

UA1980.38

## Dorr E. Felt Collection

### Railroad Strikes

**Dates:** 1916-1921

**Creator:** Felt, Dorr E. (1862-1930)

**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet

**Level of description:** Folder

**Processor & date:** Jessica Hagen, October 2012

### Administration Information

**Restrictions:** No restrictions

**Copyright:** Consult archivist for information

**Citation:** Loyola University Chicago Archives and Special Collections. Dorr E. Felt Collection: Railroad Strikes, 1916-1921, Box #, Folder #.

**Provenance:** Records transferred to Loyola University Chicago Archives and Special Collections in November 1955 by Raymond Koch, son-in-law of Dorr Felt and then president of Felt and Tarrant Mfg. Co.

**Separations:** Dorr E. Felt Collection – United States Employers' Commission to Europe, 1918-1920; Dorr E. Felt Collection – World War I, 1909-1930; Dorr E. Felt Collection – International Trade and Labor Conferences, 1919-1921; Dorr E. Felt Collection – Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Records, 1916-1926

### Biographical Sketch

Dorr Eugene Felt was born in Rock County, Wisconsin on March 18, 1862. At fourteen he began working in a machine shop in Beloit, Wisconsin. He moved to Chicago in 1882 and obtained work as a mechanic. A perceptive and skilled worker with an entrepreneurial spirit, in his free time Felt devised and constructed a computation device out of such crude materials as a macaroni box, rubber bands, and metal skewers. Felt called the machine a Comptometer. A mechanical calculator, the Comptometer was the first mechanical calculator to greatly improve upon the first mechanical computing device created, the arithmometer, which was first commercially distributed in 1851. Felt opened Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Company, a large manufacturing facility in Chicago, out of which he built and sold Comptometers. The Comptometer computing device became a great commercial success and was sold and used world-wide.

As a result of Felt's experience as president of a large industrial company, he was asked by the U.S. Department of Labor to participate in a study of labor relations in Europe. Joining a team of other individuals from the United States, Felt toured England and France in order to examine manufacturing facilities and to speak with owners, managers, and laborers about the successes and frustrations of labor conditions in the two countries. The results of the commission's inquiries were reported and published, but more importantly this trip marked the beginning of Felt's close involvement with national and international trade and labor interests. Felt attended and spoke at labor conferences

and wrote about labor conditions, unions, communism, Bolshevism, and other labor-related subjects.

In addition to writing and speaking on broad topics, Felt held posts as president and director of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, president of the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution, and director of the United States Chamber of Commerce in 1902. Felt was a regional advisor on the War Industries Board in 1918, a board member of the Chicago Association of Commerce, and a member of Chicago's Union League Club.

### **Scope and Content**

The Felt Collection on Railroad Strikes consists of 2.5 linear feet spanning the years 1916 to 1921. The records consist of personal correspondence, legislation, and newspaper clippings concerning the strikes and various topics associated with the strikes. The series are arranged alphabetically, and folders of the same subject are arranged chronologically.

#### **Series 1: Associations, 1916, 1917, 1920, n.d., Box 1**

This series is regarding the American Association of Engineers and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (in which Felt was very involved). It contains newspaper clippings, a list of members for the Manufacturers' Association Committee on Resolutions, and a letter from the Illinois Manufacturers' Association to the president and Congress regarding arbitration.

#### **Series 2: Committees and Commissions, 1916-1921, Box 1**

This series contains newspaper clippings relating to the Chamber of Commerce, the Committee on Interstate Commerce, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Public Utilities Commission, and the Railroad Labor Board. Materials relating to the Committee on Interstate Commerce include newspaper articles concerning the House Committee, the Senate Committee, and the Joint Committee. There is also a list of the Joint Committee members. There are also documents from the Chamber of Commerce in this series, including Railroad Legislation regarding the Adamson Bill (Legislative Nos. 43 and 50), a resolution for the creation of a Railroad Committee to report to the Chamber, Railway Regulation (General No. 295), and Railroad Legislation regarding the "Eight-Hour Railway-Wage Law" (General No. 296).

#### **Series 3: Correspondence, 1916-1920, Box 1**

This series contains letters, notes, and telegrams both to and from Felt. Subject matter pertains to the railroad crisis and strike, causes of the strike, arbitration, and railroad legislation.

