

Dorothy Gretchen Steeves, 1891-1978

An inventory of her papers

in

The Library of the University of British Columbia

Special Collections Division

Prepared by

Joan D. Anastasiou

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Dorothy Gretchen Steeves

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INTRODUCTION

Dorothy Gretchen Steeves, 1891 -

Dorothy Gretchen Biersteker Steeves, born in Amsterdam, has pursued a very active, vigorous, and lively career dominated by her main interests - politics, economics, and related matters. She was educated in Holland and received a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Leiden. During the first World War she served as a legal adviser to a Dutch Government Rationing Bureau. After her marriage with Rufus Palmer Steeves, an officer in the Canadian Army, she arrived in Vancouver in January, 1919, where he resumed a teaching career.

In the 1920's she became Secretary of the University Women's Club and the League of Nations Society in Vancouver. During the depression years she initially joined the League for Reconstruction and then the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, attending the CCF Convention in Regina in 1933. Dorothy Gretchen Steeves was elected as an M.L.A. for North Vancouver in a by-election during 1934 and twice re-elected in the 1937 and 1941 elections. After her electoral defeat in 1945 she spent many years within the framework of the CCF movement serving on executives at the provincial and federal levels.

Besides writing unnumberable editorials and articles, particularly on international affairs for the CCF and NDP Press and other left wing papers, she wrote The Compassionate Rebel editorials in 1960 and followed this book by Builders and Rebels: A short History of the CCF from 1932 to 1961. Some of the organizations in which she actively participated were the B.C. Civil Liberties! Association, Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Canadian Committee for Nuclear Disarmament, Canadian Fellowship of Reconciliation, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Association of the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, and the Unitarian Church.

The Papers were arranged by series with some subgroups. Dorothy Steeves Papers transferred to the Library in previous years were placed with the Angus MacInnis Memorial Collection. The Papers included notes and reminiscences collected by her during her research for The Compassionate and clippings relating to international affairs.

The inventory includes the following series:

Autobiographical and biographical information

Letters: incoming

Letters: outgoing

Manuscripts

Publications

Subject files

Miscellany

Diaries

Appointment books

Clippings

Memorabilia

Documents

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Subgroups

Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

B.C. Civil Liberties Association

New Democratic Party

New Democratic Party of B.C.

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Paintings

<u>Box and Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>		
1-1	Autobiographical and biographical information Autobiographical notes by D.G. Steeves and newspaper clippings relating to her political career.		
	<u>Letters: Incoming</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
1-2	Anderson, N.B.	1934	2
	Baxter	1934	2
	Birney, Edith L.	1942	1
	Brereton, J. Lloyd	1966	1
	Biersteker, Douglas (brother)	(1917)-1921, n.d.	4
	Biersteker, Noel (brother)		3
1-3	Biersteker, A. (Father)	1915-1926	26
1-4	Biersteker, Mrs. (Mother)	1918-1934, n.d.	25
1-5	Bursill-Hall, G. & H.	1960	1
	Cannan, B.	1925	1
	Faulkner, Fred S.	n.d.	1
	Gregson, Herbert M.	1921	1
	Griffin, Harold	1961	1 (with enclosure)
	Laugs, Georgia	1963	1
	MacDonald, Angus M.	1935	1
	MacInnis, Grace	1960	1
	Mather, Barry	1966	2 (with enclosures)
	Matron, Lilitre	1955	1
	Pattello, T.D.	n.d.	1
	Pritchard, W.D.	1960	1
	Ratford, Kathleen	1921	1
	Ricketts, S.F.	1941	1
	Shadbolt, Doris	1966	1
	Steeves, Ethel	n.d.	1
1-(6-8)	Steeves, Hugh Douglas, (son) Material includes letters of condolence, personal papers , official correspondence, selected memorial poems, speeches, and related material. He was killed on March 27, 1943.	1931-50	173
1-9	Steeves, Rufus Palmer Letters were removed with subgroup of R.P. Steeves Papers, organized and returned to Family of R.P. Steeves.		
1-10	Vos, Willy	1919-29, n.d.	3
	Walker, Bud	1943	1

Box and Folder No.

