

Mr. H.

No comment that I might make on the status of the Liberal Party in Canada can be any more than a matter of personal observation and, at best, a summary of observations obtained by conversations with others.

What I venture to recite here is a personal opinion drawn from contacts which I have been privileged to enjoy through my work in the war plants, and particularly conversations with management and workers.

It is not possible to analyze the situation without treating two very abstract factors:-

- (1) Personalities
- (2) Mass psychology

In wartime personalities in political affairs take on a far greater importance than they do in peace-time, particularly since in time of stress the public look for a strong leader. In fact, they look for the "Super Man" ... one in whom they can put implicit confidence in view of the fact that they recognize that there are a great many factors in every situation which they cannot be informed of nor could they understand.

This is very plainly indicated in both the United States and Great Britain. Roosevelt outshines the Democratic party, and the cry is "defeat Roosevelt" - not the Democratic party or vice versa.

In conversations with Englishmen, I have learned that Churchill has succeeded in the public's estimation of submerging the political factor almost entirely.

It is only to be expected, therefore, that Canadians search for similar dramatic figures in their own public life and focus undue attention upon personality. We have to accept that factor if we are to analyze the present situation in terms of the man on the street.

I think it is apparent that Canadians have, to some degree, turned their affections towards Churchill and Roosevelt, and allowed their criticisms to be focussed on the leader