#### **Series 4: International Railroad Issues, 1916-1920, Box 1**

This series contains newspaper clippings regarding international railroad issues, such as government control/ownership of railroads abroad; and strikes on railroads in Britain, Bulgaria, Italy, France, Spain, New Zealand, Ireland, and India. Subjects include Canadian coal strikes, the weakness of European railways, railways and trade in Asia, an embargo of Canadian freight, rebel control of railroads in Mexico, rising transportation costs, and Canadian Unions' view of the eight hour day and forty hour week law.

**Series 5: Judicial and Supreme Court, 1920-1921, Box 2**

This series contains newspaper clippings that pertain to Supreme Court hearings and Tax Suits regarding railroads and railroad legislation.

**Series 6: Personal Papers, 1915-1916, 1918-1920, n.d., Box 2**

This series contains a newspaper article written by Felt regarding the Adamson Law, an interview given by Felt to the United Press about government ownership of railroads, a notecard about the Illinois Tax Payers Alliance, handwritten notes about railways, a printed quote about unions, and an empty large envelope with the return address of Rexford L. Holmes.

**Series 7: Railroad Information, 1917-1921, n.d., Box 2**

This series contains newspaper clippings regarding railroad leadership, construction, employment, and financial information. Subjects include opportunities for women in the railroad industry and the attempted abolition of Jim Crow Laws through a railroad amendment.

**Series 8: Railroad Legislation, 1916-1920, n.d., Box 2**

This series contains newspaper clippings, notecards, and a magazine article regarding the Adamson Law; newspaper clippings regarding the Cummins Bill, Poindexter Bill, and Railroad Funding Bill; and newspaper clippings and a magazine article regarding the Plumb Plan.

**Series 9: Railroad Strikes, 1916-1921, n.d. Boxes 3-4**

This series contains newspaper clippings regarding arbitration, the effect of railroad strikes on other industries, the “outlaw”/switchmen’s strike, ownership (private v. federal control) of railroads, the railroad strikes themselves, associated strikes in other industries in the US, and wage issues. There is also a 1916 magazine article regarding the effect of the strike on the public/taxpayers.

**Series 10: Railroad Unions, 1919-1917, 1920-1921, n.d., Box 5**

This series contains newspaper clippings about railroad unions and union leadership, a 1916 newspaper article about unions for teachers, and a resolution from the National City Bank of New York titled, “Rights of Labor and Property,” regarding resolutions adopted by the American Federation of Labor in January of 1917.

**Series 11: Woodrow Wilson, 1909, 1916-1920, Box 5**

This series contains newspaper articles regarding Woodrow Wilson’s policies and actions concerning railroad issues and strikes while he was in the presidency. This section also contains an excerpt, reprinted in 1916, of the Baccalaureate Address he gave at Princeton University in 1909, in which he discussed labor unions.

**Subjects:**

American Association of Engineers

Felt, Dorr E.

Illinois Manufacturers' Association

Jim Crow

Railroad Legislation

Railroad Strikes

Railroad Unions

Railroads, International

Supreme Court

Wilson, Woodrow

Women

**Accession No.:** UA1980.38

**Creator:** Felt, Dorr E. (1862-1930)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b><u>Series 1: Associations, 1916, 1917, 1920</u></b>			
1	1	American Association of Engineers	n.d.
1	2	Illinois Manufacturers' Association	1916
1	3	Illinois Manufacturers' Association	1916
1	4	Illinois Manufacturers' Association	1917
1	5	Illinois Manufacturers' Association	1920
1	6	The Merchants' Association of New York	1916
1	7	Railway Business Association	1916
<b><u>Series 2: Committees and Commissions, 1916-1921</u></b>			
1	8	Chamber of Commerce	1916
1	9	Chamber of Commerce	1916-1917
1	10	Chamber of Commerce Pamphlets	1916, 1918
1	11	House Committee on Interstate Commerce	1919
1	12	Joint Committee on Interstate Commerce	1916
1	13	Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce	1917-1918, 1920
1	14	Interstate Commerce Commission	1916
1	15	Interstate Commerce Commission	1917
1	16	Interstate Commerce Commission	1918
1	17	Interstate Commerce Commission Pamphlets	1918
1	18	Interstate Commerce Commission	1919
1	19	Interstate Commerce Commission	1920
1	20	Interstate Commerce Commission	1921
1	21	Public Utilities Commission	1917, 1920
1	22	Railroad Labor Board	1921
<b><u>Series 3: Correspondence, 1916-1920</u></b>			
1	23	Correspondence	1916
1	24	Correspondence	1917
1	25	Correspondence	1918
1	26	Correspondence	1919
1	27	Correspondence	1920
<b><u>Series 4: International Railroad Issues, 1916-1920</u></b>			
1	28	"Foreign Trade in Railway Supplies" pamphlet	1918
1	29	International Ownership of Railroads	1917-1920
1	30	International Strikes	1920
1	31	International, Miscellaneous	1916-1920

