

# RUSSIA AND GERMANY

## Wealth in Moscow

FREMANTLE, Today.

A new light has been thrown on the position in Russia and Germany by Mr. A. J. Markowicz, a Sydney business man, who is also Vice-Consul for Poland, who returned to Australia by the Esperance Bay after extensive travels on the Continent during the past 12 months.

Mr. Markowicz, who speaks the Russian language fluently, said at the present time the Government was stable in a form which would not suit any other country. It was more despotic than in the days of Czardom. This in the opinion of those in control was essential, as Russians could be driven, but not led.

Moscow, which was the show place, was remarkable indeed and gave every impression of a thriving and rich country. The city was full of luxurious shops, splendid cafes, and sumptuous cabarets. Russian life was seen at its best there, and money was spent lavishly, all for the purpose of propaganda.

The country had been denuded of almost everything in order to create the impression that the riches of Russia were unlimited.

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No further than Moscow are visitors encouraged to go. Mr. Markowicz said he was an exception. His travels convinced him that it would take time and great reorganisation before Russia's internal affairs would be brought back to the pre-war standard.

Mr. Marcowicz said he was surprised when he visited the old Imperial Palace. The Kremlin was now used as the seat of Government. The palace had been strongly entrenched, and was guarded by a conglomeration of Asiatic races numbering 20,000 who had joined up with the Bolshevok army and are used as body-guard for those who are trying to evolve order out of chaos. An attempt was being made to reorganise Russia on the capitalistic system.

In Germany he said he noticed great prosperity among the farming classes, but there was acute suffering among the middle classes. Laborers were underfed and insufficiently clothed owing to the impossibility of wages keeping pace with increased living costs due to the speedy inflation of currency.

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