

**Records of the U.S. House of Representatives**  
**RG.233.55.House**  
**55th Congress**

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

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	House Records of the 55th Congress
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1897-1899
<b>Extent</b>	241.375 Cubic feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## **Administrative Information**

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### **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 1897-1899**

#### **Minute Books and Journals 1897-1899 5.0 Cubic feet (10 volumes)**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

The minute books and journals series includes minute books, 1st, 2d, and 3d sessions (55A–A1); and a legislative journal, 1st session (55A–A2), 2d session (55A–A3), and 3d session (55A–A4).

#### **Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1897-1899 23.0 Cubic feet (86 volumes)**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include forty volumes of original House bills (55A–B1); one volume of original House joint resolutions (55A–B2); four volumes of desk copies of House bills passed (55A–B3); twenty-five volumes of printed House bills (55A–B4); fifteen volumes of engrossed House bills (55A–B5); and one volume of engrossed House joint resolutions (55A–B6).

##### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

#### **Bills and Resolutions Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1897-1899 0.04 Cubic feet**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

## Accompanying Papers File

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The bills and resolutions originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (55A–C1); and Senate joint resolutions (55A–C2).

### Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

## Accompanying Papers File 1897-1899 61.0 Cubic feet

### 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 (55A–D1).

### Arrangement note

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

## Committee Reports 1897-1899 5.0 Cubic feet (23 volumes)

### Scope and Contents note

The committee reports include original committee reports from the 1st session (55A–E1), 2d session (55A–E2), and 3d session (55A–E3).

### Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

## Committees 1897-1899

Committee on Accounts 1897-1899

**Committees**

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**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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Accounts include testimony relating to the clerical force of the House (55A-F1.1); a volume of minutes (55A-F1.2); a docket volume (55A-F1.3); and a volume of accounts audited by the committee (55A-F1.4).

Committee on Appropriations 1897-1899

**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 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Appropriations include the deficiency bill (55A–F2.1); District of Columbia bill (55A–F2.2); fortifications bill (55A–F2.3); legislative, executive, and judicial bill (55A–F2.4); sundry civil expenses bill (55A–F2.5); and various subjects (55A–F2.6).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by agency of origin or by subject within each group.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****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 abolition of forest reserves (55A–H1.1); appropriation of public funds for sectarian purposes (55A–H1.2); expositions (55A–H1.3); and various subjects (55A–H1.4).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Banking and Currency 1897-1899**

**Committees**

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**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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Banking and Currency include various subjects (55A-F3.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F3.2); and a docket volume (55A-F3.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**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 banking and currency reform (55A-H2.1); establishment of an International American Bank (55A-H2.2); and various subjects (55A-H2.3).

**Arrangement note**

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

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### Committee on Claims 1897-1899

#### **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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Claims document various subjects (55A-F4.1), arranged alphabetically. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F4.2); and a docket volume (55A-F4.3).

### Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures 1897-1899

#### **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.

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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 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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures document various subjects (55A–F5.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F5.2); and a docket volume (55A–F5.3).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **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 banking and currency reform (55A–H3.1); and various subjects (55A–H3.2).

#### **Arrangement note**

## Committees

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

### Committee on the District of Columbia 1897-1899

#### **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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia include communications addressed to the committee (55A-F6.1), arranged chronologically; papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A-F6.2), arranged by type, thereunder numerically; and various subjects (55A-F6.3), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F6.4); and two docket volumes (55A-F6.5).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Committees**

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**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia document divorces (55A–H4.1); placing police of the District on an 8–hour day (55A–H4.2); prevention of cruelty to animals, and anti-vivisection (55A–H4.3); raising the age of consent for girls in the District (55A–H4.4); Sunday rest laws (55A–H4.5); and various subjects (55A–H4.6).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Education 1897-1899

**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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Education document various subjects (55A–F7.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F7.2); and a docket volume (55A–F7.3).

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Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Education document various subjects (55A–H5.1).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committees on Elections, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 1897-1899

### **Biographical/Historical note**

From 1789 until the mid-19th century the number of contested election cases remained stable at an average of three per Congress. After the 34th Congress (1855-57) the number of contested seats rose sporadically to a peak of 38 during the 54th Congress (1895-97). In 1895, due to the increase in workload, the Committee on Elections was split into three separate committees: Elections #1, Elections #2, and Elections #3. After 1935 the number of contested elections returned to an average of three per Congress, and in 1947 the three Elections Committees were abolished and their jurisdiction included in that of the new House Administration Committee.

