

George Gee fonds

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Finding aid

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Fonds description

George Gee fonds.

1945 – 1973.

70 cm of textual material.

40 photographs

.2 cm. micrographic copies

Biographical sketch: George Gee was born on July 22, 1908 in Virden, Manitoba where he lived with his parents and 9 brothers and sisters. After his father's death in 1909, the family's financial situation worsened until foreclosure forced the family to scatter across Canada in search of employment. Gee stayed in Manitoba working as a labourer until the stock market crash of 1929 forced him into the ranks of the unemployed. He then moved to Princeton, British Columbia to join his brothers.

While in Princeton, Gee and his brothers supported themselves with odd jobs and George increasingly came under the influence of his brother Bill, who had joined the communist party in 1932. He also became affiliated with well-known communist organizer Arthur "Slim" Evans while helping with the Tulameen Coal Miner's Strike in 1933. In March of 1934, Gee married Lillian Smith-Mitchell of Princeton, B.C.

Gee left Princeton in 1935 and took a job with Peterson electric in Vancouver, B.C. Soon after, Gee was laid off and joined the communist party. In 1936, he left Vancouver for Seattle, Washington where he found steady work and joined the Local 77 chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.).

In 1937, Gee moved back to Vancouver and worked for B.C. Electric. This same year, George and Lillian had their first daughter, Joyce. The Gee family welcomed their second daughter (Shirley) in 1939. On August 4, 1939, he began his career with the Local 213 of the I.B.E.W, where he went on to serve as a business agent from 1946-1955. During these years, the Gees had two more children, a daughter (Bonnie) and a son (James).

Gee was expelled from the union in 1955 due to his political affiliation, where after he returned to his job at B.C. Electric (from which he had taken a leave of absence from 1946 on). After only working a half-day, Gee was fired because of his expulsion from the I.B.E.W. Five days later, close to 300 electrical workers walked off the job in protest to Gee's dismissal.

From the date of his firing in 1955 until 1957, Gee made a series of attempts within the I.B.E.W. to be reinstated. The attempts all failed and were eventually followed by a trial in the Supreme Court, which rejected Gee's charges against the I.B.E.W.

After Gee's defeat in The Supreme Court, he ran a small heating business called G&B Heating until 1960, when he, his wife Lillian, and their son James moved to Edmonton, Alberta. He worked there as the western representative for The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (U.E.). In 1967 Gee moved back to Vancouver, B.C.,

and continued to fulfil this position until his retirement in 1974. By 1974, The Gees purchased property in Davis Bay, Sechelt. Gee was actively involved in political affairs, civic affairs and was one of the founding members of the Sechelt Communist Party.

Sources: Biography and custodial history found in the accession record. Additional information taken from the finding aid:

George Gee, 1908 – 1987: An inventory of records and papers in The Library of the University of British Columbia Special Collections and University Archives Division. Prepared by James Bowman, January 1993.

Custodial history: Fonds was donated by Joyce F. Gee, daughter of George Gee in July of 1992.

Scope and content: Correspondence, financial records, legal documents, photographs and printed material relating mainly to the union activities of George Gee as a business agent for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker, Vancouver Local 213, his expulsion from the union by an international representative of the union, and his attempts to be re-instated.

Source of title proper: Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

Physical condition note: Handwritten, mimeographic, and typewritten documents have faded. Several documents have become embrittled due to paper acidity.

Arrangement: This finding aid is a re-description of the original 1993 finding aid. There is no indication in the original finding aid or accession material regarding order. It is conjecture that the arranging archivist, except where it is noted at the series level, imposed order on the files.

Finding aid: File list available.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Related groups of records: See also the Arthur H. Evans fonds and the Lily Greene fonds, Rare Books and Special Collections UBC Library.

General note: A new finding aid was prepared in November 2009 by graduate students in the MAS/LIS at SLAIS, UBC. The arrangement was kept as it was found except for the omission of the first series, which contained two files: a biographical sketch created by the archivist, and a newspaper clipping about the passing of George Gee.

