

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.49.House
49th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 23, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 49th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1885-1887
Extent	246.08 Cubic feet
Language	English

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Records of Legislative Proceedings 1885-1887

Minute Books and Journals 1885-1887 3.0 Cubic feet (12 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The minute books and journals series includes a minute book, 1st session (49A-A1); legislative journal, 1st session (49A-A2); minute book, 2d session (49A-A3); and legislative journal, 2d session (49A-A4).

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1885-1887 20.0 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include forty-seven volumes of original House bills (49A-B1); one volume of original House joint resolutions (49A-B2); original House concurrent resolutions (49A-B3); House simple resolutions motions, and orders (49A-B4); desk copies of House bills passed (49A-B5); desk copies of House joint resolutions passed (49A-B6); and twenty-two volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (49A-B7).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 49A-B3, which is arranged chronologically, and 49A-B4, which is arranged alphabetically by Congressman.

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1885-1887 0.5 Cubic feet

Accompanying Papers File

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (49A–C1) and Senate joint resolutions (49A–C2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Accompanying Papers File 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The accompanying papers file includes papers relating to claims, pensions, and other forms of private relief together with papers relating to public matters (49A–D1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by person, state, territory, or subject.

Committee Reports 1885-1887 12.0 Cubic feet (46 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports consist of original committee reports, 1st session (49A–E1) and 2d session (49A–E2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Committees 1885-1887

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Committee on Accounts 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Accounts was created on December 27, 1803, and was made a standing committee in 1805. Its jurisdiction covered all subjects "touching the expenditure of the contingent fund of the House, [and] the auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged therein to the House." In addition, the committee was responsible for the accountability of officers of the House, the procurement of rooms for the use of House committees and for the Speaker, and for recommending and authorizing the employment of such persons as stenographers, reporters of debates, janitors, and clerks and staff assistants for committees, members and senators. The Committee on Accounts existed from 1803-1946, and later was incorporated into the Committee on House Administration.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Accounts document various subjects (49A-F1.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a volume of minutes (49A-F1.2); and a docket volume (49A-F1.3). For a statement of accounts before the committee, see 47th Congress, 2d session, to 50th Congress, 2d session (47A-F1.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Accounts document various subjects (49A-H1.1).

Committees

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Agriculture 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Agriculture was created on May 3, 1820, to provide a forum for the interests of the large agricultural population of the country. The committee's jurisdiction includes adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves; agriculture generally; agricultural and industrial chemistry; agricultural colleges and experiment stations; agricultural economics and research; agricultural education extension services; agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States); animal industry and diseases of animals; commodity exchanges; crop insurance and soil conservation; dairy industry; entomology and plant quarantine; extension of farm credit and farm security; inspection of livestock, poultry, meat products, and seafood and seafood products; and forestry in general and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Agriculture include agricultural experiment stations and colleges (49A–F2.1); Bureau of Animal Industry (49A–F2.2); and various subjects (49A–F2.3). For minutes, see 47th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (47A–F2.1); and a docket volume, 47th Congress and 49th Congress (47A–F2.2).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Agriculture document agricultural colleges and experiment stations (49A–H2.1); branding of cattle and grazing on public lands (49A–H2.2); compulsory labeling of compound lard (49A–H2.3); development of a domestic silk culture industry (49A–H2.4); enactment of legislation to help eradicate pleuropneumonia in cattle (49A–H2.5); establishment of a Department of Agriculture headed by a Secretary with Cabinet rank (49A–H2.6); establishment of a Division of Pomology for the study of plants and their diseases (49A–H2.7); taxation and control of oleomargarine and other butter substitutes (49A–H2.8); and various subjects (49A–H2.9).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Appropriations 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Appropriations was created in 1865. The Constitution of the United States specifies that "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills." The earliest appropriations bills were written by select committees on instruction from the Committee of the Whole House, and later ones by the standing Committee on Ways and Means. Increased demands for revenue and appropriations as a result of the Civil War combined to produce a tremendous workload for the Ways and Means Committee. Today, the committee is tasked with the appropriation of revenue for the support of the Government; rescissions of appropriations contained in appropriation Acts;

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transfers of unexpended balances; and bills and joint resolutions reported by other committees that provide new entitlement authority as defined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Committee Papers 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Appropriations document Alaska (49A–F3.1); claims (49A–F3.2); Court of Claims (49A–F3.3); District of Columbia (49A–F3.4); government hospitals, and charitable and penal institutions (49A–F3.5); House of Representatives (49A–F3.6); National Conference of Electricians, Philadelphia, 1884 (49A–F3.7); ordnance, coast defenses, and fortifications (49A–F3.8); papers from or about the following executive departments: Agriculture (49A–F3.9), Interior (49A–F3.10), Justice (49A–F3.11), Navy (49A–F3.12), Post Office (49A–F3.13), State (49A–F3.14), Treasury (49A–F3.15), and War (49A–F3.16); pensions (49A–F3.17); public buildings (49A–F3.18); pay and fees of civil and military personnel (49A–F3.19); Washington Monument (49A–F3.20); and various subjects (49A–F3.21). There is also a volume of letterpress copies of outgoing correspondence, 1880–1889, 46th Congress, 2d session, to 51st Congress, 1st session (46A–F3.23).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 49A–F3.2, which is arranged alphabetically, and 49A–F3.21, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Appropriations document the aid in defraying expenses of the International Medical Congress held in Washington in 1887 (49A–H3.1); aid to organizations engaged in various social service activities (49A–H3.2); Coast and Geodetic Survey and the