	<u>Letters: Incoming cont.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
1-11	Unidentified Much of the correspondence is in the Dutch language. There are letters from friends discussing the political situation including a greeting card from "a very busy Bolshevik".	1909-1970	20
	<u>Letters: Outgoing</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
2-1	Biersteker, Mrs Herridge, Bert Pearson, Lester B. Miscellaneous	1919 1961 1961 1963	1 1 1 1
2-(2-6)	Steeves, Rufus Palmer	1924-45	182
2-7	Ephemera (customs declarations)	1941, n.d.	8

Manuscripts

2-8	The Fir tree	n.d.	6p.
2-9	Mary Webb	1928	14p.
2-10	History Courses, at U.B.C., essay and notes	1946	

Publications (see also: subject files)

3-1	A British Columbia View. The Canadian Forum. V. 20 (238): 237-239. Nov. 1940		
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Subject files

3-2	Aging Unitarian Church of Vancouver. A brief on a possible housing project, 7 pages. Foster, Noreen. A series of four sketches pertaining to the role of the volunteer in working with older people. Hixson, Harold H. Volunteer programs in proprietary facilities. Unitarian Church of Vancouver. The Song of death. A Spring Sermon series, 1968. United Community Services--Services for the Ambulatory Ages: A guide to community services to older people in the greater Vancouver area, 1967		
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Box and Folder No.Subject files cont.

- 3-2 A clipping pertaining to a "meal on wheels" project to the elderly persons in Vernon, 1967.
- 3-3 Animal Protection
 Newsletter, pamphlets, and information sheets pertaining to various animal protection societies and appropriate Legislation and a radio script, "British Columbia's unique contribution to the fur bearing animals of North America, CJOR, March 23, 1962.
- 3-4 Apartheid
 articles and pamphlets
- 3-5 B.C. elections - 1937.
 clippings and campaign brochure
- 3-6 Canada and the U.S.
 Research material, including Great Britain, examining the governmental process in each country.
- 3-7 Canadian Institute of International Affairs
 Membership list, 1970, and a newsletter.
- 3-8 Canadian Unitarian Council
 By-laws, resolutions, programme, and list of delegates of the Seventh Annual Meeting, Toronto, May, 1968
- 3-9 Censorship
 Correspondence, reports, minutes, and printed material relating to the activities of the Censorship Committee of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, 1962-64, including letters from the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canadian Labour Congress, and Graham Elliston pertaining to race hatred and censorship. Numerous printed articles on censorship were kept in the file.
- 3-10 Civil liberties
 Articles, clippings, leaflets and the following pamphlets:
 Braden, Ann. House of Un-American Activities Committee: Bulwark of Segregation. New York. National Committee to abolish the House of Un-American Activities Committee. 1963. 49p.

Box and Folder No.

3-10

Civil liberties cont.

Crosby, Alexander. The rape of the first ammendment. Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, 20p.

Canada. Citizenship Branch. It's up to us. Ottawa, 1964. 48p.

Mancuso, Edward T. The public defender system in the State of California. Chicago. National Legal Aid and Defender Association, 1963, 30p.

National Council for Civil Liberties. Arrest. A guide to the citizens rights. The council, London, n.d. 10p.

Okanagan Society for the Revival of Indian Arts and Crafts, Oliver, B.C. Native Canadians: a plan for the rehabilitation of Indians, n.d.

Vancouver Civic Unity Association. Civic unity memo. Vancouver, The Association, 1964. (6 leaves).

✓ 3-11

Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation

Clippings, pamphlets, and related material including Constitution of B.C. section, adopted Sept. 30, 1933.

A broadsheet entitled, "A Reply to Mudslingers", referring to the C.C.F. candidacy of William Pritchard, n.d.

Trinity Topics, vol. 1, no. 1, Toronto, March, 1945, referring to the candidacy of H.A. Voaden.

Provincial C.C.F. platform and manifesto, (1935)

Battle Hymn of the C.C.F., n.d.

Regina Manifesto, 1933.

An outline of the origins, organization, objectives, and principles of the C.C.F. (Farmer, Labor, Socialist), n.d.

Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Programme, 1933

Now It Will be Told! The Truth about the Commonwealth, a pamphlet pertaining to the operations of the C.C.F. newspaper in Vancouver.

The First Ten Years, 1932-42, a publication commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the C.C.F.

