

Personal letters - personal, Disarmament Conference
(Geneva, League of Nations) and European situation. Includes a 1932
letter from Mackenzie King concerning Manitoba politics

19 May 1928, 16 Jan. 1932, 20 Feb. 1937, 11 May - 19 Sept 1938



House of Commons
Canada

May 11/38

My dear Alleen :-

I had a letter from you yesterday. I felt fine yesterday and again today. The weather is now cold and raw here but that is not unusual at this time in May.

Nothing much is happening these days and the house has fallen into inertia again. Every body is fed up and just waiting for the session to end except those who want to talk. We don't know where the

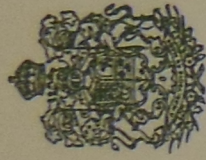


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Budget will come down. The cabinet is fighting over supplementary estimates which may come down sometime this week. I have been told that so far my item re Gmli is still in. I hope it stays.

I am enclosing a clipping from Le Elevois. It is quite flattering. After you read it I think you will be able to give it to Ellen as a French lesson, to translate.

Yesterday I had lunch with young Pickering - a very bright young man and I enjoyed the

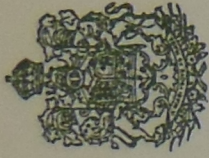


House of Commons
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has very much.

I have just precipitated my-
self into a debate on Radio
broadcasts. I spoke with and any
notes and in the spur of the mo-
ment. It gets my goat where
attempts are made to stifle ex-
pression of opinions just because
the opinions do not suit. we're
getting into a Fascist state of
mind in this country

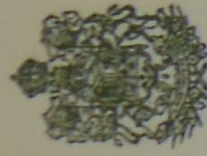
— Gossip keeps recurring to the ef-
fect that Mr. Lapointe will go to
the Senate as the govern-ment
leader there - and Jim beginning
to believe there is some truth in
the gossip. I have had some fairly
clear indication that this is go-



House of Commons
Canada

ing to happen. He is unhappy politically, feels that his career is over, that he has no future. The church is attacking him as the friend of communism and he feels that every thing he has been fighting for, the unity of Canada, liberalism, in Quebec etc is falling to pieces. His easy manner has left him and I am told he feels quite depressed.

There may soon be a vacancy in the department of justice - the deputy minister is quite ill and may not return. He may retire on the grounds of ill-health. There is really no one in the department to fill his place and it is realized

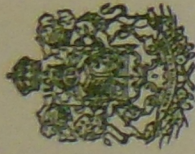


House of Commons
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by some that there is a great work for the deputy minister to do. That would be a very fine position! The other would be better but I have not yet had the proper chance to speak to Mr. Lapointe.

The friend of Mr. Welford against the P.M. goes on. The other day three members went to Toronto to see what they could do as peace-makers. Mitchell told them plainly that he was going to fight King to the end - no matter what the consequences were - and that King had to go.

We may be here until the end of June or even later. Now the story goes that the budget will not come down until the middle of June.

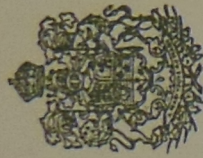


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and not before the Sask election
were having a very mixed up
time of it. Today was quite interest-
ing altho the temper of the house
was "on the trigger".

Well, my dear, all we can do
is to wait. Tell me how finances
are. Jim getting low here. I had
to pay \$190 to the Bank of Montreal
at home on a note x \$150 here
on advances. That doesn't leave
very much.

Mr John Davidson will probab-
ly see you about insurance on
the house which falls due this
year - another expense! However,
we may struggle through.



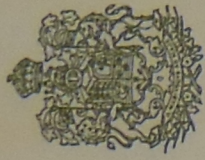
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Give my love to Ellen & Annie
and tell them it would please
me to hear from them. Kiss Gail
for me and tell her that I know
she is a good girl.

Well, good night, Jim said
hame. I have a bath & go to bed
It's almost 11 pm.

Ever your loving husband

Joe



House of Commons
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Montreal - Sep 2

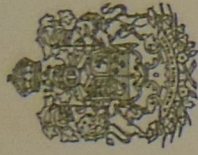
1938.

