Guide to the William H. Anderson and the Anti-Saloon League Papers 1903-1928
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier: ICU.SPCL.WHANDERSON

Title: Anderson, William H. and the Anti-Saloon League. Papers

Date: 1903-1928

Size: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

Repository: Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.


Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

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William Hamilton Anderson (1874-1961?) was born and educated in Carlinville, Illinois. He received his B.S. degree from Blackburn College in Carlinville in 1892 and an LL.B. from the Law School of the University of Michigan in 1896. He received an honorary LL.D. from Illinois Wesleyan in 1919.

Anderson is principally known for his work with the Anti-Saloon League. In 1900, he became attorney for the Illinois Anti-Saloon League and later State Superintendent. He personally drafted the Illinois local option law and was instrumental in federating the churches of the state within the Anti-Saloon League to secure passage of that law. In 1906 Anderson became Associate State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, a position he held until 1914. He then served for ten years as General State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of New York, during which time the state organization grew in strength and influence. Anderson was instrumental in the passage of a City Local-Option Law, after it had been defeated regularly for twenty years. He secured an increase in the number of New York congressmen voting in favor of the Eighteenth Amendment, the National Prohibition Amendment, from three in 1914 to fourteen in 1917, this increase being important for the passage of the amendment in Congress. Anderson was influential in securing ratification of the Prohibition Amendment by the New York State Legislature in 1919 and in the passage of a New York State dry enforcement law. These last measures were considered by most temperance leaders as impossible of attainment in New York State. On July 3, 1924 Anderson was indicted for third degree forgery in connection with the "alteration" of Anti-Saloon League financial records. It was generally understood at that time the move was politically motivated by Tammany Hall, which wished to punish Anderson for the defeat it had suffered at his hands on the liquor question. Anderson was tried and convicted of the charge and sentenced to two years imprisonment, of which he served nine months. The Board of Directors of the Anti-Saloon League unanimously denounced the proceeding as "a monstrous perversion of justice." The Board and their auditors had officially approved the actions of Anderson in previous years in this matter.

In 1926 Anderson founded the American Christian Alliance and was its general secretary and then director general until his death in 1961 [?].

The papers of Anderson cover the years from 1903 to 1928, with the majority falling between 1918 and 1924. The chronological correspondence (7 folders) covers general matters dealing with Anderson's work with the Anti-Saloon League in Illinois, Maryland, and New York. The Collection includes extensive correspondence (3 folders) between Anderson and Charles S. Whitman, who served two terms as governor of New York (1914-1918). The majority of these letters deal with Whitman's bid for a third term in 1918, which he lost. There is also some
correspondence (1 folder) between Anderson and Whitman in 1923 and 1924 dealing with Anderson’s trial, at which Whitman acted as his counsel. There is one folder of material dealing with Anderson's and the League's relations with John D. Rockefeller, Jr., a major contributor to the movement from 1921 to 1923. Three folders, covering the years 1918 to 1924, deal with the Black Belt Farms Company, a business venture in Alabama in which the principal stockholders were high officials of the Anti-Saloon League. There are also several items dealing with the American Protestant Alliance, an organization with which Anderson was associated in 1928. The major portion of the material consists of carbon copies of letters written by Anderson.

Box 2 contains printed, near print, mimeographed, and typewritten reports, speeches, articles, pamphlets, press releases, and similar material dealing with the Anti-Saloon League matters. There are also various copies of The Emancipator, the organ of the Illinois Anti-Saloon League, and the New York Anti-Saloon League edition of The American Issue.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Anderson, William Hamilton
• Whitman, Charles Seymour, 1868-
• Rockefeller, John D. (John Davison), 1839-1937
• Anti-saloon League of America
• Prohibition -- United States
• Prohibition

INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder 1
Correspondence, 1903-1905 Illinois Anti-Saloon League

Box 1
Folder 2
Correspondence, 1906 New York Anti-Saloon League

Box 1
Folder 3
Correspondence, 1907-1913 Maryland Anti-Saloon League
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0001-003

Box 1
Folder 4
Box 2
Folder 6
Reports of W. H. Anderson to State Board of Trustees of Illinois Anti-Saloon League, 1900-1901

Box 2
Folder 7
Reports of W. H. Anderson to State Board of Trustees of Illinois Anti-Saloon League, 1902-1905
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0002-007

Box 2
Folder 8
Miscellaneous documents on Illinois Anti-Saloon League, including W. H. Anderson’s final report to constituency

Box 2
Folder 9
Yearbook of the Anti-Saloon League of Illinois, 1905

Box 2
Folder 10
The Emancipator, published by the Illinois Anti-Saloon League, Jan 1902-Dec 1902
View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0002-010a

Box 2
Folder 11

Box 2
Folder 12
Clippings concerning O. B. Phillips, 1916

Box 2
Folder 13
Miscellaneous press releases and clippings on Prohibition 1918-1923
Box 2
Folder 14
Press releases concerning Rockefeller charges and Anderson indictment, trial and conviction, 1923-24
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0002-014

Box 2
Folder 15
Press releases, clippings concerning Rockefeller charges and Anderson indictment, trial and conviction, 1923-24

Box 2
Folder 16
Galley proofs, single edition, American Issue (1914)

Box 2
Folder 17
Miscellaneous issues of American Issue, 1923-24
View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0002-017a
View digitized documents, part 2. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0002-017b

Box 2
Folder 18
Miscellaneous clippings concerning W. E. P. Anderson and H. H. Russell; picture of D. J. Burrell

Box 2
Folder 19
Songbooks of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (addition to the Anti-Saloon League Papers; not part of the original W. H. Anderson Collection; added 1/86)
View digitized documents, part 1. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/whanderson-0002-019a