

"I'm A Bolshevik!"

RUSSIAN SCARES GLENCOE.

Barefooted Fowl-Chaser.

A picturesque Russian, scantily clad, and wearing an unkempt black beard, stood in the dock at the Glen Innes police court, this morning (says Thursday's 'Examiner') charged with vagrancy. The name on the charge sheet was William Plotonff, but in earlier court experiences since he came to Australia the Russian has given the names of Bill Poltonff, Wm. Plontonoff, and Plotoff Beloshapka. He is no stranger to the courts, for his crime sheet shows he has had 12 previous convictions, nine of them for vagrancy.

Plotonff said he didn't understand English much, so the Bench (Messrs. Veness and Dibley, J'sP.), decided to hear evidence. This was given by Constable Lennon, who said that at about 10 p.m. on April 8, he saw the accused in a bush house near Glencoe. He spoke to him and, in answer to questions, Plotonff said he had done no work and that he got his "tucker" from people round about. When searched Plontonff had no money, and practically no clothes at all, and he was in a very dirty condition. Witness was

cleanly in clothes at all, and he was in a very dirty condition. Witness was aware that Glencoe neighborhood was alarmed at the actions of the accused, and it was as a result of that that he had gone out to investigate.

Asked for his side of the case Plotouff let loose a torrent of verbiage, which left the court gasping. Not much of it was intelligible,—even the “interpreter” thought he said he was going to build a two-storey house—but the Russian made it clear that he had a conscientious objection to work if it could be avoided—certainly to work that was not well paid—that he owned a farm—though whether it was in Russia, Japan, or Australia, or the whole lot, was not clear—and that he was collecting for some Russian communist enterprise. “I am a Bolshevik,” he added, while the court visibly shuddered to think the real thing was so near.

Shown a picture in the police crime records, the Russian was surprised and admitted “that might be my picture alright.”

Sergt. Crozier said that he had received various complaints from Glencoe about accused, whose actions were scaring the neighborhood. In the last day or two he had been seen, scantily clad and without boots, chasing fowls. Altogether, Glencoe was not enamored of the newcomer.

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The Bench decided to relieve Plot-off of anxiety regarding his keep for six months at any rate, and for that period sent him along to Tamworth gaol.