

## RUSSIAN ESCAPEES.

On the Paroo on Sunday night were half-a-dozen young Russians seeking employment. They were not able to speak a word of English, but one of them has a little German. They were very pleased therefore to find in Mrs. Rodenovsky, of the Carnarvon Hospital, who is taking a trip southward, a fellow-Russian, through whom they might freely communicate their desire to get suitable work. After some general conversation with a sharp-featured brisk-looking young Moscovite, one of their number was brought to the saloon to ask for medical treatment for an ailment he had contracted. Mrs. Rodenovsky then kindly consented to recall the spokesman, and to interrogate him and translate his answers to the NORTHERN TIMES representative. Three readily responded, and answered the questions put to them without any diffidence. They said they had been soldiers in the Russian army in Turkestan, composed of men drawn both from Russia and Siberia. The rigors of discipline and service were so severe that

and service were so severe that fifteen soldiers decided to make off. They succeeded in getting clear of the lines, and tramped through Afghanistan to India, where nine of them secured positions. The English authorities at Calcutta at first purposed sending the escapees back to their own country, but the latter earnestly requested that they should be sent to Australia, because if they were returned to their own land they would be condemned to life-long military service. Their request was in the end complied with. Two of them are carpenters, one is a blacksmith, one a stonemason, one a sausage-maker with thorough experience in that special branch, and one a worker in cotton-fabrics. They were willing to take other occupations if there were no openings in their own callings. A station manager expressed his intention to interview them before arrival at Fremantle as to their willingness to engage themselves for station work.

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