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Guide to the Delos Franklin Wilcox Papers 1907-1928



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.WILCOX
Title	Wilcox. Delos Franklin. Papers
Date	1907-1928
Size	24 linear ft. (46 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	Delos Franklin Wilcox (1873-1928), Franchise and public utility expert. Correspondence, reports, analyses, articles, pamphlets, graphs, tables, and notes. Material relates to public utility issues.

Information on Use

Access

No restrictions

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Wilcox. Delos Franklin. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Delos F. Wilcox (1873-1928) was a franchise and public utility expert. He was born on a farm near Ida, Michigan and was educated at both the University of Michigan, where John Dewey's work influenced him, and at Columbia University. He served as secretary of various civic organizations in Cleveland, Grand Rapids and Detroit. In 1907, he became Chief of the Bureau of Franchises of the Public Service Commission for the First District of New York (New York City). He resigned in 1913 to become Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity of New York City, a position that he held until 1917. During this period he wrote three books, *The American City* (1904), *Great Cities in America* (1910) and *Municipal Franchises* in two volumes (1910-1911), in addition to numerous pamphlets and articles.

In 1917, Wilcox organized a staff of assistants and established himself as a consultant on utility problems-always on the side of the public. He was employed as an expert in special utility investigations, traction surveys, valuation and rate proceedings, arbitrations and franchise settlements. He lectured extensively and was active in many civic organizations, notably the National Municipal League.

Scope Note

The papers cover the years 1907 to 1928 and include analyses of utility problems prepared for the various municipalities which consulted Wilcox, reports and articles for periodicals, correspondence concerning the investigations, graphs, tables and handwritten notes, prepared by either Wilcox or his staff. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic.

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

- Wilcox, Delos F. (Delos Franklin), 1873-1928
- Public utilities
- Municipal franchises

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Bluefield, West Virginia, 1922-1923, Investigations into proposed increase in water rates

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Books by Delos F. Wilcox, Correspondence in re

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Bronxville, New York, 1917, Water rate case

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Chicago, Illinois, 1918-1920, 1925-1928, Mayor Thompson's Transportation Committee, traction ordinance investigation.

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City planning and housing, 1900-1925, Articles, pamphlets, etc.

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Denver, Colorado, 1915, Special reports to counsel for City of Denver in water rate case

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New York City, 1913-1917, Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, D.F. Wilcox, Deputy Commissioner

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Valuation memoranda (5 folders).

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"Working Capital in Street Railway Valuations," 1920-1921, pamphlet by D.F. Wilcox (1 folder).

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Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1921-1922. Testimony in Emergency Fare Case and valuation of Minneapolis Street Railway property, examination of its relations with Twin City Rapid Transit Company, in preparation of City's case in permanent fare proceedings.

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Grand Island, Nebraska. City Charter