**Series 5: Judicial and Supreme Court,**  
**1920-1921**

2	1	Supreme Court	1920
2	2	Tax Suits	1921

**Series 6: Personal Papers, 1918-1919**

2	3	Felt article, Adamson Law	1918
2	4	Felt interview, Government Ownership	1919
2	5	Personal, Miscellaneous	1915-1916, 1920, n.d.

**Series 7: Railroad Information, 1917-1921**

2	6	Chicago Railway Equipment Company pamphlet	1920
2	7	Railroad Construction	1920
2	8	Railroad Employment	1921
2	9	Financial Information	1917
2	10	Financial Information	1918
2	11	Financial Information	1919
2	12	Financial Information	1920
2	13	Railroad Financial pamphlet	1920
2	14	Financial Information	1921
2	15	Jim Crow	1919
2	16	The Railroad Investors League	1917
2	17	Railroad Leaders	1920
2	18	Railroad Leaders	n.d.
2	19	Women	1920

**Series 8: Railroad Legislation, 1916-1920**

2	20	H.R. 17700 (Adamson Law)	1916
2	21	Adamson Law	1916-1917
2	22	Adamson Law	n.d.
2	23	Adamson Law and Supreme Court	1916
2	24	Adamson Law and Supreme Court	1917
2	25	Adamson Law and Supreme Court	1917
2	26	Arbitration Legislation pamphlets	1915-1916
2	27	Cummins Bill	1919
2	28	Cummins Bill	1920
2	29	Plumb Plan pamphlets	1919
2	30	Plumb Plan	1919
2	31	Plumb Plan	1919
2	32	Plumb Plan	1920
2	33	Poindexter Bill	1920
2	34	Railroad Funding Bill	1921

**Series 9: Railroad Strikes, 1916-1921**

3	1	Arbitration	1916
3	2	Arbitration	1919-1920
3	3	Effect of Strike	1916
3	4	Effect of Strike	1916
3	5	Effect of Strike	1917
3	6	Effect of Strike	1918
3	7	Effect of Strike	1920
3	8	“Outlaw” (Switchmen’s) Strike	April 1920
3	9	“Outlaw” (Switchmen’s) Strike	May-Sept 1920
3	10	“Outlaw” Strike Plot	1921
3	11	Railroad Ownership (Private v. Federal Control)	1916
3	12	Railroad Ownership (Private v. Federal Control)	1917
3	13	Railroad Ownership (Private v. Federal Control)	1918
3	14	Railroad Ownership (Private v. Federal Control)	1919
3	15	Railroad Ownership (Private v. Federal Control)	1920
3	16	Railroad Ownership (Private v. Federal Control)	n.d.
4	1	Railroad Strike: “Fifteen Pertinent Editorials” pamphlet	1916
4	2	Railroad Strike	1916
4	3	Railroad Strike	1917
4	4	Railroad Strike	1918
4	5	Railroad Strike	1919
4	6	Railroad Strike	1920
4	7	Railroad Strike	1921
4	8	Railroad Strike	n.d.
4	9	Strikes in Other Industries (US)	1919
4	10	Strikes in Other Industries (US)	1920
4	11	Wage Issues	1917
4	12	Wage Issues	1918
4	13	Wage Issues	1919
4	14	Wage Issues	1920
4	15	Wage Issues	1921
4	16	Wage Issues	n.d.

**Series 10: Railroad Unions,  
1916-1917, 1920-1921**

5	1	Unionizing Teachers	1916
5	2	Unions	1916
5	3	Unions	1917
5	4	Unions	1920
5	5	Unions	1921
5	6	Unions	n.d.
5	7	Unions, “Rights of Labor and Property” Resolution	Jan 1917

**Series 11: Woodrow Wilson, 1909, 1916-1920**

5	8	Woodrow Wilson	1916
5	9	Woodrow Wilson	1917
5	10	Woodrow Wilson	1918
5	11	Woodrow Wilson	1919
5	12	Woodrow Wilson	1920
5	13	Woodrow Wilson 1909 Baccalaureate Address, Princeton University	1909