

St. John River Papers

1897 - 1919

8 boxes 1 large map photos

Mostly letters and copies of letters received and sent relating to Hill's purchase and/or leases of property and fishing rights on the St. John and one or two nearby rivers on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River near Anticosti Island and across from the Gaspé peninsula. The first lease of fishing privileges to Hill is dated June 17, 1898 and was for the period Jany. 1, 1900 to Dec. 31, 1909 at a rental of \$3000 per year. There is a letter from Philadelphia from Philip Schuyler of May 29, 1898 showing that S., John L. Cadwalader, and Gov. E. Pollock had "had the fishing of the St. John's River for eight years, [redacted] through Mr Pollock have been in negotiation for the last few months

for a renewal of our lease, expiring in 1900. Mr. Cadwallader then goes [REDACTED] By a letter received from your Secretary... dated St. Paul, May 25, we learn for the first time, that you have leased the river from and including the fishing season of 1900." He then describes the river, the house erected by the lessors, the best fishing pools, & There are maps and plats, data on fishing expeditions to the river, often on the "Wacouta," Hill's yacht, names of companions on such trips, scores kept of salmon taken by Hill and others year by year through 1919, data on poaching by local residents, a flood in the autumn of 1906 that did great damage, plans and other data on the erection of several buildings, names of employes and their relations with Hill and his secretaries, who oversaw those relations, report

St. John River Papers--card 2----1897-1919
on nearby rivers, etc. The correspondence and
papers in general in this part of the collection
end with 1910; the rest are in the estate papers
of J.J.Hill in the Louis W. Hill papers. The
fishing scores, however, go on through 1919.
Many letters received from others than employes
and merchants in Canada relate to the salmon tha
Hill and his guests sent to prominent persons
in the U.S. and Canada, such as R. B. Angus, Lord
Grey (who often was a guest on the river), Hill's
New York friends and associates, other railroad
men, prominent politicians like Grover Cleveland
Chas. Steele, J.P. Morgan, Dr. George Stewart,
Sam. Thorne, Judge E. J. [redacted] of St. Paul, Lord
Roberts, many St. Paul neighbors and acquaintance

Benjamin Chambers was the local guardian of the property; A. Fraser [redacted] agent in Quebec; F. E. Meredith of Montreal was Hill's local lawyer; Maxwell M. Mowat was Hill's representative in Hill's attempt to find a way to move H.M.Price's logs, after a hassle in Canadian parliamentary circles over Price's bill (killed, apparently, by Hill's lobby) to obtain the right to use the St. John River for his logging operations; in 1904 there was a similar hassle over Hill's securing netting rights at the mouth of the river held previously for 30 years by the Coffin family and finally secured to Hill at a much higher price than the Coffins' \$400 yearly; a letter of June 21, 1901 tells of iron known to exist on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Filed in Special File #1. "~~Real Estate~~"