### **Controlled Access Headings**

#### **Personal Name(s)**

- Aldrich, William Farrington, 1853-1925
- Brewer, Willis, 1844-1912
- Brewster, Henry Colvin, 1845-1928
- Carmack, Edward Ward, 1858-1908

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- Catchings, Thomas Clendinen, 1847-1927
- Clayton, Henry De Lamar, 1857-1929
- Elliott, William, 1838-1907
- Epes, Sydney Parham, 1865-1900
- Fairchild, Benjamin Lewis, 1863-1946
- Goodwyn, Albert Taylor, 1842-1931
- Handy, Levin Irving, 1861-1922
- Hunter, Whiteside Godfrey, 1841-1917
- Latimer, Asbury Churchwell, 1851-1908
- McAleer, William, 1838-1912
- Meyer, Adolph, 1842-1908
- Murray, George Washington, 1853-1926
- Patterson, Josiah, 1837-1904
- Plowman, Thomas Scales, 1843-1919
- Rhea, John Stockdale, 1855-1924
- Stokes, James William, 1853-1901
- Strait, Thomas Jefferson, 1846-1924
- Swanson, Claude Augustus, 1862-1939
- Talbert, William Jasper, 1846-1931
- Thorp, Robert Taylor, 1850-1938
- Tongue, Thomas H., 1844-1903
- Underwood, Oscar Wilder, 1862-1929
- Ward, William Lukens, 1856-1933
- Willis, Jonathan Spencer, 1830-1903
- Wise, Richard Alsop, 1843-1900
- Young, William Albin, 1860-1928

Committee Papers 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committees on Elections, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 include the contested election cases of W. F. Aldrich v. T. S. Plowman, Alabama (55A-F8.1); John R.

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Brown v. Claude A. Swanson, Virginia (55A–F8.2); B. P. Chatfield v. W. J. Talbert, South Carolina (55A–F8.3); G. L. Coiner v. H. D. Clayton, Alabama (55A–F8.4); G. B. Crowe v. Oscar A. Underwood, Alabama (55A–F8.5); B. L. Fairchild v. William L. Ward, New York (55A–F8.6); Joseph Gagin v. Adolph Meyer, Louisiana (55A–F8.7); Albert T. Goodwyn v. Willis P. Brewer, Alabama (55A–F8.8); Samuel E. Hudson v. William McAleer, Pennsylvania (55A–F8.9); W. Godfrey Hunter v. John S. Rhea, Kentucky (55A–F8.10); Thomas B. Johnston v. J. William Stokes, South Carolina (55A–F8.11); Cornelius J. Jones v. T. C. Catchings, Mississippi (55A–F8.12); John F. Jones v. T. J. Strait, South Carolina (55A–F8.13); Anson C. Merrick v. A. C. Latimer, South Carolina (55A–F8.14); George W. Murray v. William Elliot, South Carolina (55A–F8.15); Josiah Patterson v. E. W. Carmack, Tennessee (55A–F8.16); Armand Romaine v. Adolph Meyer, Louisiana (55A–F8.17); William E. Ryan v. Henry C. Brewster, New York (55A–F8.18); H. T. Thorp v. Sydney P. Epes, Virginia (55A–F8.19); W. S. Vandenberg v. Thomas H. Tongue, Oregon (55A–F8.20); J. S. Willis v. L. Irving Handy, Delaware (55A–F8.21); and Richard A. Wise v. William A. Young, Virginia (55A–F8.22). Arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F8.23); a docket book (55A–F8.24) for No. 1; and a volume of minutes for No. 3 (55A–F8.25).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Elections No. 1 include the exclusion of B. H. Roberts of Utah, “avowed polygamist,” from the House of Representatives (55A–H31.1).

Committee on Election of President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress 1897-1899

### **Biographical/Historical note**

The standing Committee on the Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress was established in 1893 with jurisdiction over legislation concerning the election

## Committees

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of the officials enumerated in its title, including proposed changes to the Constitution that affected the terms of office of the named officials, the succession to the offices of the President and Vice President, the direct election of Senators, and the meeting times of Congress. The committee considered national election laws and their enforcement, including such topics as the disqualification of polygamists from election to Congress, the use of electric voting machines in congressional elections, the necessary and proper expenses related to nominations and elections, and the publication of campaign expenses. It was responsible for changes in the law regarding the electoral count and resolutions regulating the actual electoral vote count by the Senate and House of Representatives. Before the establishment of the standing committee election issues were dealt with by select committees appointed to handle particular situations or legislation.

