

Elihu Root Papers

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Elihu Root Papers

Span Dates: 1863-1937

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1899-1937)

ID No.: MSS38307

Creator: Root, Elihu, 1845-1937

Extent: 66,000 items ; 256 containers plus 9 oversize ; 87 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: United States secretary of state, secretary of war, United States senator from New York, and statesman. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, notes, reports, subject files, financial papers, calendar and appointment books, invitations, and printed materials relating to Root's career as a lawyer and statesman.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Allen, Henry T. (Henry Tureman), 1859-1930--Correspondence.
Anderson, Chandler P. (Chandler Parsons), 1866-1936--Correspondence.
Armstrong, Hamilton Fish, 1893-1973--Correspondence.
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Boardman, Mabel Thorp, 1860-1946--Correspondence.
Bonaparte, Charles J. (Charles Joseph), 1851-1921--Correspondence.
Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947--Correspondence.
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.
Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1832-1917--Correspondence.
Colby, Bainbridge, 1869-1950--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Davis, George W. (George Whitefield), 1839-1918--Correspondence.
Dick, Charles, 1858-1945--Correspondence.
Dodge, Grenville M., 1831-1916--Correspondence.
Drummond, Eric, Sir, 1876- --Correspondence.
Edge, Walter E. (Walter Evans), 1873-1956--Correspondence.
Finch, George Augustus, 1884-1957--Correspondence.
Foote, Nathaniel, 1849- --Correspondence.
Garrison, Lindley M. (Lindley Miller), 1864-1932--Correspondence.
Glass, Carter, 1858-1946--Correspondence.
Greely, A. W. (Adolphus Washington), 1844-1935--Correspondence.
Grey of Fallodon, Edward Grey, Viscount, 1862-1933--Correspondence.
Griscom, Lloyd Carpenter, 1872-1959--Correspondence.
Hagedorn, Hermann, 1882-1964--Correspondence.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Hays, Will H. (Will Harrison), 1879-1954--Correspondence.
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr., 1841-1935--Correspondence.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.

Hudson, Manley O. (Manley Ottmer), 1886-1960--Correspondence.
 Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
 Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
 Jessup, Philip C. (Philip Caryl), 1897-1986--Correspondence.
 Jusserand, J. J. (Jean Jules), 1855-1932--Correspondence.
 Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937--Correspondence.
 Keppel, Frederick P. (Frederick Paul), 1875-1943--Correspondence.
 Knox, Philander C. (Philander Chase), 1853-1921--Correspondence.
 Lane, Franklin K.--Correspondence.
 Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.
 Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
 Loeb, William, 1866-1937--Correspondence.
 Long, John Davis, 1838-1915--Correspondence.
 Low, Seth, 1850-1916--Correspondence.
 McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.
 McKim, Charles Follen, 1847-1909--Correspondence.
 McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.
 Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947--Correspondence.
 Phillimore, Walter G. F. Phillimore (Walter George Frank Phillimore), Baron, 1845-1929--Correspondence.
 Platt, Orville Hitchcock, 1827-1905--Correspondence.
 Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910--Correspondence.
 Proctor, Redfield, 1831-1908--Correspondence.
 Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
 Root, Elihu, 1845-1937.
 Root, Elihu, 1881-1967--Correspondence.
 Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928--Correspondence.
 Sanger, Wm. Cary (William Cary), 1853-1921--Correspondence.
 Scott, James Brown, 1866-1943--Correspondence.
 Shaw, Leslie M. (Leslie Mortier), 1848-1932--Correspondence.
 Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.
 Stetson, Francis Lynde--Correspondence.
 Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence.
 Straus, Oscar S. (Oscar Solomon), 1850-1926--Correspondence.
 Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
 Wadsworth, James Wolcott, 1846-1926--Correspondence.
 White, Henry, 1850-1927--Correspondence.
 Wickersham, George W. (George Woodward), 1858-1936--Correspondence.
 Wilson, Henry Lane, 1857-1932--Correspondence.
 Wilson, Huntington, 1875- --Correspondence.
 Wilson, James, 1835-1920--Correspondence.
 Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
 Winthrop, Bronson, 1863-1944--Correspondence.
 Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations

