

from those of our party who had visited Russia before the war. Their opinion was that Russia is making many blunders, perhaps, in this movement to establish a new civilization but their observation had convinced them that with all her blunders her people are better cared for now than under the czar's regime.

We found living standards in Russia lower than in America. We observed all types of people on the streets, some barefooted and some well dressed; some with smiling faces and some presenting sad features. On the average the throngs resembled very much the crowds one sees on the East Side of New York City. We talked with Russian university students, and with workers in factories. We mingled with the crowds in parks and highways and engaged in conversation with Russians who could speak the English language. In this manner we obtained their viewpoint of Russian life as it is found today.

We were told that there was no unemployment in Russia, no kidnaping, no racketeering, no social evil, no profit in the traffic of liquor. Money does not mean much any more in the Soviet Union. Each person is entitled to possess only those things which are necessary for personal use and comfort. They aim ultimately to do away with the struggle for the almighty dollar, and thus remove the incentive for the commission of crime for monetary gain. They deny that there is a breakdown of family life. On the contrary, we are told that a large amount of educational work is carried on to bring about a happier and more intelligent status of family life.

Great strides are being made to educate the Russian people, both old and young. There are now 80,000 kindergartens and more than a billion books have recently been distributed in the Soviet Union. This it must be admitted, is a hopeful sign, no matter what we may think of Communism as a philosophy.

They told us that no one was being persecuted because of religious belief. Harold Denny, the New York Times correspondent, reporting from Moscow during the holiday season, stated in a dispatch, "Tonight is Christmas Eve for Russians who keep their old calendar, their old religion, their old habits of mind and, as far as they can, their customs of the past. Every church was packed this evening with worshippers who looked bewildered and lost in this changing, unreligious, Communistic society."