Series descriptions

Printed materials: pamphlets and broadsides.

1955 – 1957.

0.7 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: This series consists of pamphlets, brochures, cartoon fliers and mass addressed letters relating to the charges against George Gee, his dismissal from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.), and the public reaction to the events.

Source of title proper: Title based on content of the series.

Financial records.

1945 – 1971.

7.8 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: This series consists of financial records for the businesses that George Gee represented as a Business Agent for the Union. This series consists of bank and taxation receipts, court documents, Northern Gem Mining Corporation shareholder documents, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers notices and shareholder documents, G. & B. Heating Ltd. documents and financial statements, electrical contractor certificate documents, letters, forms, property assessment and sales agreement, Workmen's Compensation Boards claim documents, and British Columbia Electric Co. pension documents.

Source of title proper: Title based on content of the series.

Correspondence.

1951 – 1973.

2.6 cm of textual records.

0.4 cm of micrographic records.

Scope and content: This series contains correspondence pertaining to various labour-related union issues, including notes, notifications and attachments. Correspondents include British Columbia Labour Relations Board, Fred W. Smelts Associates Ltd., International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Board of Directors of Electrical Estates Limited, Wireman, Copper Mountain Miners' Union, Vancouver Civic Employees Union, United Fisherman and Allied Workers' Union, International Association of Machinists Lodge No. 876, International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union Local 507 British Columbia, and the Brotherhood of Paper Mill Workers,

Source of title proper: Title based on content of the series.

Acme plumbing and heating services and I.B.E.W. union records.

1952 – 1970.

4 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: This series consists of the collected records pertaining to George Gee's activities acting in the capacity of union business agent for Acme Plumbing and Heating Service and The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the United States and Canada. The series contains correspondence, employer lists, reports, clippings and leaflets, contract amendments, union bulletins and other related documents.

Correspondents and subjects include: Department of Labour, The Canadian Labour congress, correspondence with RCA, Rankin, Dean & Simons: Barrister, Solicitors, and Notaries Public, and Maxwell Construction Ltd.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Photographs.

[195-?].

17 photographs : b&w

22 photographs : b&w negatives

1 photograph : contact sheet

Scope and content: This series consists of photographs of the interior and exterior of the Press Club in British Columbia, and photographs, negatives and a contact sheet of railway construction.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Litigation files.

1948 – 1962.

16.7 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: This series documents the court cases of Gee v. Waplington, Gee v. Freeman, and Gee v. the IBEW as part of Gee's attempts to be re-instated into the union. The series contains lawyers' notes on evidence, memoranda, lists of jurors, affidavits of service, statements of claim, correspondence, defendant's statements, and various other court documents.

Arrangement note: The files in this series regarding Gee v. Waplington and Gee v. Freeman were arranged by Gee's lawyer's office.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers business manager's files.
1950-1960.

25.1 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: This series consists of George Gee's office files from the years he spent acting as business manager for the IBEW. This series contains exhibits from the IBEW internal trial of George Gee, IBEW constitutions from 1950 and 1954, wage agreements, financial statements, correspondence, grievances, and related documents.

Arrangement note: When George Gee was dismissed from his position as business manager for the IBEW, Local 213, he took with him a transfer case containing his office records. Other IBEW documents were then later added to the files. They are arranged in accordance with the office's filing system.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

File list

Series: Printed materials: pamphlets and broadsides.

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-1	In defense of my right to work	1955
1-2	Union wreckers linked to RCMP	1956
1-3	2 cartoons	[1955- 1957?]
1-4	To the delegates to the Canadian Labour Congress	[1956?]
1-5	The case of George Gee	1955
1-6	Dear friends and brothers	1956-1957

Series: Financial records.

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-7	Personal: miscellaneous	1955- 1958
1-8	Northern Gem Mining Corporation Ltd.	1955- 1957
1-9	Live Wire Publishing Co. Ltd. and Electrical Estates Ltd.	1961
1-10	G&B Heating Ltd. and George Gee Construction	1956-61
1-(11-15)	4248 McGill Street, agreement for sale 2641 E. 46 th Ave, tax notices (Coquitlam)	1945- 1974
1-16	Workmen's Compensation Board	1956- 1971
1-17	B.C. Electric Co. pension	1955- 1960

Series: Correspondence.

