

monopolized and opportunities shut off, the effort to satisfy his desires leads to actions that make him appear evil.

The six virtues prescribed may be beautiful in themselves, but they can only reform man internally, without taking into consideration outside conditions. Virtue without proper environment is like a flower without water; both die without the proper nourishment. Give man an opportunity to make a living, and he will not have to be catalogued into a caste with its own appropriate ethics.

To claim that poverty will always exist; that the poor will have life eternal *after* being doomed to a lifetime of misery here, is not a great service on behalf of the Creator from one who claims to be a servant of God. Is it not more worthy that a servant of God should strive for the abolition of poverty and the attainment of the kingdom of heaven *on earth*?

Our Canadian Letter

From HERBERT T. OWENS

WITH the broadening and deepening of the war has gone the extension of the control system of the Canadian federal government, until now practically all commodities are subject to control. Beginning March 1st, motor cars will be rationed to doctors and others who can prove that a car is a necessity for their livelihood. For some months past gasoline is on sale only between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and not at all on Sundays. Production of radios, washing machines, refrigerators, electrical appliances is to be drastically curtailed this year. And so it goes.

An order-in-council was passed, effective November 17th last, under which it became "an offense . . . to offer or sell, or knowingly to buy or offer to buy, any goods or services at prices higher than the lawful maximum." The lawful maximum is the highest price at which a person or firm supplied goods or services "of the same kind and quality" during the period September 15th to October 11th, 1941. Canadian women are invited to be the watch-dogs for violations of the maximum price. Incidentally, one sees on the streets a significant increase in the number of women in uniform, as women are being mobilized on an increasing scale to free men for combatant duties.

As predicted by this writer, the provinces have now agreed to surrender to the federal authority their right to collect income tax, receiving a federal subsidy in lieu of their former receipts from that source. Income-tax payers in the higher brackets in the western provinces will now benefit by the lower federal rates, although these rates will probably be increased when the federal budget is brought down. The revenue is very buoyant, though income from taxes alone is insufficient to carry the costs of the war and there has been and will be the selling of bonds to finance deficits. Since the United States declared war, inter-governmental arrange-

ments provide that Canada and the United States are given mutual priority on war materials, it being stated that Canada takes precedence even of Great Britain in these commitments.

The federal authority has set up a small body to consider the problems of post-war reconstruction, but there are no releases as to the lines on which they are working. The economists of all Canadian universities were invited to Ottawa for a conference on January 2nd and 3rd to make in camera any suggestions they might think proper for post-war days. Not to be behindhand, the monetary reformers, under the leadership of Premier Aberhart of Alberta, the Social Creditor, met at Winnipeg last October; and passed a ten-point program from which the following are culled:

4. To liberate the country from the yoke of the present financial system and its enslavement of a constitutionally free people.
5. To restore to Parliament effective control over the issue of all currency and credit. [As if Parliament did not have that control now!]
6. To obtain the economic security which the vast resources of Canada can provide for her citizens.
7. To abolish unnecessary poverty and privation.
8. To secure freedom from oppressive debt and taxation.

Our Socialist party, known as the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, won second place in British Columbia elections last October, and although offered seats in the cabinet in a union government the C.C.F. prefer to play the rôle of official opposition. In Manitoba's election last April, the majority element in the C.C.F. ran on a coalition ticket with the dominant Liberal-Progressives, and now have two or three Socialists in the cabinet. In Nova Scotia last October the C.C.F. and the Conservatives won about the same number of seats, but the Liberals there were re-elected with 23 seats out of 30. The significance of these election results is that the historic Conservative party is receding, especially in Western Canada, and the C.C.F. is coming to the fore as the champion of progress. Unfortunately, although there are some Georgeists in the C.C.F. ranks, no land value taxation plank has yet appeared in any C.C.F. platform.

The parliamentary leader of the C.C.F., M. J. Coldwell, who visited Britain with a group of parliamentarians representative of all parties, comes back with the report that British opinion, as he found it, is that the Labor party there, largely Socialist, is expected to come into power at the post-war election, and inaugurate long overdue reforms. The Liberal ministry in Canada agrees with Churchill that the main issue just now is to win the war, and aside from the committee on post-war reconstruction, not much about the post-war era is being said. Meantime, Canada enjoys war prosperity; never since pioneer days was the employment index higher; and confidence in the successful outcome of the present struggle is universal.