Alaskan Boundary Tribunal.
 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
 Carnegie Institution of Washington.
 Conference on the Limitation of Armament (1921-1922 : Washington, D.C.)
 Hamilton College (Clinton, N.Y.)
 International Commission of Jurists (1921)
 League of Nations.
 League of Nations. Committee of Experts to Revise the World Court Statute.
 New York (State). Constitutional Convention (1915)
 North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration (1910 : Hague, Netherlands)

Permanent Court of Arbitration.
Permanent Court of International Justice.
Republican National Convention.
United States. Department of State.
United States. Special Diplomatic Mission to Russia.
United States. War Department.

Subjects

Arbitration (International law)
Church property.
Constitutional conventions--New York (State)
Disarmament.
Endowments--Washington (D.C.)
Fisheries--North Atlantic Ocean.
Fishery law and legislation.
International courts.
International relations.
Merchant marine--United States.
Political conventions.
Sea-power.
Universities and colleges--New York (State)--Clinton.

Places

Alaska--Boundaries--Canada.
Canada--Boundaries--Alaska.
New York (State)--Politics and government.
Russia--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Russia.
United States--Foreign relations.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--New York (State)
Statesmen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Elihu Root, United States secretary of state, secretary of war, United States senator from New York, and statesman, were given to the Library of Congress by Elihu Root, Elihu Root, Jr., Philip C. Jessup, and Mrs. Chandler P. Anderson between 1919-1960. One item was given by M. Irene Hurd in 1972, and two scrapbooks were transferred from the Department of State in 2001.

Processing History

The papers of Elihu Root were processed in 1963 and expanded with small additions between 1972 and 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Elihu Root in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elihu Root are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Elihu Root Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1845, Feb. 15	Born, Clinton, N.Y.
1864	A.B., Hamilton College, Hamilton, N.Y.
1867	LL.B., New York University, New York, N.Y.
1867	A.M., Hamilton College, Hamilton, N.Y.
1867-1937	Practiced law, New York, N.Y.
1878	Married Clara Wales
1883-1885	United States district attorney, Southern District of New York
1886-1887	Chairman, Republican County Committee, New York, N.Y.
1894	Delegate-at-large, New York Constitutional Convention (chairman, Judiciary Committee)
1899-1904	Secretary of war
1903	Member, Alaskan Boundary Commission
1904	Temporary chairman, Republican National Convention
1905-1909	Secretary of state
1906-1937	President, American Society of International Law
1908-1922	Chairman, New York Republican State Conventions
1909-1915	United States senator from New York
1910	Counsel for United States, North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration, Hague, Netherlands
1910	Became member of Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration
1910-1925	President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
1912	Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

1912	Temporary and permanent chairman, Republican National Convention
1912-1937	Chairman, Board of Trustees, Hamilton College, Hamilton, N.Y.
1913	President, Hague Tribunal of Arbitration between Great Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal concerning church property
1913-1937	Chairman, Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institute of Washington
1915	President, New York Constitutional Convention
1915	President, American Bar Association
1917	Ambassador extraordinary at head of a special diplomatic mission to Russia
1921	Member, Commission of International Jurists, which on invitation of the Council of the League of Nations reported a plan for new Permanent Court of International Justice
1921	Commissioner plenipotentiary for the United States, International Conference on Limitation of Armament and on Far Eastern and Pacific Questions, Washington, D.C.
1925	President, New York College of Presidential Electors
1928-1929	Member, League of Nations committee of experts to revise the World Court Statute
1937, Feb. 7	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elihu Root (1845-1937) consist of correspondence, letterbooks, reports, memoranda, notes, speeches, subject files, maps, invitations, financial papers, calendar and appointment books, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and portfolios containing maps and photographs. The collection spans the years 1863-1937, with the bulk dated between 1899 and 1937. The papers are arranged in six series: [General Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Subject File](#), [Other Related Material](#), and [Oversize](#).

