

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES.

It is strange that the level-headed workers of Australia do not take a stand against permitting the Trades Halls in some of the capital cities to be associated in any way with disorderly Communists, who would, if they could, destroy the free institutions of Australia, and bring about conditions of slavery and despotism, such as exist in Russia today. According to a report in Saturday's issue, the Society of Friends of Soviet Russia held a demonstration in front of the Sydney Town Hall on Friday night to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the Russian revolution. After several hours, we are told, the meeting resolved itself into a slow-moving procession, which set off for the Trades Hall, where revolutionary addresses were delivered, and the crowd came into conflict with the police. It is well known that an overwhelming majority of the Australian workers have no sympathy with the revolutionary activities of a small number of fanatics; yet, time after time, the headquarters of Labour in the various capitals are made the centre of disorderly demonstrations of a revolutionary

ly demonstrations of a revolutionary character, thus making it appear that the workers of Australia are involved in these gatherings. In all probability, the disorders are promoted by foreigners, whose real mission in Australia might well be investigated.

A case in point occurred recently. Following a demonstration of unemployed, stated to have been led by Communists, in Melbourne, on October 22, thirty alleged Communists were arrested during the following four days. It was learned by the police that fewer than half those arrested were natives of Australia.

Documents which were seized indicated ramifications of the Communist Party in Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, Broken Hill, Adelaide, and Fremantle. Among those arrested were:—Oscar Mattson, of Finland; Alexander Glowow, Poland; Otto Stallamanns, Germany; Cormack McCarthy, Canada; Joseph Santrich, Germany; Mick Milat, Germany; Carl Jensen; Nicholas Cetinich, Germany; Andrew Gerkins, Germany; Valentine Cotti, Italy; Stephen Reginald Bagley, South Africa; Thomas William le Huray, Victoria; Oscar Mattson,

Monday, Victoria; Oscar Mattson, Finland; Gus Marusich, Jugo-Slavia; Adolf Griede, Germany; and Judah Waten. If these arrests had not been made, the demonstration would have gone on record as a gathering of Australian workers.

It is quite probable that the Society of the Friends of Russia is made up largely of foreign birds of passage, who have no sympathy with Australian ideals and little knowledge of Australian institutions. The name of the society indicates that it is a revolutionary organisation, and its members probably see themselves in their mind's eye filling roles similar to those of Lenin, Stalin and other Soviet leaders when Australia follows the lead of Russia. But they should have a long time to wait before they see free Australians voluntarily place themselves under a despotism such as exists in Russia to-day. The average Australian has no desire for the Russian brand of freedom, under which the mass of the people are the slaves of a ruthless beaurocracy, liable to be slaughtered if they disobey the commands of the Soviet officials or shot down at the border if they attempt to escape to other

... they attempt to escape to other countries. After thirteen years of freedom, Russians, we are told, can be rounded up in thousands and transported practically as slaves to any part of the country that the leaders think requires to be developed. Yet in Australia, the freest country in the world, where the labouring man of to-day may be at the head of the State or the Com-

monwealth to-morrow, we have the friends of Russia, urging the people to follow the lead of that country. In Russia, people who are no more than suspected of counter-revolutionary activities are given short shrift. On a very modified scale that

lead might be followed in Australia. It would be sufficient to give foreigners with revolutionary leanings an opportunity of departing hurriedly for their own country. In that event we would hear very little from Australians about the blessings of Russian Sovietism when they were no longer misled by visionary foreigners. According to a cablegram from Vancouver, the activities

of Communists are becoming a menace to constitutional government in Canada, and the Mayor of Winnipeg has announced that he will tour the country from end to end and arouse public sentiment to secure Government action towards the deportation of Communists. The prompt deportation from Australia of a few of the prominent agitators who are openly working against the good government of the country would go a long way towards checking the growth of Communism in the Commonwealth.