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Hydrographic Office (49A–H3.3); coast and harbor defense (49A–H3.4); continuation of the National Board of Health (49A–H3.5); erection of a public building in Milwaukee (49A–H3.6); lighthouses and tenders, and expansion of the Signal Service (49A–H3.7); organization of a Steam Transportation Section in the National Museum (49A–H3.8); pay adjustments and increases for various federal employees (49A–H3.9); payment of all unappealed awards and judgments growing out of damages caused by improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers (49A–H3.10); relief for victims of storms, floods, and droughts (49A–H3.11); transportation for colored citizens wishing to emigrate to Liberia (49A–H3.12); and various subjects (49A–H3.13).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Banking and Currency 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Banking and Currency Committee was created in 1865 to relieve the Ways and Means Committee of part of its workload. Its jurisdiction included the chartering and oversight of national banks; the issue of national bank loans; the issue, taxation, and redemption of national bank notes; and the authorization of bond issues. It was responsible for legislation involving the deposit of public moneys, strengthening the public credit, monetary parity, and the issuance of silver certificates as currency. The investigation of the failure of state banks and the affairs of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company were also part of its jurisdiction.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Banking and Currency include bills referred to the committee (49A–F4.1), arranged numerically; and various subjects (49A–F4.2), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F4.3); and a docket volume (49A–F4.4).

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency document the issue of \$1 and \$2 bills (49A–H4.1); and various subjects (49A–H4.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Claims 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Claims is one of the oldest standing committees in the House of Representatives. It was established on November 13, 1794, having been preceded by Select Committees on Claims. The committee was to consider all petitions and matters or things touching on claims and demands on the United States and report appropriations of money for payment of claims it had authorized. Originally the Committee on Claims had jurisdiction over Revolutionary War and land claims as well as pensions. In the years that followed, other committees were created to handle special types of claims such as war claims, pensions, and private land claims. Under the 1880 revised House Rules, subjects relating to "private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States" were to be referred to the Claims Committee. At the end of the 79th Congress the committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and jurisdiction over the subjects that had formerly been referred to it was transferred either to the Judiciary Committee or the executive departments.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Claims include two volumes of minutes (49A–F5.1); and three docket volumes (49A–F5.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims document various subjects (49A–H5.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

In 1864 the Committee on a Uniform System of Coinage, Weights, and Measures was established, and in 1867, the name was shortened to the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures. Its jurisdiction included the subjects listed in its name: coinage, weights, and measures. The coinage part of the jurisdiction referred to defining and fixing of standards of value and the regulation of coinage and exchange, including the coinage of silver and the purchase of bullion, the exchange of gold coins for gold bars, the subject of mutilated coins, and the coinage of souvenir and commemorative coins. The committee's jurisdiction also encompassed legislation related to mints and assay offices and the establishment of legal standards of value in the insular possessions. The weights and measures part of the jurisdiction included legislation to establish a national standardization bureau and the standardization of various weights, measures, packing, and grading techniques used in interstate commerce. The part of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures relating to stabilization of the currency was transferred to the Banking and

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Currency Committee in 1921. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the coinage part of its jurisdiction was transferred to the Committee on Banking and Currency and the weights and measures jurisdiction was transferred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures include a volume of minutes (49A–F6.1); and a docket volume (49A–F6.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures document free coinage of silver (49A–H6.1); redemption of the trade dollar (49A–H6.2); and various subjects (49A–H6.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Commerce 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Commerce was established in 1819 as a result of the split of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819). The jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce was regulation of both interstate and foreign commerce; customs collection districts, ports of entry, and ports of delivery; compensation of customhouse officials; regulations and appropriations regarding

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navigable waters and works affecting them, such as bridges, locks, dams, tunnels, pipes, and cribs; obstructions to navigation, such as sunken vessels; lighthouses and other aids to navigation; interoceanic canals; ocean cables; lifesaving stations; public health and the prevention of infectious diseases; purity of food and drugs; regulations regarding the exportation of livestock and foodstuffs; transportation of livestock; and the regulation of railroads. Besides the Lifesaving Service, the committee exercised jurisdiction over matters relating to such Federal agencies as the Revenue-Cutter Service; the Marine Hospital Service; and the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1892, the Committee on Commerce became part of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Commerce include aids to navigation (49A-F7.1); bridges (49A-F7.2); life-saving stations (49A-F7.3); National Board of Health (49A-F7.4); and various subjects (49A-F7.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 49A-F7.5, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce include the American registry of foreign-built ships (49A-H7.1); bridges (49A-H7.2); construction of a "ship railway" across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (49A-H7.3); legislation restricting and limiting fishing operations (49A-H7.4); National Board of Health and epidemic diseases (49A-H7.5); license tax refund to captains, pilots, engineers, and masters of steam vessels (49A-H7.6); life-saving stations (49A-H7.7);