Topics of importance include the League of Nations, Cuba, tariff legislation, Nicaraguan affairs preceding the Bryan-Chamorro Treaty, the Carnegie Institute and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, National Academy of Science, the World Court, Portuguese arbitration (1913-1930), Corporation Tax Amendment (1909), Niagara Falls, North Atlantic Coast Fisheries, Canadian reciprocity, migratory game birds, immigration, Panama Canal, the Red Cross, Mexico, National Security League, Ship Purchase Bill, Interstate Commerce Commission, the Alaskan boundary dispute, World War I and neutrality, and the Hudson River. There is considerable correspondence and related material concerning pensions, applications to military academies and post offices, and appointments of judgeships.

The correspondence and letterbooks dominate the papers and concern Root's service as secretary of war; member of the Alaskan Boundary Commission, 1903; secretary of state; senator from New York; counsel for the United States in the North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration at the Hague, 1910; president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1910-1925; chairman of the Republican National Convention, 1912; chairman of the Board of Trustees, Hamilton College, 1912-1937; president of the Hague Tribunal of Arbitration between Great Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal concerning church property, 1913; chairman of the Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1913-1937; president of the New York Constitutional Convention, 1915; ambassador extraordinary at the head of a special diplomatic mission to Russia during the Russian Revolution, 1917; member of the Commission of International Jurists, which on invitation of the Council of the League on Nations, reported a new plan for a new Permanent Court of International Justice, 1921;

commissioner plenipotentiary for the United States at the International Conference on Limitation of Armament and on Far Eastern and Pacific Questions that met at Washington, D.C., 1921; and as a member of the League of Nations committee of experts to revise the World Court Statute, 1928-1929. There is little material relating to his legal career or his family and personal life. There is, however, considerable correspondence between Elihu Root and his son, Elihu Root (1881-1967).

The [Special Correspondence](#) and [Letterbooks](#) feature Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood. Of particular significance in the Correspondence series are a letter to Will H. Hays, March 29, 1919, in which Root gives his views on the proposed Covenant of the League of Nations; correspondence between Root and Chandler P. Anderson, with reference to the North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration at the Hague, 1909-1912; and a draft of the Platt Amendment in the 1901 file under Cuba. A file of memoranda and reports in the [Other Related Material](#) series contains a letter and memorandum relating to the Battle of Wounded Knee.

