Personal letters
-Cabinet politics
FEBruary 1941

House of Commons
Canada

Feb 18/41

My darling Aileen;-

There is really nothing much in the way of news. I had a nice quiet trip on the train. Slept until noon on Sunday after my usual breakfast in bed. Sun day we played bridge with the Kliefenbakers from Prince Albert and Casselman from Edmonton. The train was so crowded that we did not get in to dinner until after 9 p.m. with the result that I did not sleep at all well Sunday night. Yesterday I got up at 5.30 and felt sleepy all day. I had breakfast at the Chateau and then went up to the House. found my room in good order and did a little dictating. after lunch

penditures will be appointed this
week and will consist of 15 members
The personnel has not yet been settled
and I do not know whether my
name will be included or not. I
spoke to Mr King at 6 pm and he
was very friendly.
In the evening we played bridge
in Joe Bradette's room and then I
called at the station and picked
up my trunk I got to bed about
midnight and had a good sleep.
It is quite mild but there is a
lot of snow here and the streets
are quite icy.
This morning I dictated letters
and had lunch with Brockington
and Pickersgill. The present minis
ter at Washington, Loring Christie
is quite sick and a new minister
will be appointed. There is some
speculation as to whether Mr
King will appoint a man out of

I forced to Mrs Allen & went up to see her. She persisted in her attitude and I paid her the rent until the end of January and told her what I thought of her conduct. I think it is outrageous but I'm afraid she might make trouble. Accommodation is almost impossible to get and some people are charging $50 & $60 a month just for a room.

It was interesting to see all the members again. Yesterday all that happened was the tabling of returns and a statement by Mr King and we adjourned before 6pm because Mr Hanson was not ready to proceed. It is the general impression that the session will not be a very long one. It would not surprise me if we finished by the end of April. The general impression also is that we will meet again in the fall.

The special committee on war ex

the department or go outside. It may even follow the example of Great Britain and ~~Italy~~ appoint a member of the Cabinet. It will be interesting to see what he does.

This afternoon I spoke to the womens forum at the ymca on the Sirois Repot and was well received There was quite a large turnout and some very intelligent questions were asked. I hope there will be a good account in the papers. By the time I got back soon after 5 pm the House had adjourned again because Mr Hanson was not ready to proceed with the appropriation bill. This was really disgraceful. The government should have been ready with some other business, even estimates. The trouble is that no one is ready to proceed with anything

House of Commons
Canada

The general sentiment in the house seems to be good. Ontario members are disturbed over growing farm discontent in Ontario and think they see the beginning of a farm movement of revolt. There will be grief before the end of this parliament. I feel sure of this and hope that some thing will happen to me before this comes. I rather think it will.

my files will arrive tomorrow and I will try to keep as up to date with my correspondence as I can. I do not expect to be very busy with this during the session but would like to know what it feels like to be quite up to date

I have had an invitation to

dinner at Government House for
Thursday the 27th inst at 8pm
This is for both of us, but Willis
attached a note urging me to
come altho you were not here. I
shall, of course, accept.

There is really not much excite-
ment. A number of people have
enquired about you and sent their
love, but you would really not find
much of interest at the moment and
are not really missing very
much

I must rush this off to catch
the airmail which closes in
just five minutes. I am looking
forward to a letter from you.
all my love to you and the
children Ever your devoted hub

Joe

House of Commons
Canada

Feb 20/41.

my darling Aileen ;-

I got your very nice letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. I'll tell that I am glad to hear that she has been a good girl.

It has been quite interesting to meet the members again. There is a lot of discontent in Ontario on agricultural prices - cheese - butter - hogs and a definite organization against the government promoted by Hepburn who is using the provincial agricultural representatives, altho the meetings are being held under the auspices of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Gardiner is exceedingly

is coming in the hub and rey. I have
seen Wednesday's editorial and
we have heard that Thursday's is even
more specific, but no one here has
yet seen it. I shall look at it tomorrow
Here is no announcement as yet as to
the War Expenditures committee but
I hear that there have been conferences
as to the terms of reference. Hanson has
been wanting it to be a sort of Public
accounts committee but the P.M.
refuses to consent to this. No one on our
side has been told whether she will be
on the committee, but Gray Turgeon
told me today that he thought I was
going to be on and he the chairman
and Walter Turnbull told me this
afternoon that I would probably be
a very busy man this session and
then proceeded to tell me that of course
I knew nothing about it. It therefore
looks as if I may be on. There may
be an announcement about the

unpopular almost everywhere.

Wednesday evening I went out to Alex Humes place for an evening of bridge and we spent a very enjoyable evening. Joe Beaulette and her Mc Bain (who has gone quite sad politically) were the others.

This morning the western members met in a wheat discussion with very sharply conflicting views as to what ought to be done. The Sask members don't like any limitation on the amount to be received but all people are in favor of it. There been doing a certain amount of propaganda. We will all meet again next week. I have had a talk with Mackinnon, minister of Trade + Commerce and really feel sorry for him. The wheat committee are all sore at Gardiner, who has not many friends in the Cabinet.

There is quite a propaganda for some form of national government and now the Winnipeg Free Press

matter on Monday. If I am on this Committee I will be an exceedingly busy person.

The general opinion is that our session will not be a long one but all depends upon what happens abroad.

I got a letter from Eaton which I am enclosing herewith. I have not yet acknowledged receipt of it. Eaton has apologized and, I suppose, that is the end of it unless I see him sometime after I get back. For the meantime there does not seem to be anything to do. It might be wise however for you to jot down a memo in chronological order of what actually occurred and put it away, that is, unless you wish to make further enquiries. I really do not think that is now necessary. I am sure that somebody got a "bawling out."

We are not sitting tonight and I think I will go to a picture show.

All my love to you. I hope I get a letter tomorrow. Ever your loving Joe