

UA1980.38

Dorr Felt Collection

Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Records

Dates: 1916-1926, no date

Creator: Felt, Dorr (1862-1930)

Extent: .42 linear feet

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: Meredith Gozo, May 2012; Ashley Howdeshell, January 2013

Administration Information

Restrictions: No restrictions.

Copyright: Consult archivist for information.

Citation: Loyola University Chicago University Archives and Special Collections. Dorr Felt Collection, Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Records, 1916-1926, no date. Box #.
Folder #.

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

Separations: No separations.

See Also: Dorr E. Felt Collection – United States Employers’ Commission to Europe, 1918-1920; Dorr E. Felt Collection – Railroad Strikes, 1916-1921; Dorr E. Felt Collection – International Trade and Labor Conferences, 1919-1921; Dorr E. Felt Collection – World War I, 1909-1930

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 with Chicago businessman Robert Tarrant in 1889; 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. Felt went on to invent more devices and acquired 46 domestic patents and 25 foreign patents.

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 1920. 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 and Tarrant Manufacturing Records consist of .42 linear feet spanning the years 1916 to 1926. The records consist of correspondence, newspaper clippings, certificates, and payroll ledgers. The series are arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1918-1921, no date, Box 1

This series includes correspondence related to the business of Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing. Correspondence includes letters between Dorr Felt and Illinois Senator Lawrence Y Sherman and Felt's business contacts in France.

Series 2: Comptometers, 1916-1926, no date, Box 1

This series includes a photograph, news clippings, reports on number of Comptometers sold, and meeting minutes.

Series 3: Finances, 1921-1922, Box 1

This series includes payroll ledgers and figures about the manufacturing of Comptometers.

Series 4: British Trade Department, 1916, Box 1

This series includes a shipping manifest allowing for the transport of Comptometers to Denmark.

Series 5: War Industries Board, 1918, no date, Box 1

This series includes correspondence between Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing and the War Industries Board, as well as correspondence between Felt and Tarrant and other manufacturers. Priority certificates issued by the Priorities Committee of the War Industries Board are also found in this series.

Series 6: Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army, 1918, no date, Box 1

This series includes correspondence, letters and telegrams, between Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing and the Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army.

Series 7: "Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer", 1920-1921, Box 1

This series includes the report titled "Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer", correspondence between Felt and Tarrant and the auditors who created the report, and requests for copies of the report.

Subjects:

British Trade Department

Comptometer

Comptometer News

Correspondence

Felt, Dorr

Felt and Tarrant Mfg. Co.

International Trade

Labor and labor relations

Le Genie Civil newspaper

Manufacturing

“Savings to Society as a Result of the Use of the Comptometer”

Sherman, Lawrence Y.

War Department – Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army

War Department – War Industries Board

World War I

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<u>Series 1: Correspondence, 1918-1921, no date</u>			
1	1	Correspondence: Felt and Illinois Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman	1918
1	2	Correspondence: Business	1918-1921
1	3	Correspondence: Felt's Professional Contacts in France	1919-1920, no date
1	4	Correspondence: Earl Walter	1920
1	5	Correspondence: The Ronald Press Company	1920-1921
<u>Series 2: Comptometers, 1916-1926, no date</u>			
1	6	Photographs, No descriptions	No date
1	7	News Clippings	1916, 1918
1	8	Comptometers Sold	1918
1	9	Notes of Adding Machine Industry Meeting	1918
1	10	Comptograph Stock Transfers	1918-1919
1	11	<i>Le Génie Civil</i> newspapers	1920
1	12	Comptometer Error Counter	1923
1	13	<i>Comptometer News</i> Volume 1, Number 1	1926
<u>Series 3: Finances, 1921-1922</u>			
1	14	Outside Payroll Ledger	1921
1	15	Notes and Figures	1922
<u>Series 4: British Trade Department, 1916</u>			
1	16	Felt and Tarrant Mfg. Co. – British Trade Department	1916
<u>Series 5: War Industries Board, 1918, no date</u>			
1	17	War Industries Board and Manufacturers – January-May	1918, no date
1	18	War Industries Board and Manufacturers – June-August	1918
1	19	War Industries Board and Manufacturers – September-December	1918
<u>Series 6: Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army, 1918, no date</u>			
1	21	War Department – Office of the Quartermaster General	1918
<u>Series 7: "Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer", 1920-1921</u>			
1	22	Correspondence: Lybrand, Ross Brothers, and	1920

		Montgomery Accounts and Auditors	
1	23	Condensed Report on the "Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer"	1920
1	24	Correspondence: Requests for Copies of "Savings to Society"	1921