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lighthouses, lightships, and other aids to navigation (49A–H7.8); ports of entry and delivery, and customhouses (49A–H7.9); regulation of interstate commerce and elimination of discrimination in freight rates (49A–H7.10); regulation of the transportation of livestock (49A–H7.11); relief of commercial travelers from state and local license laws (49A–H7.12); and various subjects (49A–H7.13).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the District of Columbia 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the District of Columbia was established on January 27, 1808. The committee's duty was to consider all petitions and memorials relating to the affairs of the District of Columbia referred to them by the House. Jurisdiction consisted of various municipal concerns of the District of Columbia including those involving streets, schools and teachers, railroads, police and fire departments, claims against the District Government, insurance, taxes, health and safety, liquor sales, incorporation of organizations and societies, and other matters that were the normal concerns of city and State governments. Since its creation the committee has shared jurisdiction on District concerns with other committees, and in particular with the Committees on Education and Labor, Interior, Banking and Currency, Judiciary, and Public Works. The committee was known as the Committee on the District of Columbia from 1801-1995. The committee was split and absorbed by subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations and by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia include a volume of minutes (49A–F8.1); a docket volume (49A–F8.2); and a volume of testimony relating to steam and street railroads in the District (49A–F8.3).

Committee on Education 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

When the Committee on Education and Labor was separated into two committees in 1883, the jurisdiction of the new Committee on Education included all legislation and documents relating to the subject of education. This included proposed legislation providing aid from the Federal Government to common schools, aid to the education of deprived or handicapped persons, the establishment of colleges for the benefit of agricultural and mechanical education, and efforts to deal with illiteracy at the national level. The committee functioned until 1946 when it was reunited with the Committee on Labor under the Legislative Reorganization Act to form the new Committee on Education and Labor.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Education include Charles A. Story's system of spelling (49A–F9.1); and various subjects (49A–F9.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Education document temperance instruction in schools supported by federal funds (49A–H8.1); and various subjects (49A–H8.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Elections 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Elections was established as the first standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to perform this function on April 13, 1789. The jurisdiction of the committee was to examine and report on the certificates of election and other election credentials, as well as election returns and proceedings for elections of House Members, and to contest elections of Members where these credentials and election proceedings were not deemed valid. The committee was known as the Committee on Elections from 1789 until 1895, when it was split into three separate election committees.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Brady, James D. (James Dennis), 1843-1900
- Craig, George Henry, 1845-1923
- Davidson, Alexander Caldwell, 1826-1897
- Felton, Charles Norton, 1832-1914
- Henley, Barclay, 1843-1914
- Herbert, Hilary A. (Hilary Abner), 1834-1919
- Hurd, Frank H. (Frank Hunt), 1840-1896
- Levenson, Montague R. (Montague Richard), b. 1830
- Markham, Henry Harrison, 1840-1923

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- Page, Charles Harrison, 1843-1912
- Pirce, William Almy, 1824-1891
- Romeis, Jacob, 1835-1904
- Steele, George Washington, 1839-1922
- Sumner, Charles A. (Charles Allen), 1835-1903
- Weaver, James B. (James Baird), 1833-1912

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Elections include the contested election cases of Frank G. Campbell v. James B. Weaver, Iowa (49A–F10.1); T. E. Chambliss v. James D. Brady, Virginia (49A–F10.2); George H. Craig v. Alexander C. Davidson, Alabama (49A–F10.3); Frank H. Hurd v. Jacob Romeis, Ohio (49A–F10.4); Meredith H. Kidd v. George W. Steele, Indiana (49A–F10.1); Montague R. Levenson and Archibald F. McGrew v. C. N. Felton and Henry H. Markham, California (49A–F10. 6); Alexander M. McKay v. Barclay Henley, California (49A–F10.7); Charles H. Page v. William A. Pirce, Rhode Island (49A–F10.8); Charles A. Sumner v. James A. Louttil, California (49A–F10.9); and James M. Whitehead v. Hilary A. Herbert, Alabama (49A–F10.10).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Committee on Enrolled Bills 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The House standing Committee on Enrolled Bills was a result of the dissolution of the old Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills. The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills was established on July 27, 1789, with the responsibility for the enrollment of engrossed bills. In 1876 the joint rules of Congress were allowed to lapse, and although the committee continued to be referred to as a "joint

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committee," it consisted thereafter of a separate committee in each house, each supervising the enrolling of bills originated in its own house. Under the Reorganization Act of 1946, the functions of the Committee on Enrolled Bills were incorporated into those of the House Administration Committee.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Enrolled Bills include a list of committee members (49A-F11.1); and a volume relating to the enrollment of bills and resolutions (49A-F11.2).

Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice document various subjects (49A-F12.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A-F12.2); and a docket volume (49A-F12.3).

Committee on Expenditures in the State Department 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the State Department include a docket volume (49A–F13.1).

Committee on Expenditures in the War Department 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department document various subjects (49A–F14.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F14.2); and a docket volume (49A–F14.3).

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Foreign Affairs gained status as a standing committee of the House of Representatives in 1822, however, its antecedents date as far back as 1775 when the Continental Congress established a committee to correspond with friends abroad. The jurisdiction of the committee includes relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations; export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; foreign loans; international commodity agreements (other than those involving sugar), including all agreements for cooperation in the export of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; international conferences and congresses; international education; intervention abroad and declarations of war; diplomatic service; measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; international economic policy; neutrality; protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation; the American National Red Cross; trading with the enemy; and United Nations organizations. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of State.

