

DANGER OF BOLSHEVISM.

WHAT IT MEANS.

M. Oudendyk, Dutch Minister in Petrograd, who has travelled through Germany and Holland, from Petrograd, in the course of a conversation with Reuter's representative, said :—

“I wish to give a solemn warning to the working classes of all nations against the high falutin' notions which I have seen in Russia, and which have brought such disastrous results already to that country. Bolshevism, I say without exaggeration, is the end of civilisation. I have known Russia intimately for twenty years, under the old regime and under the new conditions. Never have the working classes of Russia suffered as they are doing at the present moment, notwithstanding all that the present so-called ruling classes in that country choose to tell the world.

“Factories are at a standstill and are being ruined, and without the aid of foreign capital they can never be resuscitated. I have never seen or dreamt of the possibility of such corruption, tyranny and the absence of all semblance of freedom as there is in Russia at the present moment.

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“Translated into practice, the five points of Bolshevism really come to this :—(1) High wages ; (2) don't work ; (3) take other people's property ; (4) no punishment ; (5) no taxation. And I suppose there will always be a certain number of people who will adopt a program which in practice amounts to this. That is why, having seen myself the disastrous effects of this policy on all classes of society, I take the first opportunity on my arrival in England to warn the public.

“The bulk of the workmen in Russia are to-day far and away worse off than they ever have been, and the state of unemployment is simply terrible. When I left Petrograd the situation was one of utter starvation, and most people hardly knew how they would exist through the following day. The future to me seems hopeless. It certainly is impossible for me to forecast what may happen. One thing is certain ; that left as she now is Russia will be in a state of utter and complete ruin. Wherever Bolshevism rules the nation has been beaten to a pulp and is utterly helpless. In such a situation the whole world must stand shoulder to shoulder, so that out of the ruins something may arise, though personally I know not what. One factory I know

I know not what. One factory I know personally which used to employ 12,000 workmen has to-day only 800, and these are only kept in the factory by reason of very high wages.

“During the festivities on the anniversary of the revolution workmen who wanted to return to their villages for a few days’ holiday were compelled to stay in town. It is a sample of the

kind of freedom that the workmen were compelled to march in procession through the town, and in order to make sure that they did not go away the Bolsheviki organised control stations to prevent the men leaving. Most of the workmen, except those who for the moment may be earning very high wages, now begin to see that the regime of Bolshevism cannot possibly last. During the evacuation of the British colony a number of English engineers left a factory where they were working. The workmen crowded round them saying: ‘We hope you will come back soon. This state of things cannot go on long.’”

Bolshevik Propaganda.—Evidence of the progress made with recruiting for the Bolsheviki in Sydney was furnished by a member of the Russian Society,

ed by a member of the Russian Society, Cezar Wolkowsky, a young Russian, who served with the A.I.F. in Gallipoli (says a Sydney paper.) 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," went on Mr. Wolkowsky. "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. 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 the 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 dmoes not immediately take steps to improve the condition of the Russians, the authorities will find themselves up against a big proposition."