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CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

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MEMORANDUM

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: W.I.B. public opinion summary

The General Manager of the Wartime Information Board has communicated to the Secretary as follows.

"Would you please bring to the attention of the Government the following summary of public opinion in the country at the present time. While open to possible later correction, the points listed represent our considered impressions on the basis of the information reaching us. This includes weekly reports from selected observers in all parts of the country, chiefly business men, journalists, ministers, writers and social workers. While such reports lack the scientific accuracy of polling studies, they possess the advantage of greater timeliness and have proved highly reliable over the past six months.

Optimism - Correspondents are almost unanimous in reporting very optimistic expectations as to an early end of the European war, in spite of official warnings. There are no suggestions, however, that this is causing any let-down in effort, except from one or two industrial centres. Reports of similar optimism in both Britain and the United States have just reached us.

Moscow Meeting - The few reports received since the official declarations were published express a sense of deep gratification and thankfulness, intensified by previous misgivings as to the likelihood of any real agreement.

Victory Loan - Optimism appears to have done no harm to the loan drive, strong support for which is everywhere reported. Canadians are stated to be taking this loan much more quietly than previous ones, having come to expect such campaigns as a regular feature of the war.

Coal Strike - Conflicting attitudes are reported, but public sympathy for the men's demands, as distinguished from their action in striking, appears to be stronger than is suggested in the press. Late reports from Alberta and Saskatchewan mention growing sympathy for the miners among business people who were previously hostile. The strongest condemnations of the strike come from farming communities.

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