Owing to my departure to Eletsk and Livensk districts, I am late in writing this regular report.

With some exceptions, mobilisation of the parishes did not take place voluntarily, but it is generally occurring and in several places has already been completed. The numerical data of those appearing will be obtained in a couple of days. The shortfall will be significant. Much time was spent on preliminary agitation, when there were still hopes of conducting a purely voluntary recruitment.

Following receipt from me of the summary-data of the results, I request permission from the Central Committee to leave for Moscow, because everything humanly possible has been done, given the limited resources. After 10 June, it will hardly be possible to count on any increase of the number of those mobilised, and the organisation of political work among the volunteers is under way in each city-district.


The document is not dated, but the text reports: 'Today, the 6th, the workers turned up at work'. The date of registration in the Central Committee of the RKP(B) is 13 June 1919, entry 6059.
As for the trade-union mobilisation, to the extent of the first three percent it is fully completed everywhere. Increasing this figure to ten percent in relation to Orel would mean reducing to a minimum the work on preparing army-supplies...\textsuperscript{2} the workers have a positive attitude, or mobilising elements with White-Guard sympathies, since they involve former proprietors who are now employed as simple workers or else similar elements of former office-employees. Mobilisation of such elements contradicts the foundations of the organisation of the Red Army. For that reason, the provincial soviet of trade-unions objected to increasing the percentage of trade-union mobilisation with respect to such petty-bourgeois cities as Orel and nearby towns.

The struggle against desertion is proceeding successfully. Our agitation was very important, but even more significant was the strengthening of detachments to catch deserters. It would be a good thing to make skillful use of the hostility in the village between that part of the peasantry whose children and relatives are at the front, and those who are hiding deserters. As for use of drastic measures – in particular, the demonstrative shooting of two to three deserters in each district, as others are suggesting – I say this: there is no certainty whether this means will lead to a speedy eradication of desertion or, on the contrary, will demonstrate our organisational weakness and merely cause deserters to abandon passive tactics, and instead actively oppose our organs of power. We have a small example from Trubchevsk district. A militiaman from a detachment to catch deserters shot one deserter. Then all six hundred deserters in the parish joined together and nearly beat to death two Communist-agitators, and in order to settle things it was necessary to send a detachment of a hundred men with the assistance of other agitators. I am inclined to think that so long as our position is not so critical as to require risky measures that might backfire, it is better to strengthen our organisational apparatus for the struggle against desertion and to work more systematically than in the past.

The mobilisation of thirty percent of Communist men, announced by the Central Committee, has not been implemented here due to events on the railroad and the need to have all forces under arms. But apart from that, I would venture to say that mobilisation to that extent is completely impossible to accomplish. Here are the reasons:

1) The numerical data that the Central Committee has concerning the number of party-members in Orel province (on the basis of representation at the Eighth Congress) are purely mythical. Following the mobilisation of five hundred men, and following the re-registration and flight from the Party of all the ‘manorial’

\textsuperscript{2} The following word is indecipherable because of damage to the text.