

UA1980.38

## Dorr Felt Collection

### United States Employers' Commission to Europe

**Dates:** 1918-1920, 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, United States Employers' Commission to Europe, 1918-1920. 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 – World War I, 1901-1930; Dorr E. Felt Collection – Railroad Strikes, 1916-1921; 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 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 United States Employers' Commission to Europe papers consists of .42 linear feet spanning the years 1918 to 1920. The records consist of tickets, agendas, and correspondence. The series is arranged chronologically.

### **Series 1: The United States Commission to Europe, 1918-1920, no date Box 1**

This series contains materials pertaining to Dorr Felt's trip to Europe during the months of January to April of 1919, including passports, tickets, agendas and itineraries, and correspondence with other members of the commission from the time leading up to and a year following the visit. Of note in the series is correspondence pertaining to Felt's meeting with George Bernard Shaw while in London, as well as the final report of the U.S. Industrial Commission.

### **Subjects:**

Comptometer  
Correspondence  
Felt, Dorr  
Felt and Tarrant Mfg. Co.  
International industrial relations  
Labor and labor relations  
Radicalism  
Shaw, George Bernard  
Unions  
United States Department of Labor  
United States Employers' Commission to Europe

**Accession No.: UA 1980.38**  
**Creator: Felt, Dorr (1862-1930)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b><u>Series 1: United States Employers'</u></b> <b><u>Commission to Europe, 1918-1920, no date</u></b>			
1	1	Addresses	n.d.
1	2	Caption for photo (no photo)	n.d.
1	3	List of letters of introduction and people to see	n.d.
1	4	Reports from U.S. Commission to Europe	n.d.
1	5	U.S. Dept. of Labor pocket memorandum book	n.d.
1	6	Planning document for trip to Europe	1918
1	7	Correspondence: government officials and members of commission	December 1918
1	8	Information on situation in Europe	1919, n.d.
1	9	Notes from Commission to Europe	1919, n.d.
1	10	Correspondence: Babcock of Felt and Tarrant during U.S. Commission to Europe	1919
1	11	Itineraries and memos of engagements	1919
1	12	Receipts from U.S. Commission to Europe	1919
1	13	Travel documents	Jan.-May 1919
1	14	Correspondence: government officials and members of commission	January 1919
1	15	List of passengers, S.S. "Lapland"	January 25, 1919
1	16	Paper clippings: concerning commission	Jan. 1919-Mar. 1926
1	17	"Statement of Minister of Labor for New South Wales"	January 29, 1919
1	18	Correspondence: Government officials and members of commission	February 1919
1	19	Menu	February 1919
1	20	Correspondence: Edward Price Bell of Chicago Daily News	Feb.-March 1919
1	21	Felt and George Bernard Shaw	Feb.-Aug. 1919
1	22	Correspondence: Felt and Tarrant business during U.S. Commission to Europe	Feb.-July 1919
1	23	Interview with Sir Robert Horn and Sir David Shackleton	Feb. 11, 1919
1	24	Correspondence: government officials and members of the commission	March 1919
1	25	Agendas	March-Oct. 1919
1	26	Correspondence: government officials and members of the commission	April 1919
1	27	Report of the Employers' Industrial Commission	April 13, 1919
1	28	Government officials and members of the commission	May 1919
1	29	Government officials and members of the	Jun. 1919-Nov.

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		commission	1928
1	30	Commission findings	Jun. 1919-May 1920
1	31	Correspondence: Rothacker film, Felt, and Commission	Dec. 1919-May 1920