

Niagara-Welland Power Company Limited fonds

1833-1909, n.d.

RG 87
Brock University Archives

Creator: Campell, John S.
Niagara-Welland Power Company

Extent: 5 cm of textual records.

Abstract: This archive contains materials relating to the Niagara-Welland Power Company Limited. The bulk of the materials are correspondence, reports, government documents and business documents.

Materials: Typed and handwritten correspondence, reports, business and government documents.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Jen Goul / Edie Williams

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Acquisition Info.: Custodial history is unknown. Several documents and items of correspondence are addressed directly to John S. Campbell, secretary-treasurer of the company. It is likely the fonds came from members of the Campbell family.

Administrative/ Biographical History:

The Welland Power and Supply Canal Company Limited, established in 1893 and incorporated in 1894 with a capital stock of \$500,000. The aim of the company was to harness the natural water supply of the Niagara and

Welland Rivers. In 1898 the Canadian Electrical News published a report by Henry Symons, QC outlining the main project of the company.

This project involves the construction of a canal from the Welland River to the brow of the mountain at Thorold, a distance of 8 miles; the construction at Thorold of a power house, and from Thorold to Lake Ontario, a raceway by which to carry water into the lake. The estimate for the machinery to generate 100,000 horse power is £125,000; for transmission line to Toronto at a voltage of 10,000....The total estimate therefore amounts to £2,452,162, or roughly speaking, \$12,000,000.

Source: Canadian Electrical News, August 1898, p. 172.

In 1899 the company officers petitioned the federal government desiring a name change to the Niagara-Welland Power Company Limited. Officers of the company were Harry Symons, President; Charles A. Hesson, Vice-President; and M.R. O'Loughlin, James B. Sheehan, James S. Haydon, Frederick K. Foster, directors; John S. Campbell, secretary-treasurer. The company's head offices were located in St. Catharines, with a New York (City) office on Broad Street. In 1905 and 1909 the company petitioned the federal government for additional time to construct its works, which was granted. The company had until May 16, 1915 to complete construction.

John S. Campbell (1860-1950) was a graduate of the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall. During his university years John began his military career first in "K" Company, Queens Own rifles and then later as Commanding Officer of the 19th Lincoln Regiment, from 1906 to 1910. Upon his return to St. Catharines John Campbell served as secretary in the St. Catharines Garrison Club, a social club for military men begun in 1899. After being called to the Bar, he became a partner in the firm of Campbell and McCarron and was appointed to the bench in 1916, serving until retirement in 1934. Judge Campbell served as an alderman for several terms and was the mayor of St. Catharines in 1908 and 1909. He also served as the first chairman of the St. Catharines Public Utilities in 1914. John S. Campbell was married to Elizabeth Oille, daughter of Jerome B. and Charlotte (St. John) Oille. The family home "Cruachan" was located at 32 Church St.

Scope and Content:

The fonds includes material relating to the activities of the Niagara-Welland Power Company. Specifically related to the incorporation of an electric development and securities company. The fonds also includes the company's charter, reports on transmission lines, engineering reports on the project of power development requests for right of ways.

Inventory:

- 1.1 Business documents, 1904, n.d. Includes certificate of incorporation of the Electric Development and Securities Company; license authorizing Electric Development and Securities Company to carry on business in the Province of Ontario; correspondence related to the acquisition of a license; and the Niagara Welland Power Company Charter.
- 1.2 Right of Way Correspondence, 1906, n.d. The correspondence mostly concerns a Plan and Book of Reference for the Right of Way with various county registry offices including Waterloo, Perth, Brant, Oxford, Peel, York, Wentworth, Lincoln, Welland, and Wellington. The accompanying envelope is labelled "Niagara Welland Power Co. Certificates of Deposit of Right of Way Plans (Transmission Lines) at Registry Offices, 1906".
- 1.3 Construction Correspondence, 1904-1905. The letters are written to or by J.L. Weller, Harry Symons, and Roderick J. Parke. The correspondence concerns the possible construction of a flume below the 'Bluff'; sufficient water flow from the Welland River; the practicality of smoothing the walls of the canal; and a report on the hydraulic portion of the Niagara-Welland Power Company's scheme for power development at the 'Bluff' east of St. Catharines. The letters are dated from December 1904 to January 1905.
- 1.4 Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, 1906. Contains certified copies of orders of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada sanctioning transmission line right of way plans, Niagara Falls to St. Thomas via Mount Hope, Brampton, Burford, Eastwood, Woodstock and London, and Mount Hope to Hamilton...via Dundas Milton, Brampton and Weston to Toronto and from Burford via Galt...with branch lines to Paris, Ayr, Tavistock and Guelph, also from Montrose to boundary near Grand Island.
- 1.5 Government documents, 1833, 1852, 1909. Includes *Report of the Commissioners of the Welland Canal* (1833); *An Act to enable the Directors of the Grand River Navigation Company to place the said Navigation under the control and management of the Provincial Government, under certain conditions* (1852), and *An Act respecting the Niagara-Welland Power Company* (1909).
- 1.6 Reports, 1905-1906. Contains a *Report on the Project of Power Development of the Niagara-Welland Power Company* by John MacCunn, member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, Toronto, Canada, August 1905; and *Report of the Power Transmission for Electric Development and Securities Company, New York* by John MacCunn,

Toronto, Ont., January 1906. Also includes a concise report on the projected water power development near Niagara, addressed to M.R. O'Loughlin, President of the Electric Development & Securities Company, by Wm. Barclay Parsons, consulting Engineers, New York, dated January 23, 1906.

Related Archives: Campbell Family fonds, RG 47, Brock University Archives

Samuel Rollin Hesson and family, R10892, Library and Archives Canada
