

**Eugene Sydney Woodward, 1880-1970**

An inventory of his fonds

in the

University of British Columbia Library

Special Collections

Prepared by:

Jim Bowman

February 1993

### Biographical Information

Eugene Sidney Woodward (1880-1970) was the son of a railway clerk of Watford, England. He won a scholarship to a grammar school, but dropped out and followed his father's occupation. In 1908 he emigrated to Victoria, B.C., and the following year married Mary Burge, also of Watford. He opened a small grocery store in Victoria, and in 1916 was given a political patronage appointment as co-manager of the Victoria liquor store.

Woodward joined the Retail Clerks' Union, and quickly advanced in the labour movement, becoming president of the Victoria and District Trades and Labor Council within a year. Throughout the 1920's he served as an alderman in the city of Victoria.

In 1930 Woodward moved to Vancouver with his family. He pursued his interest in economics through independent study. He was particularly influenced by the ideas of the American social philosopher Henry George, and by the German economist Silvio Gesell, founder of the Free Economy movement. An original thinker, he was neither left-wing nor right-wing, although much of his ideology might be termed "libertarian" today.

In 1936 Woodward was invited to advise the Social Credit government of Alberta on his economic theories. However, he soon broke with Premier Aberhart and became a vocal critic of Social Credit.

While in Alberta, he began writing for the Edmonton Bulletin. This touched off a successful career as an editorial writer and columnist for the Vancouver Sun, Province, and News Herald, the New Westminster Columbian. He was also a frequent speaker on the radio program "Town Meeting in Canada". Woodward's final project was a book, Adventure in Free Enterprise, published under the pseudonym Gene Ard in 1965.

(Biographical information from Helen Woodward, telephone conversation, 19 February, 1993 and subsequent written notes)

Custodial History

E.S. Woodward's papers were bequeathed to his daughter Helen Woodward of Urbana, Illinois in May 1970. She arranged the papers into rough chronological order (by decade), and added annotations on slips of yellow paper. She repaired some of the documents with "filmoplast" archival tape. She also provided an index ("overview") to the subjects covered by the files. Further annotations written by Helen Woodward on the file folders have been copied onto the file list.

Helen Woodward donated the fonds to the University of British Columbia Special Collections Division on October 30, 1992.

### Scope and Content

This fonds contains E.S. Woodward's correspondence, articles, speeches, radio scripts, briefs to government commissions, as well as clippings and pamphlets that influenced him, and drafts of his book. Woodward was a self-educated labour leader, politician, economist, and news commentator, and the material relates to those areas of interest. In particular, Woodward was interested in banking as well as monetary and fiscal policy; Silvio Gesell and the Free Economy Movement; Major C.H. Douglas, William Aberhart and Social Credit; Henry George, the Single Tax Movement, and more recent proposals and experiments with respect to land values taxation.

## BOX LISTS

Box-FileBox 1Description

SUBJECT FILES, CORRESPONDENCE, & PRINTED MATERIAL  
(in chronological order)

- 1-1 Biographical information
- 1-2 Prior to 1920: E. S. Woodward enters public debate.
- 1-3 Prior to 1920: pamphlets and clippings.
- 1-4 1920's: ESW & city of Victoria.
- 1-5 1920's: pamphlets and clippings.
- 1-6 1930's: correspondence.  
(other correspondence in:  
1-6: with Dr. Fack  
1-9: Banking, etc, in Australia  
1-10: ESW in Alberta)
- 1-7 1930's: correspondence with Dr. Fack.  
(See also "ESW in Alberta" (1-10)  
and ESW's split with Dr. Fack  
in 1940's file)
- 1-8 1930's: Hitler's toying with Gesellian ideas.  
(See also 1940's Economic correspondence  
(ESW's split with Dr. Fack over latter's  
pro-Hitler position during war))
- 1-9 1930's: articles for "The Way Out"
- 1-10 1930's: banking & money system, Australia.  
(Correspondence between ESW and Dr. Fack,  
and other material on subject).

- 1-11 1930's: ESW in Alberta.  
 (Effort to steer Alberta's essay in S.C. into  
 Free Economy principles)  
 (ESW's dealings with Aberhart & members of his  
 cabinet)  
 (Letters & "bulletins" to Dr. Fack and other  
 Free Economists in various parts of the world)  
 (\* 3 letters to Ezra Pound \*)
- 1-12 1930's: the Alberta drama.  
 (See also comments by ESW in other folders)
- 1-13 1930's: ESW's comments on Social Credit  
 (See also  
 1940's correspondence (16)  
 1950's correspondence (23)  
 Town meeting presentations (39) (40)  
 ESW in Alberta (10))
- 1-14 1930's: Miscellaneous writings
- Box 2  
Box-File
- 2-1 1930's: pamphlets & clippings
- 2-2 1930's: more pamphlets & clippings
- 2-3 1940's: correspondence  
 (One on social Credit vs. Gesell)
- 2-4 1940's: split with Dr. Fack
- 2-5 1940's: columns for "Vancouver Sun"
- 2-6 1940's: articles for "Van. Daily Province"  
 (including digests of:  
 Beveridge Report, 1943  
 Rowell-Sirois Report on Dominion-Provincial  
 Conference, 1941,  
 Cameron Report on Education, 1946 &  
 Miscellaneous other topics)