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Builders and Rebels, A Short History of the C.C.F. in British Columbia, 1932-1961. Research and text was prepared by Dorothy G. Steeves.

Box and Folder No.

- 3-11 Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation cont.
- C.C.F. Program for British Columbia, 1945
- Action on the Home Front, The C.C.F. In the B.C. Legislature, 1944.
- In addition to C.C.F. material, the pamphlets included:
 A Proclamation by the United Nationalists of Canada, July 5, 1933. An example of one dollar note to be accepted by B.C. government if the Nationalists form the next provincial government is included in the pamphlet.
- Programme of The League for Social Reconstruction
- 4-1 Cuba
- Notes, clippings, articles, and pamphlets pertaining to Cuba during Castro's regime including an article by D. G. Steeves, This is Cuba and a pamphlet by Fidel Castro, Betrayal by Chinese government of Cuban People's good faith, 1966, 28 pages.
- 4-2 Europe
- Notes in the French and English language, relating to her European trip, especially pertaining to Greece and Russian Soviet Socialist Republic.
- 4-3 Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Some publications of the organization, 1942-67.
- 4-4 Injunctions in labour disputes
- Papers Delivered at Injunction Conference, 1967.
 One of the papers was delivered by R.C. Haynes, "The Labour Movement and the Injunction in British Columbia".
- 4-5 International Affairs
- Comments by D.G. Steeves on world affairs, clippings, and articles including:
 Eastman, Mack (1961) International Police Ideal 1910-1961: Hopes deferred.
 Strong, G.W. (1968) Canadian military sales to the the U.S.A. and the Vietnam War.
- 4-6 Manifestos
- Pamphlets and promotional literature of various political parties relating to their platforms and policies.

Box and Folder No.

4-6

Manifestos cont.

Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, 1932.

Saskatchewan Farmer-Labor Group (C.C.F.), 1933.

Independent Labor Party, (1930).

People's Party

Policy is related in The People, vol. 1, no.1, April, 1932.
The party adopted some policies as presented by the United Farmers of Canada, B.C. Section.

Reconstruction Party (B.C.), n.d.

Socialist Party of Canada

✓ United Farmers of Canada

Other pamphlets included:

Anderson, Harley C. Socialism

McDonald, J.A. The Abyss (How to Avoid It), Vancouver
Socialist Party of Canada, n.d.

Francis, Edmund D. The Indictment. Grave charges made in
the legislature by Mrs. Steeves, M.L.A., relating to the
British Columbia Public Accounts. Vancouver, Taxpayers'
Defence League. (1937), 8p.

A pamphlet pertaining to the sentencing of eight On-To-
Ottawa trekkers to jail terms for their participation
in the Dominion Day Riot, 1935.

In addition, there are some notes pertaining to the C.C.F.
leadership, 1930's.

4-7

New Democratic Party

Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and comments pertaining
to the founding convention of the New Democratic Party,
1961, including typescript on Founding Convention,
Impressions by D.G. Steeves.

4-8

New Democratic Party - Research Papers

Papers presented at the NDP Policy Seminar, Ottawa, 1966:

Brownstone, M. Rural and regional development
Endicott, G. Income from earnings and transfer payment
Gordon, R.F. Canadian Conference on Social Welfare, a
brief report.
Gordon, R.F. Mitchell Sharp's "Mini-Budget."
Levitt, K. The problem of economic nationalism versus
continentalism

Box and Folder No.

