

Charles A. Semlin
1836-1927
An Inventory of his Papers

in

University of British Columbia
Library
Special Collections Division

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Introduction

The Charles A. Semlin Papers

Charles Augustus Semlin was born of United Empire Loyalist descent in Barrie, Upper Canada, in October 1836. Leaving a teaching job in Barrie, he came to British Columbia in 1862 at the time of the Cariboo goldrush, and settled in Cache Creek. He bought the Dominion Ranch off Thomas Buis of Lytton in August 1870. He was also a partner in Semlin & Stuart until it was disbanded in 1873. From 1871 to 1876, and from 1882 to 1903, he was the Conservative MLA representing Yale in the Legislative Assembly. He became leader of the opposition in 1894, and premier in 1898. While premier, he also held the portfolios of public works and agriculture, and was also provincial secretary part of the time. Dismissed from office in 1900, he retired from political life in 1903. He remained active at his Cariboo ranch and in the Interior Stock Raisers Association. Remaining unmarried, he died at Ashcroft on November 3, 1927.

Guide to the Inventory

The Semlin Papers which are contained in three boxes include an assortment of items relating to Mr. Semlin's activities between 1870 and 1918. Within the general series are items of correspondence, and miscellaneous items. Material associated with the Dominion Ranch also includes correspondence and day books of the ranch which are of special interest in that they offer glimpses into the early ranching days in the interior of British Columbia. In addition the papers include a few items relating to The Interior Stock Raisers Association and the partnership of Semlin & Stuart.

Another item of special note is the letterpress copybook which contains correspondence from Semlin's office during his premiership. Most such copybooks from premier's offices are in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. Many of the letters reflect his portfolios of public works and agriculture. Major correspondents include Lieutenant-Governor T.R. McInnes and the following members of the Legislative Assembly: F.J. Deane (Yale South), Thomas Forster (Delta), R.F. Green (Kootenay West-Slocan), H. Helgeson (Quesnelle Forks), H.D. Helmcken (Victoria), Alex Henderson (Newcastle City), J.M. Kellie (Kootenay West-Revelstoke), Thomas Kidd (Richmond), J.C. Kinchant (Cariboo), R. MacPherson (Vancouver), J.M. Martin (Kootenay West-Rossland), C.W. Munro (Chilliwack), Alan W. Neill (Alberni), J.D. Prentice (Lillooet East), and Ralph Smith (Nanaimo). There are also more than a dozen letters to W.L. Flood.

The papers were donated in 1952 by Edward D. McRae of Ashcroft, B.C.

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Name Index

The following names are all found on page 1 of the inventory. There is a further index to correspondence at the front of the Letterpress copybook in Box 2-7.

Ashcroft Conservative Association
BALDWIN, A.A.
BANNERUN, D.L.
BEATTIE, M.
Bissinger & Co.
British Columbia Historical Association
CAMPBELL, J.
DODDS, C.
DUNN, T.H.
FREDERICK, Wm. Foster
The Great West Permanent Loan Company
J. Hemans & Co.
Inland Agricultural Association
S.L.
Macgowan & Co.
McLEOD, M.A.
MORGAN, T.P.
PARKE, F.
SAVAGE, J.
Simon Leiser & Co.
Water Rights Branch
WILLIAMS, A. W.
Josie
Old Man Charlie

Charles A. Semlin Papers Inventory

<u>Box</u> & <u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
General Series			
	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE		
1-1	Ashcroft Conservative Assoc.	1917	1
	BEATTIE, M.	n.d.	1
	British Columbia Historical Association	1910	1
	DODDS, C.	1916-7	4
	The Great West Permanent Loan Company	1917	1
	S.L.	1917	2
	McLEOD, M.A.	1916	2
	PARKE, F.	n.d.	1
	Provincial Secretary	1885	1
	Josie	1917	1
1-2	CLIPPINGS	1902, 1908	2
1-3	EPHEMERA		12
1-4	MISCELLANY		17
	Envelopes		6

SUBGROUPS

Dominion Ranch

	INCOMING LETTERS		
1-5	BALDWIN, A.A.	1917	2
	BANNERUN, D.L.	1902	1
	Bissinger & Co.	1917	1
	CAMPBELL, J.	1907	1
	DUNN, T.H.	1901, 1902	5
	FREDERICK, Wm. Foster	1880	1
	J. Hemans & Co.	1908	2
	Inland Agricultural Association	1901	1
	Macgowan & Co.	1916	1
	MORGAN, T.P.	1917	1
	SAVAGE, J.	1896	1
	Simon Leiser & Co.	1908	1
	Water Rights Branch	1914	1
	WILLIAMS, A.W.	1917	1
	Old Man Charlie	1917	1

FINANCIAL RECORDS

	Day books		
1-6	Day book	1883-1886	1
1-7	Day book	1886-1895	1
1-8	Day book	1891-1894	1
1-9	Day book fragments	1896	10
1-10	Day book	1900-1903	1
2-1	Day book	1904-1908	1
	Ledgers		
2-2	Ledger fragments	1870-1873	30
2-3	Ledger	1886-1898	1
2-4	Bills & receipts	1886-1916	24
2-5	Financial miscellany	1881-1918	22
2-6	MISCELLANY	1881-1914	41
	Envelope		1

Government of British Columbia
Premier's Office

OUTGOING LETTERS

2-7	Letterpress copybook	1898-1900	1
3-1	EPHEMERA	1900-1901	3

The Interior Stock Raisers Association

3-2	PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE & MINUTES	1916-1917	20
3-3	EPHEMERA	1916, 1917	2

Semlin & Stuart

3-4	FINANCIAL RECORDS		
	Ledger	1870-1887	1
3-5	Financial miscellany	1876-1883	10