

its actual result is great harm, rather than good.

Preachers of the social gospel in this country often pointed with great interest to the experiment in Russia. While occasionally disassociating themselves from some of its aspects, they were constantly praising it as a forward step in the direction of their <sup>ideals</sup> aim. The Soviet government has had nearly thirty-five years of absolute domination in Russia, and during this time has been free to use every instrument it might desire to forward its aim of introducing the universal socialistic society to which it is ideologically devoted. What is the result? Today the standard of living of the average Russian is far lower than that of the people of western Europe, to say nothing of those of the United States. The difference between the standard of living of the top bureaucrats and that of the rank and file of the working class, is actually greater than that between almost any two classes in any nation of western Europe, or America. In Germany, which is now divided into a section devoted to Russian communism and another in which western ideas are supreme, the standard of living of the two parts simply bears no comparison. People are constantly fleeing from the eastern zone to the western zone, and this movement is not only one from tyranny to freedom, but is also affected by the desire to enjoy the material benefits of a system so different from the socialist Utopia.

Here we see the results of the social gospel. Experience demonstrates that it is impotent to accomplish what it claims to be able to do. Why is this? It is because socialism, at its best, is simply a plan for a distribution of what is already being produced. It has in it no dynamic which can increase production, and thus advance a nation economically and industrially.

Theoretically, communism is based upon the Marxist slogan, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." A very little reflection will show us a great difficulty with this slogan. Who is to decide how much I should be able to produce for the state? Who is to decide how much I need? In the nature of things, this cannot be decided by a democratic process. It can-