

CAN IT BE TRUE?

BOLSHEVISM IN RUSSIA.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I shall be glad if you can find space in your valuable journal to publish the following extracts from the Russian newspaper "Vestnik Manchuri." published at Harbin:—"The horrors and cruelties, the awful outrages perpetrated by the Germans in Belgium, would seem to pale into insignificance, when compared with Bolshevik atrocities in Russia. Thousands of people have been brutally butchered in cold blood, their only crime being that they were unfortunate enough to belong to the middle class. The gaols have been opened in Russia, and bands of criminals, murderers, etc., have been loosed, and now plunder and murder all they come across. It is time the Australian people were enlightened as to what Bolshevism has done to thousands of inoffensive Russian citizens. Many supporters of the Bolshevik regime are resident in Australia, notably Queensland, and loyal Russians are anxious to counteract their evil teachings and thus prevent such horrors as have been seen

counteract their evil teachings and thus prevent such horrors as have been perpetrated upon Russian people fouling Australia's fair and glorious name. The Bolsheviki's authority now begins to choke in the streams of innocent blood, that it has caused to be spilled. From all sides of Russia arise the cries of the oppressed, thousands have been flogged, others burnt, Trial, law, and order are unknown; brute force. Wild anarchy reign supreme."

A writer in the Russian paper "Delo Naroda," No. 127, June 30, 1918, states as follows: "In the town of Orenbourg, after it had been taken by the 'Kobiseffs and Svillinsky's mobs, every day hundreds of the populace were rounded up and brought to the house of Pankratievsk, and were shot on the spot. In the Zanralsky's Woods for a long time could be seen hundreds of dead bodies partially covered by snow, feet and hands sticking out, the cold terrified eyes, giving one some idea of the horrors the victims had passed through, before death released them. Hundreds of corpses of once virile manhood lay exposed until the air became putrid. Raids were a nightly occurrence; the houses would be rushed, the victims pulled out of their beds. Little time is wasted, the victim is told to stand near the wall. "about turn," two treacherous shots in the back, and the life is gone. They are given no

and the life is gone. They are given no time to understand, no trial. Women on many occasions suffered worst. Children even have not been spared. What has happened in Orenbourg has also happened in Harkoy, Simferopol, Yalta, Kiev, and other large and small town.

I remember on one occasion having to travel with a company of Red Guards returning from the Orenbourg front. One of them boastingly recounted to his comrades the details of how he killed a certain nurse. He said he stabbed her in the breast. She cried, "Kill me." And the vile fanatic recounted how he ripped his victim open with the bayonet. Then followed the laughter and vile language of his comrades. My blood boiled with indignation, but I was helpless, interference would have meant death. All along the railway line one could see sticking out, here and there, the hands and feet of the victims; in some places the tatters of torn clothes told the story of desperate struggles.

Hell itself seems let loose. How long the awful slaughter will continue the great God alone knows. Help is needed to stem this tidal wave of madness, which threatens the whole civilised world. May the help soon come and a brighter Era dawn.

Yours, etc.,

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