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Committee Papers 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs document the American Exhibition, London, 1886 (49A–F15.1); claim of the Spanish Government for payment of interest withheld on East Florida claims (49A–F15.2); consular organization (49A–F15.3); international cables (49A–F15.4); international copyright (49A–F15.5); Nicaraguan canal (49A–F15.6); papers relating to American and Chinese relations (49A–F15.7), American and Japanese relations (49A–F15.8), and American and Korean relations (49A–F15.9); rights of American fishermen in British North American waters (49A–F15.10); and various subjects (49A–F15.11). There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F15.12); and a docket volume (49A–F15.13).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 49A–F15.11, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs document Chinese immigration (49A–H9.1); extradition treaty with Great Britain (49A–H9.2); international fisheries agreements between the United States and Canada (49A–H9.3); legislation to promote peace and to create a tribunal for international arbitration (49A–H9.4); relations with Mexico (49A–H9.5); and various subjects (49A–H9.6).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Indian Affairs 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Indian Affairs was established on December 17, 1821, with jurisdiction over subjects pertaining to Native Americans. Select committees to consider matters of Native Americans existed for several years before the creation of the standing committee. Among the matters referred to the committee were subjects relating to the care, education, and management of Native Americans and of their lands; the adjudication and payment of Indian depredation claims; bonds and stocks that had been part of Indian trust funds; adjudication of claims of Indians against the United States; the use and management of Native American funds; and the business and government of the Native American tribes. From 1885 until 1920, the committee exercised jurisdiction over appropriations relating to Native Americans. The Committee on Indian Affairs was abolished under the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs include a volume listing papers sent to the Court of Claims in Indian depredation cases (49A–F16.1); and various subjects (49A–F16.2), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F16.3); and a docket volume (49A–F16.4).

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The Committee on Invalid Pensions was created on January 10, 1831, with jurisdiction over matters relating to pensions for disabled veterans. Originally, the jurisdiction of the committee included pensions from the War of 1812. The committee had become so overburdened with pensions from the Civil War, that on March 26, 1867, jurisdiction for pensions from the War of 1812 was transferred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. Subsequently, jurisdiction of the Committee on Invalid Pensions included only matters relating to pensions of the Civil War, with the committee reporting general and special bills authorizing payments of pensions and bills for relief of soldiers of that war.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (49A–F17.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F17.2); and six docket volumes (49A–F17.3). For other docket entries, 1st session, see docket volumes from the 48th Congress (48A–F15.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions document the equalization of bounties (49A–H10.1); fees paid examining surgeons in pension cases (49A–H10.2); passage of the Dependent Pension Bill over the President's veto (49A–H10.3); pensions for all honorably discharged Union veterans over 60 years of age who are manual laborers (49A–H10.4); pensions for disabled Union veterans (49A–H10.5); pensions for Union veterans who were prisoners of war (49A–H10.6); recommendations of the Grand Army of the Republic concerning pension legislation (49A–H10.7); repeal of the Arrears of Pension Act (49A–H10.8); revision of pension laws (49A–

Committees

H10.9); special taxation to finance payment of pensions (49A–H10.10); and various subjects (49A–H10.11).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Judiciary 1885-1887**Biographical/Historical note**

The standing Committee on the Judiciary was established on June 3, 1813, to take into consideration matters touching judicial proceedings. In 1880 the rule defining its jurisdiction was revised to read "judicial proceedings, civil and criminal law," and this remained the formal definition of the jurisdiction of the committee until the reorganization of Congress in 1946. The committee's jurisdiction includes judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal; administrative practice and procedure; apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; criminal law enforcement; Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions; immigration policy and nonborder enforcement; interstate compacts generally; claims against the United States; meetings of Congress; attendance of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner; and their acceptance of incompatible offices; National penitentiaries; patents, the Patent and Trademark Office, copyrights, and trademarks; Presidential succession; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; state and territorial boundary lines; and subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary document bigamy (49A–F18.1); hearings relating to title of the United States in the lakefront in Chicago (49A–F18.2); and various subjects (49A–F18.3). There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F18.4); and two docket volumes (49A–F18.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary document the establishment of an Executive Council to replace the office of the President (49A–H11.1); legislation to confirm patents issued by the Governor of the Colony of New York in 1666–1667 for lands on Manhattan Island (49A–H11.2); legislation to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy (49A–H11.3); legislative proposals directed against the Mormons (49A–H11.4); woman suffrage (49A–H11.5); and various subjects (49A–H11.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Labor 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Labor was created in 1883, when its jurisdiction was removed from the old Education and Labor Committee and two separate committees were created. Despite the establishment of a committee devoted entirely to labor issues, little significant labor legislation was

Committees

passed before the depression of the 1930s. The committee's jurisdiction included the wages and hours of labor; the arbitration of labor difficulties; the use of convict labor, alien labor, contract labor, and military labor in competition with "honest labor"; and the conditions of laborers employed in Government service. The committee considered methods of directing the work of Federal employees, including the use of the Taylor System of shop management and problems relating to child and woman labor; it also investigated such labor-related subjects as conditions in city slums and conditions of blacks in America and of saleswomen in the District of Columbia.