Other prominent correspondents include Henry T. Allen, Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Newton Diehl Baker, Mabel Thorp Boardman, Charles J. Bonaparte, William Edgar Borah, William Jennings Bryan, Viscount James Bryce, Nicholas Murray Butler, Andrew Carnegie, Joseph Hodges Choate, Bainbridge Colby, Calvin Coolidge, George B. Cortelyou, Josephus Daniels, George W. Davis, Charles Dick, Grenville Mellen Dodge, Sir Eric Drummond, Walter E. Edge, George Augustus Finch, Nathaniel Foote, Lindley M. Garrison, Carter Glass, A. W. Greely, Lloyd Carpenter Griscom, Viscount Grey of Fallodon, Hermann Hagedorn, Warren G. Harding, John Hay, Will H. Hays, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edward Mandell House, Manley Ottmer Hudson, Charles Evans Hughes, Cordell Hull, Philip C. Jessup, J. J. Jusserand, Frank B. Kellogg, Frederick P. Keppel, Philander C. Knox, Franklin K. Lane, Robert Lansing, William Loeb (1866-1937), John Davis Long, Seth Low, W. G. McAdoo, Charles Follen McKim, William McKinley, John Bassett Moore, Baron Walter G. F. Phillimore, Thomas Collier Platt, Orville Hitchcock Platt, Redfield Proctor, Thomas Fortune Ryan, Wm. Carey Sanger, James Brown Scott, Leslie M. Shaw, John Sherman, Francis Lynde Stetson, Henry L. Stimson, Oscar S. Straus, James Wolcott Wadsworth, Henry White, George W. Wickersham, Henry Lane Wilson, Huntington Wilson, James Wilson, Woodrow Wilson, and Bronson Winthrop.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, 1870-1937](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1896-1928](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1899-1909](#)
- [Subject File, 1895-1936](#)
- [Other Related Material, 1863-1937](#)
- [Oversize, 1903-1917](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-160	<u>General Correspondence, 1870-1937</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of person or organization.
BOX 161-170	<u>Special Correspondence, 1896-1928</u> Correspondence between Root and Henry Cabot Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood. Arranged alphabetically by name of person and therein by year.
BOX 171-190	<u>Letterbooks, 1899-1909</u> Letterpress and letter copybooks received, telegrams sent and received, and orders, comprising copies of semiofficial and personal correspondence sent. Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence concerning the disposition of the estate of Henry H. Cook. All volumes except Volume 3 of the telegrams and the volume relating to the Cook estate are indexed.
BOX 191-195	<u>Subject File, 1895-1936</u> Memoranda, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 196-221	<u>Other Related Material, 1863-1937</u> Calendar and appointment books, biographical sketches, financial papers, general miscellany, invitations, memoranda and reports, newspaper clippings, notes, personal miscellany, material concerned with pensions and post offices, printed matter, and speeches. Organized by type of material.
BOX OV 1-OV 9	<u>Oversize, 1903-1917</u> Portfolios of maps and photographs pertaining to the Alaskan Boundary Dispute and Tribunal, 1903, Root's 1917 mission to Russia, and a scrapbook of newspapers relating to trips to South America, 1906 and Mexico, 1907.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-160	General Correspondence, 1870-1937 Letters sent and received. Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of person or organization.
BOX 1	1870-1898
BOX 2	1899 A-C
BOX 3	D-H
BOX 4	J-Q
BOX 5	R-T
BOX 6	U-Z
BOX 7	1900 A-C
BOX 8	C-D
BOX 9	E-H
BOX 10	H-L
BOX 11	M-O
BOX 12	P-R
BOX 13	S
BOX 14	T-Z
BOX 15	1901 A-C
BOX 16	C-D
BOX 17	D-H
BOX 18	H-L
BOX 19	M
BOX 20	N-R
BOX 21	R-S
BOX 22	S-T
BOX 23	V-Y
BOX 24	1902 A-C
BOX 25	C
BOX 26	D-G
BOX 27	H-L
BOX 28	L-N
BOX 29	O-R
BOX 30	S
BOX 31	T-Z
BOX 32	1903 A-C
BOX 33	C-F

General Correspondence, 1870-1937

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
------------------	-----------------

BOX 34	G-K
BOX 35	L-N
BOX 36	N-R
BOX 37	S
BOX 38	T-Y
BOX 39	A-W, 1904
BOX 40	1905
	A-E
BOX 41	F-M
BOX 42	N-S
BOX 43	T-Z
BOX 44	1906
	A-C
BOX 45	D-J
BOX 46	K-O
BOX 47	P-S
BOX 48	S-Y
BOX 49	1907
	A-C
BOX 50	C-H
BOX 51	H-M
BOX 52	N-S
BOX 53	S-Z
BOX 54	1908
	A-D
BOX 55	E-L
BOX 56	M-R
BOX 57	S-Z
BOX 58	1909
	A-B
BOX 59	B-C
BOX 60	C-E
BOX 61	E-G
BOX 62	H-K
BOX 63	L-M
BOX 64	M-P
BOX 65	P-S
BOX 66	S-T
BOX 67	T-Y
BOX 68	1910
	A-B
BOX 69	B-C
BOX 70	C-D
BOX 71	D-G
BOX 72	G-K
BOX 73	K-M

