

Stan
5/12/40

5/12/40
**Dr. Carruthers Says
Mexico Is Not
Communistic**

**Says Conditions There
Are Far Different
From Those in Russia**

Although a fundamental economic revolution of Mexican life is under way, the country is not communistic in any real sense, in the opinion of Dr. John F. B. Carruthers, who has recently returned from Mexico. He was a delegate to the Inter-American Congress on Indian Life in Patzcuaro last month.

Dr. Carruthers said he gave this view as an observer who had talked with the man in the street, with various delegates to the conference, and, through interpreters, with many political and labor leaders of Mexico.

Dr. Carruthers based his conclusions on a comparison between Mexico and Russia, which he visited in 1926 and in 1931.

"The moves against the church, involving the seizure of property, were drastic and radical," Dr. Carruthers admitted, "but they were not communistic. The churches, for the most part, are free. Large throngs still attend mass throughout the country. In this respect there is no parallel with Russia, where restrictions are incredibly drastic."

He pointed out that the Y. M. C. A., Red Cross and Boy Scouts were functioning in Mexico, whereas "they were totally forbidden in Russia."

Villages Individualistic.

Turning from religion to the attitude of various groups, Dr. Carruthers said the "Indian villages are proof against Russian Soviet Communism because they are largely composed of shopkeepers and traders with goods to sell and barter.

They are, therefore, individualistic and not susceptible to the proletarian philosophy of centralized control." One-third of the population are full-blooded Indians, he said.

Dr. Carruthers said that, although he believed many of the leaders at the outset of the Cardenas regime had been Communist revolutionaries, hypnotized by the Russian experiment, he felt they had become disillusioned. The government has political Communists whom Dr. Carruthers described, as those who find it politically profitable to appear as Communists to obtain the support of radical workers. He said several prominent woman leaders who were originally pro-Communist had become outraged at the position of Russian women, many of

whom have to perform tasks of common laborers.

He declared he was convinced the Mexicans are far from being Communists, even though they may proceed at times like Communists. "That is, Communism might be called by the Mexicans a course of revolutionary action rather than a creed of politics."