- 4-8 New Democratic Party - Research Papers cont.
- Taylor, C. Towards Canadian Nationalism.
- In addition, six statements from mult-national corporations pertaining to foreign investment are among the papers.
- Also, among the research papers is a suggested NDP program for civic affairs in Vancouver, n.d. as well as a report, writing and research by Carl Stolk for the Socialist Caucus of the B.C. NDP entitled, "The B.C. Forest Industry and the NDP." (1965).
- 4-(9-13) New Democratic Party of British Columbia
- Annual Convention Papers, 1966-1970. (Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth)
- 5-1 Ormsby, Dr. Margaret.
- Research notes taken from British Columbia: A History.
- 5-2 Skinner, Robert
- Items relating to a speech prepared on socialized finance, ca. 1930's. Material included texts on "Socialized Finance," and "Will the CCF confiscate or compensate?", a letter from Harold Winch with the text of his maiden speech in the legislature, and examples of financial items-- German bank notes, 1922 (4 sheets), 200 shares of Cork Province Mines, Alberta Prosperity Certificate (\$1.00), Woodward's Merchandise Certificate (1 cent - 2 certificates), North Vancouver District Vouchers (one each of \$1, \$5, and \$10 denominations). A \$20 American bill has been withdrawn.
- 5-3 Socialism
- Addresses, articles, clippings, and pamphlets including:
- Manuscripts and notes by Dorothy Steeves for a radio address on CKMO on Dec. 7, 1951, entitled, "The Price of Living." The programme was sponsored by the North Vancouver CCF Council.
- Thompson, Watson. A mimeographed copy of "Thoughts on the Triple Revolution," n.d.
- Riley, Carolyn M., "Women in the C.C.F." Peoples Weekly, Edmonton V. 19 (1), 1938.
- A Ms. report by Carolyn Riley on the activities of the Provincial Women's Committee of Ontario, ca. 1940's.

Box and Folder No.

5-3

Socialism cont.

Cole, G.D.H. Is this Socialism?, London, 1954, 32p.

Irvine, William. Open Letters to Premier Aberhart (reproduced from the Peoples Weekly, Jan. 25 - May 23, 1936)' 32p.

Strachey, John. The just society: a re-affirmation of faith in socialism. London, Labour Party, 1951, 23p.

Trade Union Congress. Public Control of Industry, London, T.U.C., 1950, 15p.

Comment, vol. 1 no. 4, (1957). a bi-monthly publication of the national office of the C.C.F. This issue refers to a history of the CCF with a brief bibliography.

5-4

Socialism - history

Steeves, D.G. C.C.F. movement in B.C.
Ms. and notes

Cameron, Colin Technocracy Incorporated
(an address) n.d.

Postgate, Raymond. A critique of the Marxian Dialectic
(an address), n.d.

Various clippings and the following pamphlets

Cameron, Colin. The economy we live in.
(Vancouver) BOAG. 1955 (understanding economy; no. 1) 13p.

White, Eirene. Workers Control? London,
Fabian, 1951 (Fabian tract; 271) 3lp.

✓ 5-(5-6)

Socialism (B.C. history) to 1933

5-5

Notes

Research notes and brief bibliographies relating to the Workers of the World, One Big Union and various socialist activities prior to the formation of the CCF.

Newspaper Clippings

A series by Spud Tamson, "In the Tonsorial Chair," Labor Statesman, 1927, and an enclosed letter by Mr. Williams to Tamson relating to the state of Labour's political strength in the province, Feb. 27, 1925.

Box and Folder No.

- 5-5 Newspaper Clippings cont.
- "Manifesto and Platform of the Federated Labor Party of B.C." as printed in the British Columbia Federationist, May 1, 1925.
- Western Clarion, n.d., marked as important as the beginning of the Communist split.
- 5-6 Newspapers
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| British Columbia Federationist | Nov. 14, 1913
Nov. 14, 1919
April 17, 1925 |
| The Red Flag | 1919 |
| Werstern Clarion | July 1911
June 1916
Nov. 1916
Oct. 1917
Nov. 1917
May 1918
Sept. 1918
Oct.1, 1918
Dec. 1, 1921
Jan. 16, 1922
July-Aug. 1925 |
- 5-7 Socialist Party of Canada
- Constitution
- Correspondence
- Letter written by Charles Luff to the Socialist Party of Great Britain pertaining to the history of the S.P. of C., July 28, 1955.
- Pamphlets
- | | |
|--|------|
| Socialist Party of B.C. (Statement of Principles) | 1901 |
| The Canadian Socialist Party and Socialdemocratism | 1909 |
| Socialist Party of Canada (Ontario Section, Statement of Principles) | n.d. |
| Manifesto of the Socialist Party of Canada (4th edition) (2 copies) | 1915 |
| The Socialist Party of Canada (Declaration of Principles) | n.d. |
| Federal Election 1921, Manifesto No. 1 | 1921 |
| Socialist Party of Canada. Manifesto | n.d. |
| Manifesto To the Workers of Canada | 1914 |
| Stephen, A.M. Marxism, the basis for a new social order | 1933 |
| Workingmen Get Wise, (Leaflet number six) | n.d. |

Box and Folder No.

