Personal letters
- meetings with politicians and public servants

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June 5th - 1928.

Darling Petsy girl;-

I got your letter today dated June 2nd. You certainly are working hard. Its a shame that you have to do all that extra work in the garden. But you're a dandy and you don't know how much I depend upon you. I don't believe we've ever been happier together than during the past two years. You're such a great supporter and we certainly pull together. We've got a great deal to be thankful for even if at times we seem to be up against it. However I'm a great optimist. I'm certainly going to have a hectic time of it. Today has been a fearful sort of day. Propaganda about seven sisters, a dispute with the Senate over

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Pensions and a terrific battle in prospect over the Postmen. Bennett is reported to have said he would fight this item for two weeks if necessary. There has been a savage Editorial in the Montreal Gazette against the proposition and some of the ministers are panicky over it. Veniot thought the item ought to be withdrawn but I have had quite a talk with him and Premier King, and the item will be brought up, probably on Thursday or Friday. The Gazette urged the Conservatives to fight it tooth and nail and the Senate to throw it out, even if it meant throwing out the Supply Bill. So you see the prospect in front of you truly. Not so pleasant eh? But will see what happens and I'm prepared to fight. There is odd

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moments I've been drafting pension legislation. The memo I drafted yesterday for the motion was used. The motion passed the House but the Senate has objected to the form and thinks we have not treated them properly. So that's held up for a while, but it is not serious. I've been busy on correspondence and I've got a pile ready to dictate thats quite alarming, but when I get this off, I won't be in such very bad shape. A couple of days hard work will clean things up. So you can see my condition. This is a great life if you don't weaken but if I survive successfully I shall be very glad indeed. This has certainly been a busy session for me, but I don't mind. I'd

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rather like to have a few days with nothing to do but poke around. When the session is over I'll have to start thinking of my speech and getting ready for a defence of my position in Winnipeg

Its now after half past two but I didnt want to go home before saying up a few words to you. I got better after I've written to you, but I wish you were here in person. I'll certainly be glad to see you again.

Tell Ellen that I'm very proud of her and that I'll write her another letter before I leave for home. Isn't it remarkable how quickly she has learnt.

I'll stop now and say goodnight to you my darling girl of mine, the best pal there ever was your loving hub
Jot.

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Feby 6 1936.

Dear Aileen ;-

It is after midnight and I am writing from my room in the House. I am sorry I didn't write to you yesterday because I would have given you full details of my dinner at the Greene's, but I was working at the Supreme Court Library until quite late and when I got back to the Hotel my room was too cold to write in.

I had a wonderful evening at the Greene's and quite contrary to the wire that was sent you was quite sober. The Greene's new house is at the back of their big one on the lot behind and quite level with the road. I think it is very nice but it is of course not nearly as palatial a place as their other one. The children

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have grown tremendously. Kenneth is not as big as Bonnie and now looks like Peg. Patsy is a very nice little girl and a big favorite. Peg and Ken have not changed a particle and were just as friendly as could be. During dinner Ken thought of a scheme to play a joke on Hy + Willis. He called Willis up saying that the husband of one of Peg's friends had suddenly turned up just before dinner and that they expected they might have trouble with ~~them~~ him before the evening was over. Willis could'nt come since he had darn to go to Government House but Hy said she would come. Later Ken called again urging her to hurry. She came over quite upset. Then just before Willis came over later on in the evening, they had me lying down, having daubed me with blacking, with the lights

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rd, having upset a couple of chairs in the Hall. Willis didn't recognize me when he came up to where I was until I jumped up and laughed. We had quite a joke about it. Then Fred Benson came over.

Yesterday I had lunch at the Rideau Club with Ainslie and sat at the same table as Ken + Fred Benson. In the afternoon I went over to the Supreme Court Bldg, listened to the last of the references and arranged to get in in the evening. The Librarian gave me keys to the building and to the library, since it was supposed to be closed in the evening.. I worked there all evening until almost 11 pm.

