

MR. O. PIROW

PRETORIA

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38 Mr. P. thought H. had a most brilliant brain and sound practical judgment. He would have had outstanding success at the Bar and had every quality necessary to have made a brilliant judge. He was outstanding in legal argument. The real trouble with H. was that he could think out a thing, make a speech about it, know what had to be done, but could not put it into action. He lacked aggressiveness. Another of his faults was the tendency to sacrifice himself and also his stubbornness, almost to the point of priggishness. If H. thought an injustice was being done he dug in his heels and appeared to lose his sense of proportion as in the Fourie case. There were similar subsequent nominations made but H. did not resign.

38 P. thought the contact between H. and Hertzog was purely formal. Gen H. was not approachable. He and Smuts consulted together, also the inner Cabinet (Havenga, Pirow, and Duncan) and decisions were passed out from them. In Coalition movement H. worked behind the scenes. Duncan was the official representative from the SAP side. H. found the way out of the practical difficulties and smoothed the way. TR was keen to get H. on Nationalist side. Most people found it difficult to have social contacts with H. not because he was unapproachable but because he lived in a different atmosphere and had a scholarly attitude. He was much more athletic and powerful physically than people thought.