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-18	Letter from labour relations board	1951
1-19	Correspondence, re: trusteeship of IBEW	1955- 1956
1-20	Correspondence with unionists	1955
1-21	Correspondence with lawyers	1957- 1959
1-22	Correspondence, re: retirement	1973

Series: Acme plumbing and heating services and I.B.E.W. union records.

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-23	Acme Plumbing & Heating Services et al. Vs. Plumbers & Pipefitters	1958
1-(24-26)	Collected material re: IBEW, miscellaneous papers, miscellaneous clippings and pamphlets	1952- 1970

Series: Photographs

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-(27-28)	Press Club photographs, railway construction photographs	[195?]

Series: Litigation files

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-29	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: statement of claim	1955-1956
1-30	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: draft of statement by J.D. McSorley	1958
1-31	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: lawyers notes evidence	1949-1957
1-32	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: evidence, re: E.A. Doigneoult	1953
1-33	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: lawyers file	1955-1957
1-34	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: lawyers notes	1956-1958
1-35	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: legal documents	1955-1957
1-36	Gee v. Walpington et. al.: Exhibit "B"	1955
2-1	Gee v Freeman et. al.: 3846: documents	1955
2-2	Gee v Freeman et. al.: lawyers' notes, etc.	1951-1958
2-3	Gee v Freeman et. al.: exhibits	[1955?]
2-3a	Gee v Freeman et. al.: transcript of examination for discovery of Gee	1957
2-4	Gee v IBEW et. al.: George Gee file	1951-1955
2-5	Gee v Freeman et. al.: miscellaneous papers	1954-1955
2-6	Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2900: miscellaneous correspondence and documents	1955-1957

2-7	Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2903: evidence	1958
2-8	Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2905: miscellaneous paper, correspondence, etc.	1948-1958
2-9	Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2906: miscellaneous notes & micrographic files	1949-1958

Series: IBEW business manager's files

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
2-10	PX6: exhibits in IBEW trial	1955
2-11	PX8: exhibits in IBEW trial	1953-1955
2-12	PX9 & 10: exhibits in IBEW trial	1948-1955
2-13	IBEW constitution	1950
2-14	IBEW constitution	1954
2-15	Agreement, B.C. Electric Co. and IBEW	1951
2-16	IBEW Local 344: financial statements	1952, 1954
2-17	IBEW Local 213: financial statements	1958-1962
2-18	B.C. Electric Co.	1953-1954
2-19	George Gee - MSA	1948-1955
3-1	Charges against George Gee	1954-1955

3-2	From Milne, v. Scott	1952-1957
3-3	From 8 to: Raymond, John H.	1952-1955
3-4	T: Tracy, international president	1953-1954
3-5	Vancouver Local #213	1952-1954
3-6	W-444: wage notes	1952-1955
3-6a	1955: B.C. Electric Railway Company	1949-1950
3-7	B.C. Electric Co. negotiations	1953
3-8	B.C. Electric Co. negotiations	1953-1954
3-9	Crampton, L.G., personal	1955
3-10	Crampton, L.G.	1955
3-11	Keenan, V.	1955
3-(12-13)	Keenan, Joseph D.	1955
3-14	Matthias, F.T.	1955
3-(15-16)	Milne, V. Scott	1955
3-(17-18)	Raymond, John H.	1955
3-19	Reports, expense	1955
3-20	Ross, Jessie M.	1955
3-21	Stenographer's note book	[1955?]
3-22	A - miscellaneous - 9 records	1956
3-23	K Kitimat, miscellaneous	1956
3-24	R Raymond, J.H.	1955-1956
3-25	R Ross, J.H.	1956
3-26	V Vancouver Local 213	1956
3-27	E - members correspondence and other correspondence	1950-1960

