



C245033

mu

CANADA

WARTIME INFORMATION BOARD

OFFICE OF THE
GENERAL MANAGERO t t a w a,
November 27, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum to Members of the Cabinet

The following observations on Canadian public opinion have been reported to WIB during the past week. While open to possible later correction, they come from sources which we have found reliable in the past.

1. The war - Though the new Allied offensive has slightly revived optimism in some quarters, the impression that the war may last a long time, even "another two years", is widespread and is giving rise to some rather outspoken war-weariness. People are reported to be "fed up", carrying on in a sort of "numb passivity" and taking little interest in war news. There is also some criticism of those who earlier made rosy predictions, including Mr. Churchill. On the other hand, some observers report nothing but quiet confidence.
2. Conscription - For the third week in succession almost all reports are pre-occupied with this issue. Letters written November 18 to 25 say that people are "all agog about it", that it "overshadows all other topics", and that it robbed the Winnipeg municipal election of much of its interest.
 - a) Pre-session comment - Reports written before November 23 are largely concerned with the special parliamentary session, which was arousing much interest and speculation. It was taken for granted that the Government would refuse to alter its "voluntary" policy, and there was considerable fear that a general election might result, most people feeling that this would be "dangerous if not disastrous" to a united war effort. English-speaking observers continued to report a heavy demand for conscription, for reasons previously cited here, though a few found some misgivings as to its effect on the country and some criticism of the "unscrupulous" campaign waged in favor of it.

Please Turn Over