

How We Treat Russians in Australia.

The position of Russians in Australia has been made so distressing of late that many Russians have asked for permission to return to their own country.

The following correspondence speaks for itself, and combined with the imprisonment of Peter Simonoff, will prove conclusively that our love of Freedom, Justice and Democracy is too strong for a decent foreigner to live under:

Commonwealth of Australia,
Prime Minister's Department,
Melbourne, April 14, 1919.

Dear Sir.—I am desired by the Acting Prime Minister to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and in reply to inform you that, as a result of correspondence which has taken place with the British Government, the Commonwealth Department of Home and Territories will consider applications from Russians in Australia desirous of proceeding to Russia.

It will be necessary for those to whom permits are issued to land at Odessa. Arrangements have been made which will permit all such persons to land at Egypt for transhipment.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. H. STARLING,
Per Secretary.

A. Stepanoff, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Russian Association,
47 Victoria-street, Melbourne.

405 Riley-street,
Surry Hills, Sydney,
April 29, 1919.

W. Watt, Esq.,

Acting Prime Minister of Australia,
Melbourne.

Sir,—Following upon your letter to A. Stepanoff, Acting Secretary of the Russian Association of Melbourne, of April 14, stating that you will consider applications from Russians in Australia, desirous of proceeding to Russia, we, the undersigned, on behalf of the Russian people of New South Wales, wish to place our position before you.

We are Russian people who have resided in Australia for many years, during which period we have been lawabiding citizens. Most of us were persuaded to leave our native land by Australian Immigration Agents who painted the glories of Australia in very rosy colors; to-day we find we are not wanted. The various newspapers are combined in a vicious attack upon us and our countrymen at home. As a result of these vicious and malicious writings we are looked upon with suspicion by our former employers and friends; consequently we are unable to obtain employment. We are compelled, therefore, to request you to immediately arrange safe and free passages for ourselves and families back to our native land. We hope that you will also take into consideration when arranging our passages, the troubled state of Egypt, which, combined with our present very difficult position, compells us to request you to make special provision before we leave Australia for our transshipment from Egypt to Odessa. Yours truly.

from Egypt to Odessa. Yours truly,

P. DRACHUK,

T. PONOMARENKO,

On behalf of the Russian people desirous
of leaving N.S.W. for their native land.
