

The Red Province (1919)¹

No other province, with the exception, perhaps, of Moscow and Petrograd, has experienced such hunger during the difficult days of the revolution as the Red province of Ivanovo-Voznesensk. And no other province, with the exception once again of Moscow and Petrograd, has given Soviet Russia so many experienced and self-sacrificing fighters, so many steadfast workers and peasants - as our province has done.

During the days of the Yaroslavl uprising, the Ivanovo-Voznesensk workers stood at their fighting posts outside Yaroslavl.

The 222nd Ivanovo-Voznesensk Division headed by Comrade Frunze left the Red province for the Eastern front, and entered into mortal combat with Kolchak's Ufa Division and with the Kappelevtsy. Virtually every month, hundreds of worker-communists have been dispatched from here to the farthest reaches of Soviet Russia to support and reinforce Soviet power. Detachment after detachment, mobilization after mobilization.

The front continues to receive ever newer forces from here. Experienced old revolutionaries, fragile young girls, highly focused rank-and-file workers, adolescent youths - where don't you find them? Distant Siberia, Kama, Saratov, Samara, Turkestan, Tula, Tambov, Ukraine, Tsaritsyn, the Don. - This by no means is a full or exact list of the cities and places where the Red province has sent its loyal sons...

They tend to be serious, they are people of few words, they don't gesticulate like people from the south, and they have cold blue eyes - amazing eyes which always make an inhabitant of the "dazzling south" stop and pay attention; they have firm, calm, pale, and somewhat gloomy faces. But in these modest, quiet, and concentrated faces you will find more revolutionary courage, decisiveness and irreconcilability than in many other lively, agile and bold figures. Any in any case, you will surely find more discipline, more ability to control oneself and subordinate oneself to the collective.

Did you know, reader, that here, in Ivanovo, there have been workers' mobilizations where 95% of those eligible for mobilization

¹ "Rabochii krai", 28 December 1919.

made it to the front? If you didn't know, then you should... How many food-requisition, harvest- or other detachments have the Ivanovo workers given? How many of them have been sent in all directions to the most dangerous and decisive locations?

Very, very many of them.

One day our historians will pause with respect before the achievements of the starving workers and peasants of the Red province, before this laboratory where, in the crucible of unheard-of deprivation, thousands of mortal enemies of the old world were forged.

At the VIIth Congress of Soviets, Comrade Lenin noted that our revolution is filled with miracles. One of these miracles, miracles created by the amazing collective mind and agile hands of the worker-peasant masses, has been the Red province of textile-workers.

Believe me, this is by no means a self-congratulatory eulogy, it is merely a modest tribute to the unseen heroism and creative assistance rendered by the masses.

No, for those who have come here from other places, - it is easier to see from a distance.