5-7

Pamphlets cont.

What's the matter with Canada (name of F.H. Sherman,
Socialist candidate in Calgary on back page) n.d.

"Blood and Iron," (Leaflet no.2 issued by the Manitoba
Provincial Executive Committee and reprinted from article
in Western Clarion, September 26, 1914 n.d.

National Platform Socialist Party, adopted at Indianapolis
July 31, 1901

Platform of the Socialist Party of Canada and a summary
of the British Columbia Socialist Convention 1906

Election Manifesto No. 1 of the S.P. of C. for the B.C.
provincial election 1933

Report of Provincial executive committee of (Socialist
Party of B.C.) June 13, 1932
During the meeting, it was moved and adopted that the
name of the Party be changed to "Socialist Party of
Canada."

5-8

Women

Subjects include prices, women's rights, abortion, and
abuse.

Printed Material

Morton, D. and Kumove, L., Housing the predictable crisis 1967
Submission by B.C. Co-operative Wholesale Society to the
Joint Parliamentary Committee on Consumer Credit (Prices)
at Vancouver, B.C.

Brief submitted by the New Democratic Party to the Royal
Commission on the status of women in Canada and a
questionnaire 1968

Abortion, a brief from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver 1967

5-9

Miscellany

Various clippings, reports, newsletters, and pamphlets
including:

Davis, Jerome "Profits for War, Profits for Peace,"
Friends Journal, Sept. 15, 1969

Declaration of principles of the Humanist Fellowship of
Victoria n.d.

Information brochure of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association n.d.

Auditor's report of the Broadway Commonwealth Society 1970

Advertisement for a symposium on the publication of the
Independent Socialist Canada Manifesto (Waffle Manifesto)

A Report of the Canadian-American Assembly on Overcoming
World Hunger, June 26-29, 1969.

Box and Folder No.

Miscellany Cont.

Ecology, Ecology II, and Ecology III, a series of newsletter written by W.A. Pritchard, Los Angeles, California.

1970

- 6-1 Diaries
- 6-(2-6) Appointment Book 1934--1963
- 7(1-7)-8(1-3) Clippings
- 8-4 Lists of periodicals and newspaper titles gathered by D. Steeves.
- 8-(5-7) Memorabilia
- 8-8 Documents
- Membership cards, election certificate, passports, etc.
- 8-9, 9-(1-9) Photographs
- In addition, there are three photograph albums relating to her various interests containing clippings, postcards, and memorabilia as well as photographs.
- 10-(1-2) Postcards
- for further postcards, see the photograph albums.
- Subgroups
- 11-1 Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals
- Annual reports, 1961, 1964-67, correspondence, and publications relating to the activities of the Association.
- 11-(2-5) British Columbia Civil Liberties Association
- 11-2 Constitution, annual reports, records of meetings, and correspondence relating to the activities of the Association. Some of the letters refer to teachers' probationary period, religion in the schools, and police power.
- 11-3 Clippings
- 11-4 Report on religious education the public schools
- 11-5 Brief to the Royal Commission into the invasion of privacy

Box and Folder No.

- 11-5 New Democratic Party of Canada
 Federal constitution as amended by the Federal
 Convention, July, 1965 and minutes of executive
 meetings and related material, 1967.
- 11-7 New Democratic Party of British Columbia
 Provincial constitution, 1961, and financial reports,
 minutes of meetings and related matters, 1967.
- 11-(8-9) Unitarian Church of Vancouver
 Constitution and by-laws, 1959 and 1964, annual reports,
 financial reports, minutes of Board of Trustees and
 meetings of executive, committees, and the congregation,
 1966-70 (incomplete). The file also contains the sermons
 of A. Phillip Hewett and a short history of the Church:
 A. Peacey and A. Peebles, The Unitarian Church of Vancouver,
 1909-1959; a short history, 2nd edition, 1960.

Paintings

- SPAM 21 P Favre, J. Hudson Bay Mountain in Wintertime
Oil painting on hardboard; title pasted on verso;
15 X 22 cm.
- SPAM 22P Favre, J. The Telkwa River near Telkwa B.C.
Oil painting on hardboard; title pasted on verso;
15 X 22 cm.