

are more ready to misrepresent an opponent than to meet his argument, more ready to appeal to the meaner prejudices than to the higher sentiment of the community, more ready to run at the heels of popular clamor than to stand steadfast for the principles and policies which one's inner conviction and sober judgment approve. It seems to me that we in Canada sometimes forget that free speech is the inalienable birthright of the British citizen, and that the great pioneers of British freedom were men who would not conform to the temper and conditions of the times in which they lived, and that we demand an absolute submission to every passing wave of passion and every outbreak of popular prejudice. This is a servitude to which none of us can afford to submit. There could be no greater treason to free institutions and the moral progress of the world. The qualities of courage and public spirit are none too common, and a sincere view, come from what source it may, has a right to be uttered. There are far too many forces making for repression in these days. The organization of party keeps many voices in check. But this to me is a minor evil. There is an independence within the party organizations which largely influences party policy and makes an enduring political dictatorship impossible in a free country. Besides, it seems to me that no other system of popular government equal to the party system, with all its abuses, has been devised. Under this system the will of the people substantially prevails, and the radical and progressive elements of the community