

UA1980.38

Dorr E. Felt Collection

Industrial Engineering

Dates: 1919-1930, Undated (Bulk 1920-1922)

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

Extent: 0.5 linear feet

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: Brooke Sutter, September 2016; updated by K. Young, December 2016

Administration Information

Restrictions: No restrictions.

Copyright: Consult Archivist for information.

Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Archives and Special Collections. *Dorr E. Felt Clipping Collection: Industrial Engineering, 1919-1930*. 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 – 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; Dorr Felt Collection – Bolshevism, 1918-1931

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 Industrial Engineering section of the Dorr E. Felt collection consists of 0.5 linear feet and spans the years 1919-1930. The records consist of correspondence, convention and meeting materials for The Society of Industrial Engineers, publications, newspaper clippings, announcements, invitations, and programs. Subjects covered include anti-socialism, labor, industrial administration, The Society of Industrial Engineers, and the Western Society of Engineers.

Series

Series 1: Correspondence, 1919-1924. Box 1

This series consists of letters and telegrams both to and from Felt. Subject matter includes, among other topics, conventions and meeting for The Society of Industrial Engineers, as well as industrial management. This series also contains business cards, memorandums, and notices from the Western Society of Engineers about potential changes to the society's constitution.

Series 2: Convention and Meeting Materials, 1919-1922. Box 1

This series contains drafts of Felt's speech, given at The Society of Industrial Engineers Fall 1919 National Convention. Also included are programs from the 1919, 1920, and 1921 conventions, as well as an outline of an address given by C.E. Knoepfel at a meeting in 1921

Series 3: The Society of Industrial Engineers Application for Membership, Undated. Box 1

This series contains a blank application for membership of The Society of Industrial Engineers. Though it is not filled out, Felt's name is written on the application, and it shows that he was recommended for membership by Dwight T. Farnham. The application is otherwise blank.

Series 4: Publications, 1919-1922, Undated. Box 1

This series includes bulletins, pamphlets, journal articles, and magazine articles. The subject matter of these publications pertains to The Society of Industrial Engineers' organizations, activities, and goals. Also discussed are preparations for the society's conventions, industrial management, and professional improvement opportunities for employees.

Series 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1919-1922. Box 1

This series contains newspaper clippings with articles discussing labor, investment, property, socialism, wages, and the condition of industry and labor in both Europe and the United States.

Series 6: Announcements, Invitations, and Programs, 1919-1922, Undated. Box 1

This series consists of invitations to, announcements for, and programs from The Society of Industrial Engineers Chicago Chapter meetings. An announcement and program for the Western Society of Engineers meetings are likewise included. The series also contains an announcement regarding Dwight T. Farnham's association with C.E. Knoeppel & Co., Inc., a brief "Statement of Results" from a study by The Chas. E. Bedaux Company, and an advertisement for an educational opportunity for foremen.

Subjects:

Anti-socialism
Farnham, Dwight T.
Felt, Dorr E.
Labor
Industry
Industrial engineering
Industrial administration/management
Knoeppel, C.E.
Manufacturing
Rights concerning property
The Society of Industrial Engineers
Western Society of Engineers

Accession No.: UA1980.38
Creator: Felt, Dorr E. (1862-1930)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<u>Series 1: Correspondence, 1919-1924</u>			
1	1	Correspondence	1919-1924
<u>Series 2: Convention and Meeting Materials, 1919-1922</u>			
1	2	Felt's address to The Society of Industrial Engineers Convention	1919
1	3	Programs and outlines from The Society of Industrial Engineers Conventions and Meetings	1919-1922
<u>Series 3: The Society of Industrial Engineers Application for Membership, No date</u>			
1	4	Application for Membership (blank)	Undated
<u>Series 4: Publications, 1919-1922</u>			
1	5	Publications of The Society of Industrial Engineers	1919-1921
1	6	The Society of Industrial Engineers Bulletin	1920-1922
1	7	<u>Industrial Relations at Home and Abroad</u>	1921
1	8	<u>Service: What we do, How we do it, Whom we've done it for</u>	Undated
1	9	Abstracts	1919, Undated
1	10	<u>Industrial Engineering</u>	1919
1	11	<u>Higher Standards</u>	1920
1	12	<u>Industrial Management</u>	1920-1921
1	13	<u>Old Colony Magazine</u>	1922
1	14	<u>Forbes</u>	Undated
<u>Series 5: Newspaper Clippings, October 1919-March 1922</u>			
1	15	Newspaper clippings	1919-1922
<u>Series 6: Announcements, Invitations, and Programs, 1919-1922</u>			
1	16	Chicago Chapter of the Society of Industrial Engineers	1922
1	17	Western Society of Engineers	1919-1921
1	18	Announcements and Advertisements	Undated