Committee Papers 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Labor document various subjects (49A–F19.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F19.2); and a docket volume (49A–F19.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Labor document the establishment of a Department of Labor and a Bureau of Labor for Women (49A–H12.1); labor conflict and unemployment (49A–H12.2); leaves of absence for employees in U. S. Navy Yards (49A–H12.3); limiting the working day of government employees to eight hours (49A–H12.4); national aid to education to be distributed to the states on the basis of illiteracy rates (49A–H12.5); wages paid by the Government Printing Office (49A–H12.6); and various subjects (49A–H12.7).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committees

Committee on the Library 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Library (1806-1946) was composed of the House members of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. Its jurisdiction included all legislation or matters touching on the Library of Congress; and statuary, pictures or works of art on the Capitol grounds. The records of the Joint Committee for recent Congresses have been in the custody of the Committee on House Administration.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Library include a report of the Commission for the Construction of the Congressional Library Building (49A–F20.1); and various subjects (49A–F20.2), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (49A–F20.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Library document various subjects (49A–H13.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Military Affairs 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

A succession of House select committees considered legislation on military affairs from 1811 until 1822, when the House established a standing Committee on Military Affairs. The jurisdiction of the committee included appropriation bills covering the military establishment, the public defense, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The committee reported the military appropriation bills until 1920, when that power was transferred to the Appropriations Committee. Jurisdiction of the committee also included the establishment and care of national cemeteries and battlefields; acquisition and conveyance of lands for military reservations and improvements upon such grounds; disposition of war trophies and distribution of obsolete weapons and armament; conduct of joint operations of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps; and promotion of military aviation and Army aeronautics. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished the Committee on Military Affairs and transferred its jurisdiction to the newly-created Armed Services Committee.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Military Affairs include a report on Haskell's multicharge gun (49A-F21.1); and various subjects (49A-F21.2), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A-F21.3); and three docket volumes (49A-F21.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs include an amendment of the act creating a retired list of enlisted men, to require twenty-five years of service instead of thirty (49A-H14.1); increased pay for Army hospital stewards (49A-H14.2); legislation to return bounties to men who

Committees

were required to refund them when they were commissioned from the ranks (49A–H14.3); and various subjects (49A–H14.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Militia 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Militia was created on December 10, 1815, with jurisdiction over miscellaneous aspects of the militia organization and operation in the several states and the District of Columbia. The committee's jurisdiction included fostering greater efficiency in the militia units, encouraging rifle practice, reorganizing the militia, and issuing armaments to the militia units and later to the National Guard or voluntary militia units that replaced them. The committee was not terminated until 1911 although it had exercised little influence after the passage of the Dick Military Act of January 31, 1903. That law, combined with other concurrent military reforms, integrated the National Guard organizations in the states with the Regular Army, largely eliminating the need for direct congressional supervision of the implementation of the now obsolete 1792 militia law. After 1911, the House Military Affairs committee assumed the functions and powers that had formerly been in the jurisdiction of the Militia Committee.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Militia document various subjects (49A–F22.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F22.2); and a docket volume (49A–F22.3).

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Militia include an amendment of the act creating a retired list of enlisted men, to require twenty-five years of service instead of thirty (49A–H15.1); increased pay for Army hospital stewards (49A–H15.2); and various subjects (49A–H15.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Mines and Mining 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Mines and Mining was created on December 19, 1865, for consideration of subjects relating to mining interests. It exercised jurisdiction over the Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines, the establishment of mining schools and mining experimental stations, mineral land laws, the welfare of men working in mines, mining debris, relief in cases of mineral contracts connected with the prosecution of war, the mining of radium ore, and the Government's fuel yards in the District of Columbia. In 1947, the committee was abolished and its duties were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on Mines and Mining include a docket volume (49A–F23.1).

Committee on Naval Affairs 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

In 1822, the standing Committee on Naval Affairs was created. The jurisdiction of the committee included consideration of all matters which concerned the naval establishment, the increase or reduction of commissioned officers and enlisted men, and their pay and allowances and the increase of ships or vessels of all classes of the Navy. Other subjects under the committee's expanded jurisdiction pertained to naval and marine aeronautics; the construction of aircraft carriers for the Navy; the acquisition of sites for naval facilities; the establishment, construction, improvement, and maintenance of such facilities; the authorization of special decorations, orders, medals, and other insignia for naval personnel; the acceptance of offices and emoluments from foreign governments; claims of personnel and civilian employees of the Navy; and legislation relating to the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Marine Band, the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, the Naval Observatory, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred to the Armed Services Committee.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document the consolidation of the bureaus of the Navy Department (49A–F24.1); Ericsson's destroyer and submarine gun (49A–F24.2); the Howell torpedo (49A–F24.3); increase in the Naval Establishment (49A–F24.4); inquiry into the retirement of Lt. C. H. Nye, United States Marine Corps (49A–F24.5); warship construction and design (49A–F24.6); and various subjects (49A–F24.7).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 49A–F24.7, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs document the establishment of a shipyard for iron ships at the Norfolk Navy Yard (49A–H16.1); and various subjects (49A–H16.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Pacific Railroads 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

On March 2, 1865, the standing Committee on the Pacific Railroads was established and assigned jurisdiction over subjects relating railroads and telegraph lines that were being constructed from the Mississippi River and the coast of the Pacific Ocean. This was in response to a bill signed by President Abraham Lincoln on July 1, 1862, authorizing the construction of a transcontinental railroad between the Missouri River and California. By 1911, the committee had become largely inactive and it was terminated.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on Pacific Railroads document various subjects (49A–F25.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F25.2); and a docket volume (49A–F25.3).