### Committee Papers 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Election of President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress include a docket volume (55A–F9.1).

### Committee on Enrolled Bills 1897-1899

#### **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 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.

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Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Enrolled Bills include two volumes relating to the enrollment of House and Senate bills and resolutions (55A–F10.1).

Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice 1897-1899

Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice include a volume of minutes (55A–F11.1).

Committee on Expenditures in the War Department 1897-1899

Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department document the inspection of money accounts of Army disbursing officers (55A–F12.1); and lists of outstanding checks issued by Army disbursing officers (55A–F12.2).

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1897-1899

**Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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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.

### Committee Papers 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs document the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands (55A-F13.1), arranged chronologically; and various subjects (55A-F13.2), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F13.3); and a docket volume (55A-F13.4).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **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 Great Britain (55A-H6.1); Canada (55A-H6.2); Cuba (55A-H6.3); Hawaii (55A-H6.4); the Philippines (55A-16.5); reorganization of

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the consular service (55A–H6.6); Spain (55A–H6.7); Turkey (55A–H6.8); and various subjects (55A–H6.9).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Immigration and Naturalization 1897-1899****Biographical/Historical note**

The standing Committee on Immigration and Naturalization was created in the House after having been a select committee for four years. Congress did little before 1860 to regulate immigration, which had traditionally been controlled by the colonies and then the states. After the Civil War, when the issues of States rights had been clarified and the need for a uniform immigration and naturalization system had become more apparent, the federal government began to build a system to regulate these areas. The jurisdiction included regulatory measures to restrict immigration, such as literacy tests, head taxes, racial and country-of-origin quotas, money-in-pocket tests, and professional and skills criteria. The committee reported legislation restricting immigration of certain classes of persons--such as Chinese, Japanese, contract laborers, anarchists, dependents, mental defectives, illiterates, paupers, and criminals--and naturalization legislation affecting classes of persons such as aliens who had served in the military during wartime, women married to U.S. citizens, and persons of particular nationalities. The complex regulatory system that was thus constructed was the source of a large number of requests for private legislation designed to provide relief for persons who begged personal exemption from the broad categories defined in the legislation.

Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

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The committee papers of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization document various subjects (55A–F14.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F14.2); and a docket volume (55A–F14.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization document alien ownership of property in the United States (55A–H7.1); restriction of immigration (55A–H7.2); and a petition on the “naturalization of Americanized Chinese” (55A–H7.3).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Indian Affairs 1897-1899

### **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

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of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

**Committee Papers 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs document the Chippewa Indians (55A-F15.1); claims (55A-F15.2); construction of railroads across Indian Territory (55A-F15.3); Indian reservations (55A-F15.4); Indian tribes (55A-F15.5); Oto and Missouri reservation lands (55A-F15.6); schools (55A-F15.7); and various subjects (55A-F15.8). Arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F15.9); a docket volume (55A-F15.10); and an index to Indian depredation claims referred to the Court of Claims (55A-F15.11).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs include the affairs of various Indian tribes (55A-H8.1), arranged alphabetically by tribe and thereunder chronologically; schools, educational systems, and problems (55A-H8.2); and various subjects (55A-H8.3).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce 1897-1899

**Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce came into existence in 1892 when the name of the Committee on Commerce was changed. During most of the 19th century, there had been some inconsistency in the referral of certain customs-related matters. After 1895, however, the jurisdiction over customs districts, ports of entry and delivery, the transportation of dutiable goods, and officers and employees in the customs service passed to the Committee on Ways and Means. Similarly, for many years after the establishment of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in December 1887, the division of jurisdiction over various matters relating to water transportation between the new committee and the Committee on Commerce (later, the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee) was inconsistently applied, but progressively more of these issues were referred to the Merchant Marine Committee. After passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House rules defined the jurisdiction of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee as follows: Interstate and foreign commerce generally; regulation of interstate and foreign transportation, except transportation by water not subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission; regulation of interstate and foreign communications; civil aeronautics; weather bureau; interstate oil compacts; petroleum and natural gas, except on the public lands; securities and exchanges; regulation of interstate transmission of power, except the installation of connections between Government water power projects; railroad labor and railroad retirement and unemployment, except revenue measures relating thereto; public health and quarantine; inland waterways; the Bureau of Standards and the standardization of weights and measures and the metric system.

