

BOLSHEVIK ORGANISATIONS GAINING POWER IN AUSTRALIA

GAOLING HELPS PROPAGANDA

In order that the Russians in Sydney might work in accordance with their constitution, a soviet has been elected (reports the "Sun"). It has been controlling the affairs of the association for three weeks, each member abiding loyally by the decision of that body.

Further evidence of the progress made with recruiting for the Bolsheviks in Sydney was furnished by a member of the Russian Society, Cezar Wolkowsky, a young Russian, who served with the A.I.F. in Gallipoli. He left Russia three months before the war broke out, and reached Sydney on August 1. He later joined the Australian forces, after learning the English language.

"It is by the gaoling of our members that the best of our propaganda is carried out," said Mr. Wolkowsky. "In the case of Mr. Simonoff, our Consul-General, we could take him out of gaol to-day by paying his fine, but that is not our line of action. While he is in prison he is doing good work, and so are those of the organisation who are outside the walls. In Russia all political prisoners were provided with means of communicating with the outside world. Though the Russians in Sydney may not have the education of the political prisoners in Russia, something could be done if communication was necessary.

— "Not Afraid of Gaol." —

"There is not a Russian Bolshevik in Australia who is afraid of gaol. They come from a country where gaoling is part of their revolutionary education. There they learn much from the more educated. The same will apply in Australia. Every time a Bolshevik leader goes to gaol he is doing something to spread the doctrine. If it was not so, the Russians would pay the fines of any of their countrymen who were convicted. There are many thousands of Russians in Australia, and we have established associations from Darwin to Sydney, all of which connect direct with Brisbane, where the headquarters of the Australian Bolsheviks are to be found. If the Government does not immediately take steps to improve the

condition of the Russians, the authorities will find themselves up against a big proposition.

"The Russians," continued Mr. Wolkowsky, "believe that they are doing something for Australia as a whole every time they make a new member. The Bolshevik organisation was in its infancy in Australia when the war broke out, but in Russia it was very powerful. Since then it has made progress, and is assuming a greater power than most people believe."