while I had a notion for writing about things, especially verses of poetry. Although they were not of much account, I did not know this, so I wrote about everything that came into my head, but never wrote to the papers. Last year Comrade Lipkind, of the "Pravda" came to the factory where I work as harness maker and proposed I should write some notes about life in the workshop. From that time I wrote in the "Pravda." I wrote very badly at first, but now I have learnt a bit. I try to write about everything important that goes on in our factory. At first one had to write a lot about disorder in our factory, and my notes helped not a little. Now life is beginning to arrange itself, life is getting easier, and one pays more attention to the good things and about what is jolly in our factory life. Now I am kind of married to the "Pravda": hardly a day passes I don't ring up the office or send in a note. I have become a real "Pravda" man, and I am proud of it."