### Committee Papers 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce document bridges (55A–F16.1); the Department of Commerce and Industries (55A–F16.2); Life–Saving Service (55A–F16.3); lighthouses and fog signals (55A–F16.4); Nicaraguan canal (55A–F16.5); Pacific cable (55A–F16.6); Panama Canal (55A–F16.7); quarantine laws (55A–F16.8); Revenue–Cutter Service (55A–F16.9); and various subjects (55A–F16.10). There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F16.11); and a docket volume (55A–F16.12).

#### **Arrangement note**

**Committees**

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The records are arranged by subject, except 55A–F16.1, which is arranged alphabetically by river to be bridged.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce include aids to navigation, and Life-Saving service and stations (55A–H9.1); extension of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission (55A–H9.2); establishment of a Department of Commerce and Industry (55A–H9.3); establishment of a Bureau or Department of Public Health (55A–H9.4); establishment of a division, in the Treasury, for the regulation of insurance among the several states (55A–H9.5); freight and passenger rates, and rate discrimination (55A–H9.6); interstate transmission of lottery information and other gambling news by telegraph—antigambling legislation (55A–H9.7); National Exposition of American Products in Philadelphia (55A–H9.8); Nicaraguan canal (55A–H9.9); placing express companies under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission (55A–H9.10); pooling of freight rates by railroads (55A–H9.11); promotion of ocean trade in vessels under the American flag (55A–H9.12); protection of state anti-cigarette laws (55A–H9.13); publication of pictures and descriptions of suicides (55A–H9.14); pure food and drug laws (55A–H9.15); quarantine laws and stations (55A–H9.16); sale of railroad tickets by persons other than authorized agents-anti-ticket-scalping legislation (55A–H9.17); submarine cables (55A–H9.18); transmission by mail or interstate commerce of kinoscope reproductions or descriptions of prize fights (55A–H9.19); and various subjects (55A–H9.20).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1897-1899

**Committees**

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**Biographical/Historical note**

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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (55A–F17.1), arranged by subject. There are also two volumes of minutes (55A–F17.2); and six docket volumes (55A–F17.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions include claims (55A–H10.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; service pensions, legislation, and plans (55A–H10.2); and various subjects (55A–H10.3).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committees**

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## Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands 1897-1899

**Biographical/Historical note**

The standing Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands was created in 1893 but select committees on that subject had existed for several years prior to that date. The committee exercised jurisdiction over irrigation projects generally, including the preemption and disposition of lands on reclaimed and irrigated projects; authorization of interstate compacts and agreements regarding irrigation projects; and disposal of drainage waters from irrigation projects. In 1924, the committee's jurisdiction was formally expanded to include subjects pertaining to the reclamation of lands and the committee's name was changed to the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation. In 1946, the committee was abolished and its duties were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

## Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands document various subjects (55A-F18.1) arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F18.2); and a docket volume (55A-F18.3).

## Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands document various subjects (55A-H11.1).

**Arrangement note**

**Committees**

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

**Committee on the Judiciary 1897-1899****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 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary include bankruptcy laws of foreign countries (55A–F19.1), arranged alphabetically by country; hearings on S. 224 to regulate interstate and foreign commerce (55A–F19.2); hearings on uniform hours of labor in manufactories (55A–F19.3); hearings on woman suffrage (55A–F19.4); papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A–F19.5), arranged numerically by bill or resolution; and various

## Committees

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subjects (55A–F19.6), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F19.7); and a docket volume (55A–F19.8).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

### **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 arbitration of railroad strikes (55A–H12.1); alien ownership of property in the United States (55A–H12.2); constitutional amendment prohibiting sectarian appropriations (55A–H12.3); constitutional amendment recognizing God as the source of all civil power (55A–H12.4); Department of Commerce and Industry (55A–H12.5); desecration of the United States flag (55A–H12.6); interstate gambling by telegraph or telephone (55A–H12.7); preventing the abuse of the writ of injunction and other legal processes (55A–H12.8); protection of state anti-cigarette laws (55A–H12.9); raising the age of consent for girls in the District of Columbia (55A–H12.10); relief of the judge of the Northern District of Texas by reason of ill health (55A–H12.11); Sunday rest law (55A–H12.12); transmission by mail or interstate commerce of kinoscope reproductions or descriptions of prize fights (55A–H12.13); uniform system of bankruptcy (55A–H12.14); woman suffrage (55A–H12.15); and various subjects (55A–H12.16).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Labor 1897-1899

