

## RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am inditing this letter to you in the hope that you may deem the matter contained therein of sufficient importance to publish, and, by so doing, help me in the great work upon which I am engaged. My visit to Perth is undertaken as emissary of the Russo-Australian Bureau of Commerce and Information. The scope of the work to be done is empirical in the sense that the final result aimed at is the uniting in bonds of fellow-feeling those two great Empires—Russian and British. The union of two such Powers, each having for its objective humanitarian and democratic ideals, will be a foundation upon which the peace of the world may be securely built. I have said that the work is empirical. The manner in which it is to be done is by stimulating and fostering commercial and social intercourse. Australians know little of what Russia is like—and that knowledge is in many cases at variance with the conditions which really exist—or of the vast resources and possibilities of that huge country. Russians are equally ill-informed as a nation of the potentialities of Australia and of the products which she has to market. It will be my aim to mitigate this condition of affairs by the establishment here of a Russo-Australian Bureau of Commerce and Information. In the future, it will be our aim to encourage an exchange of visits between the two peoples; at the present to act as a medium between the commercial men of the two countries, giving information concerning Russia to Western Australians and endeavouring to build up an amicable and enlightened understanding between the two nations. To further the same object and ultimately to make such intercourse more facile, a school of instruction in the Russian language will be formed within a fortnight over which Mrs. Zidi Antonovna Whitham will preside. Mrs. Whitham is a Russian lady from Petrograd who has come over to give such instruction. She speaks the most perfect Russian and has a very large and comprehensive knowledge of her country. Much as I would like to meet all the interested people of this State, it is quite impossible, owing to the limited time at my disposal. Nevertheless, while I am in Perth, it will be my pleasure to meet as many people as possible and explain to any seeking knowledge of Russia whatever they may require. After my departure, Mrs. Whitham will undertake this task, and, whilst also giving instruction in the Russian language, will be most happy to meet such people and give whatever information and assistance may be in her power; while commercial matters and information will be in the hands of the delegate appointed by the bureau. An announcement concerning the time and conditions under which these classes are to be conducted will shortly be made through the Press. In commending this lady to your consideration, I feel that the work done in this connection will prove not only of educative value, and of vast interest in the present, but also of great advantage in the future. The Russo-Aus-

...advantage in the present, but also of great advantage in the future. The Russo-Australian Bureau of Commerce and Information and the school in connection therewith will be, first and last, a medium by which better understanding may be obtained, more intimate social relationship encouraged, and a place to which merchants and travellers may go when desiring information with regard to Russia, so facilitating cordial commercial intercourse.—Yours, etc.,

M. KLATCHEKO.

Esplanade Hotel, Perth, April 2.