

A RUSSIAN'S COMPLAINT.

Mr. Hyam Ospovat, a native of Russia, visited "The Daily Telegraph" office yesterday and stated what he termed his "case of hardship."

Born in the Dvinsk region, his father was a Russian and his mother an English woman. When 18 months old Ospovat left Russia for England, where he was educated. After leaving school he worked in England, subsequently following the seafaring life for 13 years, all of which time he was employed in English ships. When the war broke out he was a chief steward on a steamer which was then at Newcastle, New South Wales. The ship was commandeered by the Government as a troopship, and Ospovat remained in the post of chief steward. This vessel was employed carrying troops from Avonmouth (England) to Egypt and the Dardanelles. Ospovat eventually left the ship on account of sickness, and on regaining his health worked on several transports, later securing service on the Commonwealth Government's line of steamers. Soon after he entered the New South Wales coastal trade. He resigned a position on a ship just before the late strike commenced, and since then all efforts to secure employment had failed. Applications for two positions recently were unsuccessful.

Ospovat, who spoke English fluently, said he did not speak Russian, and further remarked that he had volunteered in England before conscription, and also in Australia, but had been rejected on the grounds of medical unfitness. He produced his discharge from the Australian army, in which he was enlisted in Newcastle, but rejected in Sydney. Ospovat said he felt very keenly the treatment accorded him. He had a good record. With English sympathies, and half English on his mother's side, and educated in England. He hoped that his case, typical of many, would receive that British fairplay it was entitled to.