### **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

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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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Labor include various subjects (55A–F20.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F20.2).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Labor document alien ownership of property in the United States, and establishing trusts and issuing bonds in excess of the actual worth of their property (55A–H13.1); appointment of a commission to investigate the problems of labor and capital (55A–H13.2); arbitration of railroad strikes (55A–H13.3); convict labor and convict-made goods (55A–H13.4); 8-hour work law (55A–H13.5); preventing the abuse of the writ of injunction and other legal processes (55A–H13.6); and various subjects (55A–H13.7).

#### **Arrangement note**

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

**Committees**

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## Committee on the Library 1897-1899

**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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Library include reports of the Librarian of Congress (55A-F21.1), arranged chronologically; and various subjects (55A-F21.2), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (55A-F21.3).

## Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**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 (55A-H14.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

## Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries 1897-1899

**Committees**

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**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries was established on December 21, 1887, to replace the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests. The House Rules defined its jurisdiction as those matters concerning the merchant marine. This included all matters relating to transportation by water, the Coast Guard, life-saving service, lighthouses, lightships, ocean derelicts, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Panama Canal, and fisheries. Legislation referred to the committee also included matters involving seamen (their assignments, wages, treatment, and health) and officers (their titles, conduct, and licensing); the naming, measuring, licensing, and registering of vessels; navigation and related laws; pleasure yachts; collisions at sea, as well as international arrangements to prevent them; coasting districts; maritime schools; and, taxes, fines, and penalties on vessels. The committee has also regulated shipping in the Philippines and Hawaii. As did most committees of the House, the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee created subcommittees to handle portions of its jurisdiction. In 1919 the committee was given jurisdiction over wireless telegraphy (radio), and in 1932 its name was changed to the Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries.

Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries include papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A–F22.1), arranged numerically by bill or resolution; sale and repair of various vessels (55A–F22.2), arranged alphabetically by name of vessel; and various subjects (55A–F22.3), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F22.4); a docket volume (55A–F22.5); and indexes to the docket (55A–F22.6) and to papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A–F22.7).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

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The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries document the promoting and/or increasing the commerce, foreign trade, and merchant marine of the United States (55A–H15.1); and various subjects (55A–H15.2).

### **Arrangement note**

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

## Committee on Military Affairs 1897-1899

### **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 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Military Affairs include papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A–F23.1), arranged numerically by bill or resolution; and various subjects

## Committees

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(55A–F23.2), arranged by subject. There are also two volumes of minutes (55A–F23.3); and three docket volumes (55A–F23.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs document the granting the rank of Second Lieutenant to veterinary surgeons in the Army (55A–H16.1); increasing the number of chaplains in the Army (55A–H16.2); preventing discrimination against homeopathic physicians and surgeons in appointments to the Army and Navy (55A–H16.3); and various subjects (55A–H16.4).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committee on the Militia 1897-1899

### **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

**Committees**

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1911, the House Military Affairs committee assumed the functions and powers that had formerly been in the jurisdiction of the Militia Committee.

**Committee Papers 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Militia document various subjects (55A–F24.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F24.2); and a docket volume (55A–F24.3).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****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 the annual appropriation of one million dollars for the militia (55A–H17.1); and increased appropriation for the maintenance of the National Guard (55A–H17.2).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Mines and Mining 1897-1899****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,

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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 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Mines and Mining include a docket volume (55A–F25.1).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Mines and Mining document various subjects (55A–H18.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Naval Affairs 1897-1899****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

## Committees

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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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document armorplate (55A-F26.1); case of Pay Inspector John H. Stevenson (55A-F26.2); drydocks (55A-F26.3); the Naval Academy (55A-F26.4); papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A-F26.5); and various subjects (55A-F26.6).

#### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject within each group, except 55A-F26.5, which is arranged numerically by bill or resolution.

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs include navy yards and drydocks (55A-H19.1); promoting the efficiency of the clerical service of the Navy (55A-H19.2); and various subjects (55A-H19.3).

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**Arrangement note**

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

## Committee on Pacific Railroads 1897-1899

**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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Pacific Railroads document various subjects (55A–F27.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F27.2); and a docket volume (55A–F27.3).