Today we met at noon to elect a Speaker and there was quite a furore for a while, Bennett making quite an attack on Pierre Casgrain for

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ordering dismissals. There was no recorded vote, the election being carried "on division." Today was a great day, all the members meeting one another and renewing acquaintanceship. I even shook hands with Mr Bennett who greeted me in a very friendly manner "Hello, Joe, how are you?" much to my surprise. In the afternoon we met again at 3pm and went over to the Senate chamber. It was quite striking to see all the ladies dressed in black - not a single light colored gown. After our return to the House, formal business was done and the House adjourned. When I got back to my room Mr & Mrs J.H. Stitt were waiting for me. I also met Mrs J. D. Mackenzie. I am sure you would like her. She certainly

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4ar need more money. Ill send Eatons a cheque for $75 00 on monday at the latest and will also send payments on account of light and milk.

If I get back in time Im to have dinner with the Elliotts on Sunday. Every body enquires about 4ar. The only cabinet minister's wife whom I have seen is mrs Manning, whose health is much better. No, I also saw mrs Gardiner. Both asked for 4ar. I have seen all the ministers including the Prime minister to whom I gave 4ar regards.

There are lots of things I would like to tell 4ar but this must do until the next time, my darling

4ar loving husband.

Joe.

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Feb 18. 36.

My dear Aileen ;-

I haven't written you for a few days. I wrote to the children yesterday and of course wrote both to Ellen and to Lonnie. Saturday evening I went to the O'Connors and had a wonderful evening. Fred Benson called for me. After dinner Norman Robertson of the Department of External affairs came over and we had an interesting talk about various matters. I slept in Sunday morning and it was almost 2 pm when Marjorie Elliott phoned me and invited me to a meeting of the Elizabeth Tudor chapter of the Daughters of Empire at

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which Charlotte Whitton was to speak.
Miss Whitton gave a marvellous lecture
on Queen Elizabeth - one of the most
brilliant performances I have ever
listened and I was positively thrilled
with her lecture. After the lecture
I went over to the Brerars for tea, to
which all the Manitoba members
had been invited. The Brerars have
a very fine house on Clemow just
a little west of Bank Street, which
they have rented. They have moved
their furniture from Winnipeg and
are very comfortably situated. Mr
Lambert was there after a trip to
the Bermudas, but his conversat-
ion was perfunctory. After leav-
ing the Crerars I went to the House
and did some more work on my

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second case.

This came on Monday and I was not even called upon, the Court dismissing the appeal of the Winnipeg Electric with costs. This was most satisfactory. I wish they had done that with the C.P.R case However, this means that I will get paid at least $200 and may get $300, so that is something to be pleased with. I met the Chief Justice on the stairs before Court opened. He was very nice to me and said he was glad to see me back in Ottawa and paid me a compliment, saying, "We are greatly indebted to you for your very complete argument in

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that case". I don't know what that means or whether it means anything but I am told that the Chief Justice is not lavish with his compliments.

Yesterday evening I had dinner with the McPhee's. I didn't realize that I had been invited to a party so I didn't arrive in a dinner jacket. Hon & Mrs J H King, Fraser & Marjorie Elliott & Mrs Ladner were at the dinner which was a very nice affair. Mrs McPhee has not changed and is as she was, but very friendly. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. There is quite a speculative undercurrent running in Ottawa - mines and oils as in 1929 & 1930. This run of

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dinners will play the deuces with my tummy, even altho I am careful

Today I had lunch with J.E. Read of the Dept of External Affairs and an interesting talk with him. I also dropped in and saw Mr Skelton for a few minutes. I think he was glad to see me back. Tonight I am having dinner with Mr Dawson of Winnipeg who is in Ottawa for a short time.

I had an invitation from the Governor's but it is not settled and on Thursday I am going to Government House at 5.15 pm to meet His Excellency.

I was very glad to hear about Will and how thrilled he was over his little boy. I hope things will turn better for Will from

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now or
Now I will attend to the many
matters that will require attention
and try to catch up with arrears
of work

This has not told you all the
things I have had in mind. Gee!
I wish you were here to talk to

There are no rumours or reports
about undersecretaries except that
a few names were mentioned yester-
day, none of which, in my opinion
are likely

Goodnight to you my darling.

your loving husband

Joe.