

Conditions in Russia.

Among the passengers on the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Mishima Maru*, which arrived at Brisbane yesterday from the East, were Mrs. A. Stepanoff, the Misses M. and R. Stepanoff, and Master K. Stepanoff. The family, who arrived in Brisbane from Russia in 1911, returned to Russia three years ago, and after a sojourn in that country visited Harbin and Korea. Miss M. Stepanoff remarked that at the beginning of 1923 there were plentiful supplies of food in Moscow—for those persons who were able to pay for it. The majority of the Russian people, she said, were dissatisfied with the Communist rule, under which the Communists, who were in the minority, were considered first in everything. What was wanted was a union between the intelligentsia and the working classes. The Russian Government had recently adopted a new policy with regard to the ownership of property, and private ownership was now being permitted. Special licenses were granted for the formation of companies, and many American companies had been formed. The Russian Communists, Miss Stepanoff said, were sending help to the German Communists in the form of money and grain.