## Committee on Patents 1897-1899

**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

**Committees**

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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 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Patents include reports of the Commissioners of Patents (55A–F28.1), arranged chronologically; papers accompanying bills (55A–F28.2), arranged numerically; and various subjects (55A–F28.3), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F28.4); and a docket volume (55A–F28.5).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Patents include trademarks (55A–H20.1); and various subjects (55A–H20.2).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Pensions 1897-1899****Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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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 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Pensions document various subjects (55A–F29.1), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (55A–F29.2).

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1897-1899

### **Biographical/Historical note**

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

## Committees

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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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads include papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A–F30.1), arranged numerically by bill or resolution; and various subjects (55A–F30.2), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F30.3); and a docket volume (55A–F30.4).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **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 include an amendment of the postal laws relating to second–class mail matter (55A–H21.1); compensation of fourth–class postmasters (55A–H21.2); establishment of postal savings banks (55A–H21.3); extension of pneumatic mail service (55A–H21.4); rural free delivery (55A–H21.5); reduction and/or curtailment of mail deliveries and facilities (55A–H21.6); and various subjects (55A–H21.7).

#### **Arrangement note**

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

### Committee on Printing 1897-1899

#### **Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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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.

### Committee Papers 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Printing document various subjects (55A-F31.1), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (55A-F31.2).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Printing document various subjects (55A-H22.1).

#### **Arrangement note**

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

**Committees**

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## Committee on Private Land Claims 1897-1899

**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 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims include a volume of minutes (55A–F32.1); and a docket volume (55A–F32.2).

## Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1897-1899

**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.

**Committees**

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**Committee Papers 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds include a volume of minutes (55A–F33.1); and a docket volume (55A–F33.2).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the construction of various public buildings (55A–H23.1); sale of intoxicating liquors in government buildings (55A–H23.2); and various subjects (55A–H23.3).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Public Lands 1897-1899****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,

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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 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Lands include papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A–F34.1), arranged numerically by bill or resolution; a volume of minutes (55A–F34.2); and a docket volume (55A–F34.3).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands document various subjects (55A–H24.1).

#### **Arrangement note**

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

### Committee on Railways and Canals 1897-1899

#### **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

**Committees**

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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 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Railways and Canals document various subjects (55A–F35.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A–F35.2); and a docket volume (55A–F35.3).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****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 sale of railroad tickets by persons other than authorized agents-anti-ticket-scalping legislation (55A–H25.1); and various subjects (55A–H25.2).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Reform in the Civil Service 1897-1899**

**Committees**

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**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Reform in the Civil Service became a standing committee August 18, 1893, having been a select committee prior to that date. The committee's jurisdiction covered matters relating to "reform in the civil service," including the status, classification, and salaries of officers, clerks, and employees in the civil branches of Government; provisions for preference to sailors, soldiers, and marines seeking civil service employment; and the apportionment of civil service appointments among the States. The committee had jurisdiction over matters relating to the Civil Service Commission, the Bureau of Efficiency, and alleged violations of civil service law, and it reported legislation relating to the repeal of the tenure of office act. In 1924 the name of the committee was shortened to Committee on the Civil Service, but the jurisdiction was not changed.

Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service document various subjects (55A-F36.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F36.2); and a docket volume (55A-F36.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service document the preference for war veterans in the Civil Service (55A-H26.1); repeal or modification of the civil service laws (55A-H26.2); and various subjects (55A-H26.3).

**Arrangement note**

**Committees**

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

**Committee on Rivers and Harbors 1897-1899****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 Papers 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors include bars, breakwaters, dams, levees, and locks (55A-F37.1); bays, harbors, and inlets (55A-F37.2); canals (55A-F37.3); channels (55A-F37.4); creeks and rivers (55A-F37.5); passes and deep waterways (55A-F37.6); and various subjects (55A-F37.7). There is also a volume of minutes (55A-F37.8); and a docket volume (55A-F37.9).

**Committees**

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**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged alphabetically by name of bar, canal, etc., within each group, except 55A–F37.7, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**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 bayous, canals, lakes, passes, and sounds (55A–H27.1); breakwaters, dams, levees, and retaining walls (55A–H27.2); harbor and bay improvements (35A–H27.3); river improvements and surveys (55A–H27.4); and various subjects (55A–H27.5).

**Arrangement note**

55A–H27.1, 55A–H27.3, and 55A–H27.4 are arranged alphabetically by river, harbor, etc., and thereunder chronologically.