Committee on Patents 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on Patents was established in 1837. Jurisdiction of the committee included patent, copyright, and trademark laws and revision of such laws; the jurisdiction of courts in patent cases; the counterfeiting of trademarks; and the Patent Office and its affairs. Private legislation, usually initiated in response to petition, was an important part of the work of the committee, especially between 1840 and 1890. Relief was sought by inventors for whom protection was not provided in the existing patent law (such as aliens and government employees) and by patentees who requested extensions on patents because they had not profited sufficiently during the period provided by the original patent. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Judiciary Committee absorbed the jurisdiction of the Committee on Patents.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Patents include the annual report of the Commissioner of Patents for 1885 (49A–F26.1); and various papers (49A–F26.2), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (49A–F26.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Patents include an amendment of the patent laws (49A–H17.1); and international copyright law (49A–H17.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Pensions 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Pensions was created in 1880, replacing the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions with jurisdiction over subjects relating to the pensions of all the wars of the United States except the Civil War. On January 3, 1939 the jurisdiction of the committee was rewritten to include, the pensions of the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and Boxer Rebellion, while all other pension legislation was referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions. The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred, for the most part, to the executive agencies.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Pensions include a volume of minutes (49A–F27.1); and a docket volume (49A–F27.2).

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

A Select Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads was established in 1806 and made a standing committee in 1808. The jurisdiction of the committee extended to all proposed legislation relating to the carrying of the mails, both foreign and domestic. It included the determination of the location, construction, and maintenance of post offices and post roads; the acquisition, lease, or transfer of realty or facilities for postal purposes; and certain aspects of the employment and management of postal employees, such as the pay and leave of letter carriers, and the settlement of claims brought by employees or contractors. Also included was the regulation of the Postal Service, including postal rates, the franking privilege, and the printing of stamped envelopes. At various times, the Railway Mail Service, ocean mail service, pneumatic tube service, postal savings banks, postal telegraphy, the Air Mail Service, and Rural Free Delivery were included in its jurisdiction. As part of its responsibility, the committee investigated the management of postal facilities, contracts for carrying the mail, and other subjects such as the forgery of postal money orders. In 1885 the jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to include appropriation authority and prepared Post Office appropriations bills from that time until 1920 when the authority was revoked under a rule change. The committee functioned until 1946 when its jurisdiction was included in that of the new Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document foreign mails (49A–F28.1); free delivery system (49A–F28.2); lotteries and obscene matter (49A–F28.3); mail messenger service (49A–F28.4); postal rates, revenue, and expenditures (49A–F28.5); postal savings banks (49A–F28.6); railroad transportation of the mails (49A–F28.7); salaries and personnel in the Post Office Department (49A–F28.8); steamboat service (49A–F28.9); telegraphic facilities and services (49A–F28.10); and various subjects (49A–F28.11).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 49A–F28.11, which is arranged by subject.

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document the adjustment of postmasters' salaries and payment of operating expenses of post offices (49A–H18.1); 8-hour day for letter carriers (49A–H18.2); establishment of postal savings banks (49A–H18.3); postal rates (49A–H18.4); subsidization of steamship lines carrying the mail between the United States and Central and South America (49A–H18.5); and various subjects (49A–H18.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Printing 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Printing was established in 1846 and its jurisdiction included all proposed legislation or orders involving printing. In practice this included the general supervision of the printing, management, and policies of the Government Printing Office (GPO). Jurisdiction also occasionally included the pay of its employees; the letting of contracts; procurement of suitable paper; control of the arrangement, style, bulk, and indexing of the "Congressional Record"; and supervision of the printing of the "Congressional Directory." The committee reported bills and resolutions regarding the printing, binding, and distribution of public documents, including the annual reports of executive agencies, bureaus, and commissions; messages of the President; special scientific studies and reports; public health reports and statements; historical documentary publications such as the "Territorial Papers of the United States"; and hearings of congressional committees. The Committee on Printing acted as a standing committee of the House until 1947 when it was incorporated into the House Administration Committee.

Committees

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Printing document various subjects (49A–F29.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Committee on Private Land Claims 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Private Land Claims was established on April 29, 1816. The committee reported general as well as special legislation relating to the settlement of individual claims to public lands. It has reported bills to establish a land court to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories. The committee was abolished in 1911 along with several other committees that had suffered from diminished legislative activity. Jurisdiction was later transferred to the Judiciary Committee.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims include a volume of minutes (49A–F30.1); and a docket volume (49A–F30.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims document legislation to confirm patents issued by the Governor of the Colony of New York in 1666–1667 for lands on and adjoining Manhattan Island (49A–H19.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1885-1887**Biographical/Historical note**

The standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds was established in 1837, replacing the Select Committee on Public Buildings which was created in 1819. The committee's jurisdiction included the construction throughout the country of public buildings, documenting customs houses, post offices, and federal court houses; the erection of monuments and memorials; the purchase of property for public use; improvements to public property; and compensation for workers erecting public buildings. During the early years of the committee, much of the legislation reported had to do with constructing and improving public buildings in Washington, D.C., and commissioning artists to create art work for those buildings. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds became part of the Committee on Public Works.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document various subjects (49A–F31.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F31.2); a

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

docket volume (49A–F31.3); and a volume of letterpress copies of outgoing correspondence, 49th Congress, 1st session, to 50th Congress, 2d session (49A–F31.4).