General Correspondence, 1870-1937

Container *Contents*

BOX 74	M-P
BOX 75	P-R
BOX 76	S
BOX 77	T-Z
BOX 78	1911
	A-B
BOX 79	B-C
BOX 80	C-E
BOX 81	F-G
BOX 82	H-J
BOX 83	K-L
BOX 84	L-M
BOX 85	M-P
BOX 86	P-R
BOX 87	R-S
BOX 88	S-V
BOX 89	W-Z
BOX 90	1912
	A-B
BOX 91	B
BOX 92	C
BOX 93	D-F
BOX 94	F-G
BOX 95	H
BOX 96	I-K
BOX 97	K-M
BOX 98	M-N
BOX 99	N-P
BOX 100	P-R
BOX 101	S
BOX 102	S-T
BOX 103	U-Z
BOX 104	1913
	A-B
BOX 105	B-C
BOX 106	C-D
BOX 107	D-G
BOX 108	G-H
BOX 109	H-K
BOX 110	L-M
BOX 111	M-N
BOX 112	N-P
BOX 113	P-R
BOX 114	R-S
BOX 115	S-T
BOX 116	T-Z

General Correspondence, 1870-1937

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
------------------	-----------------

BOX 117	1914 A
BOX 118	B
BOX 119	C-D
BOX 120	D-G
BOX 121	G-H
BOX 122	H-L
BOX 123	L-M
BOX 124	M-O
BOX 125	O-Q
BOX 126	R-S
BOX 127	S-T
BOX 128	U-Y
BOX 129	1915 A-B
BOX 130	C-F
BOX 131	G-I
BOX 132	J-M
BOX 133	M-P
BOX 134	Q-S
BOX 135	T-Z
BOX 136	1916-1918
BOX 137	1919
BOX 138	1920-1921
BOX 139	1921-1924
BOX 140	1925
BOX 141	1926
BOX 142	1927
BOX 143	1928
BOX 144	1929
BOX 145	1930 A-N
BOX 146	O-Y 1931 A-J
BOX 147	K-Y 1932 A-C
BOX 148	D-O
BOX 149	P-Y 1933 A-C
BOX 150	D-O
BOX 151	P-Z 1934 A-B

General Correspondence, 1870-1937

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 152	C-L
BOX 153	M-Z
BOX 154	1935 A-F
BOX 155	G-N
BOX 156	O-Y
BOX 157	1936 A-N
BOX 158	O-Y 1937
BOX 159	Unknown, 1899-1904 Undated, 1880s-1901
BOX 160	Index, 1899-1904
BOX 161-170	Special Correspondence, 1896-1928 Correspondence between Root and Henry Cabot Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood. Arranged alphabetically by name of person and therein by year.
BOX 161	Lodge, Henry Cabot Lodge, 1900-1923, undated
BOX 162-163	Roosevelt, Theodore, 1896-1924, undated
BOX 164-167	Taft, William H., 1900-1928, undated
BOX 168-170	Wood, Leonard, 1899-1921, undated
BOX 171-190	Letterbooks, 1899-1909 Letterpress and letter copybooks received, telegrams sent and received, and orders, comprising copies of semiofficial and personal correspondence sent. Arranged chronologically. Includes correspondence concerning the disposition of the estate of Henry H. Cook. All volumes except Volume 3 of the telegrams and the volume relating to the Cook estate are indexed.
BOX 171	Letters Semi-official Vols. 1-3, 1899, Aug.-Sept.
BOX 172	Vols. 4-6, 1899, Sept.-1900, Mar.
BOX 173	Vols. 7-9, 1900, Mar.-Dec.
BOX 174	Vols. 10-12, Dec.-1901, July
BOX 175	Vols. 13-15, 1901, July-1902, June
BOX 176	Vols. 16-18, 1902, June-1903, Aug.
BOX 177	Vols. 19-20, 1903, Aug.-1904, Feb.
BOX 178	Personal Vols. 1-3, 1899, Aug.-1900, Sept.
BOX 179	Vols. 4-6, 1900, Sept.-1902, Jan.
BOX 180	Vols. 7-9, 1902, Jan.-1903, July
BOX 181	Vols. 10-11, 1903, July-1904, Feb.
	Orders Vol. 1, 1899, Aug.-1901, June
BOX 182	Vols. 2-4, 1901, June-1903, Dec.