Committee on Rules 1897-1899

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

**Committees**

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**Committee Papers 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Rules include various subjects (55A–F43.1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Rules document various subjects (55A–H32.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on the Territories 1897-1899****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,

**Committees**

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Indians, prohibition, and wildlife. The jurisdiction of the committee was later absorbed by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Territories document the Hawaiian Islands (55A–F38.1); New Mexico (55A–F38.2); Oklahoma (55A–F38.3); and various subjects (55A–F38.4). There is also a docket volume (55A–F38.5).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Territories include Alaska (55A–H28.1); Arizona (55A–H28.2); Hawaii (55A–H28.3); New Mexico (55A–H28.4); Oklahoma (55A–H28.5); Philippine Islands (55A–H28.6); Puerto Rico (55A–H28.7); raising the age of consent for girls (55A–H28.8); and various subjects (55A–H28.9).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Ways and Means 1897-1899

## Committees

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### **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 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 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means include the duty on agricultural products and provisions (55A-F39.1); books and papers (55A-F39.2); chemicals (55A-F39.3); cotton (55A-F39.4); earthenware and glassware (55A-F39.5); flax, hemp, and jute (55A-F39.6); free list (55A-F39.7); metals (55A-F39.8); silk (55A-F39.9); spirits, wine, and other beverages (55A-F39.10); sugar and molasses (55A-F39.11); sundries (55A-F39.12); tobacco (55A-F39.13); woods (55A-F39.14); wool and woolens (55A-F39.15); papers accompanying bills and resolutions (55A-F39.16); tax on beer, whiskies, and wines (55A-F39.17); coffee and tea (55A-F39.18); proprietary articles and medicines (55A-F39.19); other commodities (55A-F39.20); and various subjects (55A-F39.21). There is also a docket volume (55A-F39.22).

### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged alphabetically by commodity within each group, except 55A-F39.16, which is arranged numerically by bill or resolution, and 55A-F39.18 and 55A-F39.19, which are arranged chronologically.

## Committees

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Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

### **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 include the abrogation of the Hawaiian treaty (55A-H29.1); adulteration of flour-pure foods (55A-H29.2); commodity tariffs (55A-H29.3); commodity taxes (55A-H29.4); Pan American Exposition (55A-H29.5); and various subjects (55A-H29.6).

### **Arrangement note**

55A-H29.3 and 55A-H29.4 are arranged alphabetically by commodity and thereunder chronologically.

Committee of the Whole House 1897-1899

### **Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee of the Whole consists of the entire membership of the House and stems from a practice in the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself/herself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

Committee Papers 1897-1899

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee of the Whole House include various subjects (55A-F40.1).

**Committees**

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**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

## Select Committee on the Twelfth Census 1897-1899

## Committee Papers 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Twelfth Census document various subjects (55A–F42.1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

## Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1897-1899

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on the Twelfth Census document various subjects (55A–H30.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

## Select Committee to Investigate Price and Quality of Gas and Rates for Telephone Service in the District of Columbia 1897-1899

**Originals of Printed House Documents**

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**Committee Papers 1897-1899****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee to Investigate Price and Quality of Gas and Rates for Telephone Service in the District of Columbia include a volume of minutes (55A-F41.1); and a volume of carbon copies of outgoing letters (55A-F41.2).

**Originals of Printed House Documents 1897-1899 35.0 Cubic feet (126 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The originals of printed House documents are from the 1st session (55A-G1), 2d session (55A-G2) and 3d session (55A-G3).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

**Election Records 1897-1899 2.0 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

The election records include the credentials of Representatives and Delegates (55A-J1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

**Other Records 1897-1899 0.33 Cubic feet (3 volumes)**

**Records of the Office of the Clerk**

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**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include roll calls (55A–K1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically.

**Records of the Office of the Clerk 1897-1899****Record Books 1897-1899 3.0 Cubic feet (14 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a House bill book (55C–A1); House joint resolution book (55C–A2); House concurrent and simple resolution book together with Senate concurrent resolutions (55C–A3); Senate bill book (55C–A4); Senate joint resolution book (55C–A5); individual ledger (55C–A6); register of papers sent to committees (55C–A7); register of papers from committees (55C–A8); register of papers sent to the Senate (55C–A9); register of papers received from the Senate (55C–A10); register of committee reports (55C–A11); and record of stationery supplies furnished to committees (55C–A12).