

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.)

A Russian Viewpoint.

(To the Editor "Post" and "Herald.")

Sir,—In "The Week," a Brisbane paper, dated 21/10/21, appears a report from Toowoomba under date of Oct. 12, and headed "Post Office Burglary." The writer says, "the accused was undoubtedly an alien of Russian nationality."

I think myself he is not a Russian, but a Pole. If he was a Russian he was under compulsion. - No Pole ever considered himself a Russian outside of the red tape that tied Russians and Poles together in the time of the Russian Imperial Government. There is no love lost between Russians and Poles, neither privately nor officially.

Russians, besides being the oppressors of Poland, speak a different language, and profess another religion (which fact was the main cause for the hatred existing between them). The Roman Catholic Church was always at war with the Greek Orthodox of Russia, and, of course, both followers did the same. But really the people of Russia had little to do in the oppressing of the Poles, as the guilty party was the Government and Catherine the Great (the II) was the one that did the most of it, and she was a German. Yet the hatred existed between the people.

Now, Mr. Editor, I notice the tendency in some people to unload whatever trouble there is, on to the Russians, just because there are Bolsheviki in Russia. If there are Bolsheviki in Russia there are also people in good numbers (if not in the majority) that are not, and I cannot see why the tendency to blame Russians for every bad thing that happens, should exist. In the Chinchilla case the man is not a Russian at all, as any Russian could tell you only on hearing the mans name. (1) Boleslav Zbecovsky is pronouncedly a Polish name, both christian and surname. (2) The action of the man who went in broad daylight to open a safe and take a handful of silver, and when asked to leave the premises declined to "leave same, and waited for the police to come to start a stupid argument with them, such as "All the money hers is mine, I have millions of it here," and when arrested remarked: "All the police are my servants, everything is mine, I believe in Bolshevism," I will say is absolutely insane, and the place for accused should be in Goodna and not in goal.

should be in Goodna and not in goal. So it is more than surprising to hear His Honour say that the accused is one of the undesirable class of aliens who came into the country lately. In cases of insanity such as I believe this to be, and everyone else who read the report, there can be no allusion to nationality, as it is an absolutely individual case which would be resented even by the most extreme Bolsheviki. Bolsheviki do not believe in raids that finish with a silly argument with the robbed and the police. They, I believe, mostly act in organisations, and when raiding believe in taking the cash and flying, not waiting to start arguments with the police. Therefore, I think it to be a case of individual insanity, and I resent any allusions of "The Week" report as to Russian nationality.

Russia is in a state of chaos, yet there are many of us who do not believe in Bolshevism (or else the Bolsheviki would have had a smoother run). So I would ask reporters and people to blame individuals, rather than nations. Thanking you for valuable space, and thanking you for publishing same, as nearly every Russian, I am sure, will.—Yours, etc,

LEANDRO ILLIN.