Letterbooks, 1899-1909

Container

Contents

BOX 183	Vol. 5, 1903, Dec.-1904, Feb. vol. 5 Telegrams Vols. 1-2, 1899, Aug.-1903
BOX 184	Vol. 3, 1903, Mar.-Apr. Letters Vol. 1, 1904, Feb.-Oct
BOX 185	Vols. 2-3, 1904, Oct.-1905
BOX 186	Vols. 4-5, 1905, Oct.-1906, Oct.
BOX 187	Special volume, 1905, Oct.-Nov. Vols. 6-7, 1906, Oct.-1907, Jan.
BOX 188	Vols. 8-9, 1907, Jan.-1908, Mar.
BOX 189	Vols. 10-11, 1908, Mar.-1909, Jan.
BOX 190	Vol. 12, 1909, Jan. Cook, Henry H., estate, 1905-1909
BOX 191-195	Subject File, 1895-1936 Memoranda, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 191	American National Institute, 1895-1905 Canadian reciprocity, 1911 Carnegie Institute, 1895-1903 Corporation Tax Amendment, 1909 Cuba, 1918 Immigration, 1897-1912 Judgeships, 1901
BOX 192	League of Nations, 1919-1920 Legislation, 1909-1915 Migratory game birds, 1912-1913 Mission to Russia, 1917
BOX 193	National Academy of Science, 1925-1927 New York Constitutional Convention, 1915 Niagra Falls, N.Y., 1906-1913 Nicaraguan treaty, 1911-1913 North Atlantic coast fisheries, 1908-1909 Norton, Marcus P., claim, 1911
BOX 194	Panama Canal tolls, 1913-1914 Portuguese arbitration, 1913-1930 Red Cross, 1919-1920 Roosevelt (Theodore) Memorial Association, 1920 Tariff, 1909
BOX 195	World Court, 1927-1936
BOX 196-221	Other Related Material, 1863-1937 Calendar and appointment books, biographical sketches, financial papers, general miscellany, invitations, memoranda and reports, newspaper clippings, notes, personal miscellany, material concerned with pensions and post offices, printed matter, and speeches.

Other Related Material, 1863-1937

Container

Contents

	Organized by type of material.
BOX 196	Calendar and appointment books 1920-1929
BOX 197	1930-1937
BOX 198	Biographical sketches Financial papers 1899-1935
BOX 199	1899-1935 General miscellany
BOX 200	Invitations 1863, 1899-1900
BOX 201	1900
BOX 202	1900-1901
BOX 203	1901-1902
BOX 204	1902-1903
BOX 205	1903-1914
BOX 206	1914-1915, 1936-1937, undated
BOX 207	Memoranda and reports, including letter and memorandum relating to the Battle of Wounded Knee, 1890-1931
BOX 208	Newspaper clippings, 1898-1930 Notes, 1910, undated Personal miscellany, 1901-1934
BOX 209	Pensions 1909-1915 A-F
BOX 210	G-O
BOX 211	P-W
BOX 212	Post offices 1909-1915 A-C
BOX 213	D-I
BOX 214	J-O
BOX 215	P-S
BOX 216	T-Y
BOX 217-219	Printed matter, 1898-1933
BOX 220-221	Speeches, 1894-1933
BOX OV 1-OV 9	Oversize, 1903-1917 Portfolios of maps and photographs pertaining to the Alaskan Boundary Dispute and Tribunal, 1903, Root's 1917 mission to Russia, and a scrapbook of newspapers relating to trips to South America, 1906 and Mexico, 1907.
BOX OV 1	Alaska Boundary Tribunal, 1903 Atlas accompanying the case of the United States
BOX OV 2	Atlas accompanying the counter case of the United States
BOX OV 3-4	Maps and charts accompanying the case and counter case of the United States (two copies)

Oversize, 1903-1917

Container

Contents

BOX OV 5	British counter case, album, appendix, vol. II
BOX OV 6	British counter case, portfolio of maps, appendix, vol. III
BOX OV 7	Mission to Russia, maps, 1917
BOX OV 8	South American trip, scrapbook of newspapers, 1906
BOX OV 9	Mexico trip, newspaper articles, 1907