Committee on Public Lands 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Public Lands was established in 1805 and given jurisdiction over matters relating to the lands of the United States. Jurisdiction of the committee included the sale and settlement of public lands, land claims, minerals and waters on public lands, irrigation, forest reserves and game living in them, national parks, conservation, land grants, foreign ownership of land, and administration of the lands of the public domain. The establishment of a land court and to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories was also part of the committee's jurisdiction. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the committees on Indian Affairs; Territories, Mines and Mining; Irrigation and Reclamation; and Insular Affairs were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined with those of the Committee on Public Lands. On February 2, 1951, the name of the committee was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to more accurately reflect the full scope of its jurisdiction.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Lands document various subjects (49A–F32.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F32.2); and a docket volume (49A–F32.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands include legislation to confirm patents issued by the Governor of the Colony of New York in 1666–1667 for lands on and adjoining Manhattan Island (49A–H20.1); public land policy (49A–H20.2); and various subjects (49A–H20.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Railways and Canals 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

On April 9, 1869, the name of the Committee on Roads and Canals (1831-1869) was changed to the Committee on Railways and Canals. Its jurisdiction over matters relating to roads and canals, and the improvement of navigation of rivers remained the same. Over the years the committee's jurisdiction changed significantly. Responsibility for the improvement of navigation of rivers was removed in 1880 and given to the Committee on Commerce, because most bills relating to that subject were already being sent to that committee. Also, the 1880 House rule stated that the Committee on Railways and Canals had jurisdiction over "railways and canals other than Pacific railroads"; beginning in the 1880s, however, jurisdiction on most matters relating to railroads was taken over by the Committee on Commerce, renamed in 1892 the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. In 1927 the Committee on Railways and Canals was dissolved and its jurisdiction added to that of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Railways and Canals document various subjects (49A–F33.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F33.2).

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Railways and Canals include the endorsement by the Knights of Labor of the Hennepin Canal project (49A–H21.1); and various subjects (49A–H21.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Rivers and Harbors 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors was authorized early in the 48th Congress in December 1883. The committee was given jurisdiction over subjects relating to the improvements of rivers and harbors and had the responsibility of reporting the river and harbor bill, which previously had been handled by the Committee on Commerce. The committee's jurisdiction changed over time. When the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River was terminated in 1911, its responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors. The subject of flood control was removed from the committee's authority in 1916 and assigned to the new Committee on Flood Control. After 1920 the committee could no longer report appropriation bills for rivers and harbors and its legislative authority was limited to reporting only bills that authorized improvements to rivers and harbors. These shifts in authority still left many subjects within the jurisdiction of the committee. These included improvement of watersheds and dams thereon, construction of locks on navigable streams, construction and maintenance of equipment for river improvements, erosion of banks on navigable streams, pollution of navigable waters, intrastate inland waterways, and navigation of international boundary streams. The committee was terminated early in the 80th Congress on January 3, 1947. Its successor was the Committee on Public Works.

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

Committee Papers 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors document the northwestern waterways (49A–F34.1), arranged chronologically; and various subjects (49A–F34.2), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (49A–F34.3); and a volume of minutes, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (48A–F34.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors document the improvement of the Harlem River (49A–H22.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Rules 1885-1887**Biographical/Historical note**

The Rules Committee was established as a select committee until 1880 when it was made a standing committee. Jurisdiction included the original establishment and revision of the rules of the House, an activity that required little attention after the first Congress because the rules of the previous Congress were usually adopted with few changes at the beginning of each new Congress. Further jurisdiction consisted of all proposed action on the rules and joint rules, control over the order of

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business on the floor of the House through the issuance of special orders or rules, and recesses and final adjournments of Congress.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Rules document various subjects (49A–F35.1), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (48A–F35.2).

Committee on the Territories 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the Territories was established in 1825 to examine the legislative, civil, and criminal proceedings of the territories, and to devise and report to the House opinions necessary to secure the rights and privileges of residents and non-residents. The committee also reported legislation concerning the structure, status, and power of the territorial governments; statehood; powers of municipalities; boundary disputes; and on matters relating to public lands and homesteading, railroads, public works, public buildings, highways, taxation, bond issues, education, Indians, prohibition, and wildlife. The jurisdiction of the committee was later absorbed by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Territories document the Dakota Territory (49A–F36.1) and Oklahoma Territory (49A–F36. 2). There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F36.3); and two docket volumes (49A–F36.4).

