

The Return to Moscow.

Funeral of D. Ivon Jones.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS SENDS DELEGATES FROM ALL COUNTRIES.

Comrade Bob Stewart has been good enough to send to the Central Executive the particulars of the disposal of the remains of our late comrade D. Ivon Jones, which will set at rest any doubt which may have been aroused by certain insinuations in a Natal capitalist paper, and will assure South African comrades that fitting honour was done by the International to one of its most staunch and able sons.

Comrade Stewart's letter, dated Moscow, June 20th, is as follows:—

“Dear Comrade Andrews,—We are in the midst of Congress and it is in consequence very difficult to get time to write fully and quietly, so that I must ask you and the South African comrades to excuse any shortcoming. I telegraphed to you the sad intimation of the death of our comrade D. Ivon Jones. He died in the Sanatorium at Yalta, where you last saw him. He had a stiff struggle, but despite growing weakness was able to write almost to the last. His body was brought to Moscow on Saturday, 14th June, and was met by delegations from all sections of the Comintern who were in Moscow at that date. The British delegation deputed Comrades B. Joy (London), E. Douglas (Dundee), J. Wilson (South Wales), and J. Fisher (London). The coffin was conveyed to the Comintern Club, where it lay until four o'clock, a guard of four changed every ten minutes stood by the body until it was removed for interment. A considerable contingent, comprising delegates from all sections of Comintern, from factories, Soviet departments, from the Youth International, and from the Red Army, accompanied the remains of Comrade Jones to their final resting place in Novo Devitchy Cemetery. The British delegation carried a memorial wreath,

inscribed: “To the memory of a great South African fighter.” At the graveside short tributes to the memory of our comrade were delivered by French, German, Russian, British and American representatives, including Tom Mann, Bill Haywood, and myself. As the coffin was lowered with the red banner of the Comintern drooping over it, we sung a farewell in the strains of the Russian Revolutionary funeral hymn, with which we are now so painfully familiar, its haunting melody and challenging note reminding us that though our soldiers fall the battle still proceeds. As the last rites concluded, “The International” was taken up, and our thoughts were of our South African comrades, whose loss we shared, but we could not assuage the pain that they must feel at the departure of our comrade and their close friend and capable co-worker. Comrade Jones has done much to familiarise the English-speaking Communists and revolutionary workers with the conditions of Russia and the extent and nature of the difficulties and successes of the leading section of the Comintern—the Russian Communist Party. Even so he never forgot South Africa and the problems that you confront. His keen interest in the original owners of the soil of South Africa (the native population) never flagged, and the work that he began in connection with the emancipation of the native population of South Africa will, I am sure, be pursued energetically by the South African Communist Party. Will you please accept the assurance of the deepest sympathy of all of us here in the loss which you have sustained together with us in the death of a brilliant student and teacher of Leninism.

“With Communist greetings,

“ROBERT STEWART, E.C.C.I.”