My dear Alleen :-

Here I am in

Montreal after a very pleasant trip.

The ride to Ottawa was very restful and I slept well both nights. There were quite a number of persons I knew in the train and I did not have a dull moment. Leslie Hanu, formerly of Upps was in his way home and entertained on board. Mrs Carew and Dorothy got on at Kenora. Mrs B is not well - falls tone trouble or something of



House of Commons
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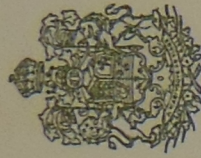
that sort.

I did not of my law job on board the train, but don't know how I'll get the other one done. I would rush even if the matter has to wait.

It's been a lovely day at Ottawa nice and cool. I had breakfast at the Chateau Capetaria. Kipotes and herding and then went up to the House but since the telephone wasn't working there was no objection in going up to my room.

Saw Clarence Jackson, Mr. Greaves and Mr. Skeelton.

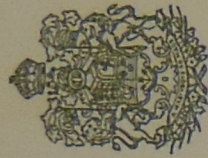
Mr. Greaves looks tired and is deaf, than five seen him



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The trade treaties will be signed this month. Roosevelt wants them disposed of. Mr. Euler has been called back for the purpose. Mr. Skelton very nice - Mr. King laid up with sciatica - a very severe case and very painful - otherwise in good health. Mr. Blumming not so good.

Made arrangements for my Supreme Court case. Mr. Skelton told me Lapointe was returning in October 1st. May return same time. Indeed if anything develops Lapointe will be recalled at once. He despatched today look much better



House of Commons
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met Uncle Fred in the street.
He's looking well and keeping
his weight. Sent his love to you
and the children Emma
away. Phoned Maryorie and Fraser
both Maryorie and Fraser
away in Toronto.

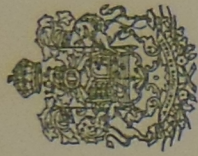
Phoned Ken and had lunch
with him at the Rideau
Club. Saw Charlie Cowan,
and Fred Broun - all at our
table. Lots of gossip - Bren
fun contract etc. - Jan Mac.
Kenzie not very popular
with that group. Plaxton
name not in good odor.
Edwards - helps minister of



House of Commons
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of Justice will retire at the end of this month - my name has been mentioned in discussions and Ken and the others very anxious that I should press LaPointe on the subject. I shall most certainly talk to him if I can get a real chance but you know how eager he is. I'm going to see the P.M. about it again when I get back here.

After lunch went to Ken's office and saw Mills. Later He came in. Looking very well. Every body pleased with my appointment and looking forward to my return. Peg is



House of Commons
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suggested I should buy you a dress in Paris - hence my telegram to you. I think your size is a 36 but Peg suggested a 38 saying it would be easier to take a dress in. I'm not sure however that I will be in Paris, but I may be.

Saw Mr Pickerspill - Mr King's secretary - all worn out during Pickering's job as well as his own, but a new secretary is coming. An old 1st army

Took the evening train to Montreal - Mr R B. Bennett on board - going to England on the Empress of Australia - had



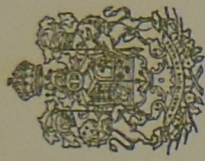
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quite an interesting chat with him.
The Montreal Gazette is publishing
mainly hard. Mr Bennett
quite sore about reactionary ef-
fects to control convention. Jones
quite mixed up.

Staying at The Windsor Hotel
over night so that I won't have
to get up quite so early. The
Boat train leaves at 9.30 in
the morning.

Every body at Ottawa dis-
appointed that you were not
going. Wish you were. It would
be much more fun.

Well, my dear, I've told you
all I can think of. I'll write
you again on the boat. The
mail will be taken off. I
suppose, at Father Point.



House of Commons
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The chances are that Geneva
want last much longer than
about the 26th or 28th.

I'm looking forward to the trip
very much - especially on the boat
but it will be nice to get back
home.

All the love in the world to
you, my darling. Won't worry
about me at all. I'm sure I'll
be alright.

Ever loving hub.

Joe.