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Territories document the division of Dakota Territory and creation of the Territory of North Dakota (49A-H23.1); organization of a Territorial government in Oklahoma and opening the Indian Territory for settlement (49A-H23.2); Utah Territory and the Mormon question (49A-H23.3); and various subjects (49A-H23.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on War Claims 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on War Claims was created in 1873 to replace the Committee on Revolutionary Claims (1825-1873). Jurisdiction of the committee was defined to include claims arising from Indian hostilities and included claims for property seized for use by the U.S. Army and Navy from citizens in the Southern States who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. Jurisdiction was expanded to include "claims arising from any war in which the United States has been engaged." The records include those of the Southern Claims Commission. Although most of the work of the committee involved reporting private legislation for the settlement of claims of individuals and corporations, on occasion it reported on the war claims of states and territories against the United States, as well as general legislation that provided for the adjudication of certain classes of claims. This committee, like the Claims Committee, had authority to report bills making appropriations for

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the payment of the obligations within its jurisdiction. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction transferred to the Judiciary Committee and the executive agencies.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on War Claims include five docket volumes (49A–F37.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on War Claims document various subjects (49A–H24.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Ways and Means 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. In 1795 another Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. The jurisdiction of the committee includes customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to insular possessions; bonded debt of the

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United States, subject to the last sentence of clause 4(f); deposit of public monies; transportation of dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; and national social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Committee Papers 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means document the warehousing system (49A–F38.1), arranged chronologically; and various subjects (49A–F38.2), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (49A–F38.3); and two docket volumes (49A–F38.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means document agricultural raw materials (49A–H25.1); clothing (49A–H25.2); consolidation of customs districts and changes in the customs law (49A–H25.3); cooperage industry (49A–H25.4); fish (49A–H25.5); food products and food adulteration (49A–H25.6); gold leaf, bronze or Dutch metal in leaf, and bronze powder (49A–H25.7); lumber (49A–H25.8); marble (49A–H25.9); metals (49A–H25.10); oleomargarine and other butter substitutes (49A–H25.11); repeal of internal taxes (49A–H25.12); salt, soda, borax, and potash (49A–H25.13); sugar (49A–H25.14); tariff revision (49A–H25.15); tobacco (49A–H25.16); treaties of reciprocity with Mexico and Hawaii (49A–H25.17); vegetable fiber and products (49A–H25.18); vinegar (49A–H25.19); window glass (49A–H25.20); wine, spirits, and malt liquors (49A–H25.21); wool (49A–H25.22); works of art (49A–H25.23); and various subjects (49A–H25.24).

Arrangement note

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests was established on December 19, 1883. On December 21, 1887, the select committee was replaced with the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding document compulsory pilotage (49A-H26.1); registration of foreign-built ships as vessels of the United States (49A-H26.2); and various subjects (49A-H26.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committee on Public Health 1885-1887

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Public Health document various subjects (49A–H27.1).

Select Committee on the Election of President and Vice President of the United States 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Election and Vice President of the United States include a volume of minutes (49A–F39.1).

Select Committee to Investigate the Facts Concerning the Ownership of Pan Electric Telephone Stock by Certain Public Officers 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee to Investigate the Facts Concerning the Ownership of Pan Electric Telephone Stock by Certain Public Officers include a report of the committee, H. Rept. 3142 of the 1st session (49A–F40.1).

Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service include a hearing relating to the appropriation for the levee in Jeffersonville, Indiana (49A–F41.1).

Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic 1885-1887

Biographical/Historical note

The Select Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic was made a standing committee in 1893 (53d Congress) after having been a select committee since 1879 (46th Congress). Its jurisdiction covered subjects relating to alcoholic liquor traffic, including the manufacture, distribution, and sale of intoxicating beverages in the states, territories, and government-owned buildings as well as land such as the District of Columbia, Indian reservations, and military bases.

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic includes a docket volume, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 50th Congress, 1st session (48A–F37.2).

Other Select Committees 1885-1887

Committee Papers 1885-1887

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of other select committees document various subjects (49A–F42.1).

Arrangement note

Originals of Printed House Documents

The records are arranged by subject.

Originals of Printed House Documents 1885-1887 69.0 Cubic feet (281 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The originals of printed House documents consist of original executive documents, 1st session (49A–G1) and 2d session (49A–G2); and original miscellaneous documents, 1st session (49A–G3) and 2d session (49A–G4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Election Records 1885-1887 2.0 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The election records include credentials of Representatives and Delegates (49A–A1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

Other Records 1885-1887 0.16 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records document various papers (49A–K1).

Arrangement note

Records of the Office of the Clerk

The records are arranged by subject.

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1885-1887**Record Books 1885-1887 2.0 Cubic feet (14 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a House bill book with index (49C-A1); House resolution book (49C-A2); Senate bill and resolution book (49C-A3); petition book (49C-A4); individual ledger (49C-A5); register of committee reports (49C-A6); and register of miscellaneous documents (49C-A7). For record of leaves of absence granted House Members, see the 47th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (47C-A8); for registers of papers from committees, see 48th Congress, to 51st Congress (48C-A5); for papers referred to committees, see 48th Congress, to 52d Congress (48C-A6); for papers received from the Senate, see 48th Congress, to 51st Congress (48C-A8); and for papers sent to the Senate, see 48th Congress to 51st Congress (48C-A7).

Other Records 1885-1887 0.41 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records document various papers (49C-B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.