- 2-7 1940's - 50's: editorials for "News Herald",  
1945 - 1957, and columns
- 2-8 1940's: miscellaneous writings
- 2-9 1940's: brief for Fisheries Institute
- 2-10 1940's: pamphlets & clippings
- 2-11 1950's: correspondence (re: Brief to Standing Committee on  
Finance (1959)  
Submission to Banking & Commerce  
Committee, Ottawa (1954)  
On Social Credit in Alberta & other  
topics

Box 3Box-File

- 3-1 1950's: columns for "The Columbian"
- 3-2 1950's: articles for "The Record"
- 3-3 1950's: miscellaneous writings/addresses  
(summary, B.C. Natural Resources Conference;  
address to Women's School of Citizenship on the  
Closed Shop; on Coyne Report  
(see also correspondence) & other)
- 3-4 1950's: electioneering, 1956
- 3-5 1950's: letter series to H[elen] W[oodward]  
(leading to formulation of book)
- 3-6 1950's: pamphlets & clippings
- 3-7 1960's: correspondence  
(some of it refers to book but specific  
economic subjects predominate)
- 3-8 1960's: more correspondence
- 3-9 1960's: miscellaneous writings

3-10 Adventure in Private Enterprise [Pilot edition, 1960?]

3-11 Adventure in Free Enterprise [Pilot edition, 1965]

3-12 Adventure in Free Enterprise [Pilot edition, 1965]

3-13 1960's: correspondence re book  
(see also:  
3-7 correspondence  
4-1 book promotion & review)

Box 4

Box-File

- 4-1 1960's: book promotion / reviews
- 4-2 1960's: book review contest
- 4-3 1960's: E.S. Woodward lectureship
- 4-4 1960's: pamphlets & clippings  
[on Douglas Social Credit, 1933-1956]  
[from the Foundation for Economic Education, Inc., 1959-1969]
- 4-5 1960's: more pamphlets & clippings
- 4-6 Mixed / unknown decades: town meeting presentations
- 4-7 Mixed / unknown decades: town meeting presentations
- 4-8 Mixed / unknown decades: miscellaneous writings / addresses
- 4-9 Undated: pamphlets & clippings

Box 5

Box-File

- 5-1 Freedom system handbook / prepared by the Free Enterprise Committee, Vancouver Board of Trade. --  
[Vancouver: the Board, ca. 1949]. --  
1 v. (loose-leaf).
- 5-2 Clippings from Edmonton Bulletin, July 23 - November 20, 1936 and February 27 - March 6, 1937 - almost daily articles by ESW.



- 5-3 Clippings from Edmonton Bulletin (continued)
- 5-4 Articles on diverse subjects [1935-1937]
- 5-5 Diverse clippings on Social Credit in Alberta [1936-1937]

Box 6

## PRINTED MATERIAL

Books, pamphlets, and journals of E.S. Woodward that related to his various interests and the files that have been created.

Ard, Gene (pseud. of E.S. Woodward). Adventure in Free Enterprise  
 Douglas, C.H. The Monopoly of Credit (underlined)  
 Tuttle, W.A. Douglas Social Credit for Canada (annotated)  
 George, Henry. The Condition of Labour  
 Fisher, Irving. 100% Money  
 Gesell, Sylvio. The Natural Economic Order

Box 7

Woodward, E.S. What Everyone Should Know About Douglas Social Credit

Woodward, E.S. Dominion-Provincial Relations

Borson, Ralph. A Pan-Humanist Manifesto

Christen, Theophil. Free Economy

O'Brien, George. The Phantom of Plenty

Coe, V.F. "Dated Stamp Script in Alberta,"  
Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science, Feb. 1938

Canada. Senate. Proceedings of the Standing Committee on Finance, nos. 1-11, 1959

Bank of Canada Annual Report, 1947

Gesell, Silvio. There Is No Santa Claus

Birnie, Arthur. The History and Ethics of Interest

Schubert, B.H. The Science of Equity

Liebeck, Oskar. Currency to Come

Canada. House of Commons. Memoranda and Tables respecting the Bank of Canada, 1939

Canada. Report of the Royal Commission on Banking and Currency in Canada

Marx, Karl. Value, Price and Profit

Whiston, \_\_\_\_\_. Why Vaccinate?

## ITEMS CATALOGUED IN SPAM

- Hyde, Douglas. The Answer to Communism, 1949  
Lever Brothers, Unilever Ltd. The Problem of Unemployment, 1943  
Marx, K. and Engels, F. Communist Manifesto, n.d.  
Silver Dollar Association, Vancouver. The Silver Dollar:  
Naturis Social Credit, Canada's Opportunity, n.d.  
Canada. Report on the Department of Justice, 1956  
Foundation for Economic Education. Cliches of Socialism  
Woodward, E.S. What Everyone Should Know About Social Credit  
Facts about C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan  
Hunsen, J.W. Cartels: A Study of the Pros and Cons as they impinge  
on Canada, n.d.  
Douglas, C.H. Evidence Submitted to the MacMillan Committee of  
Finance and Industry, May 1, 1930

## Overview of E.S. Woodward Fonds

The fonds are organized by decades. Within each decade some materials are filed by type and some by topic. The numerals used in this overview refer to numbered filing folders.

### Material Filed by Type

Correspondence: 1-6, 1-7, 1-11, 2-3, 2-4, 2-11, 3-7, 3-8, 3-13.

Newspaper Articles by E.S.W.: 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, packet, 40(?).

Town Meeting in Canada Presentations: 4-6, 4-7.

Miscellaneous Articles and Addresses: 13, 21, 26, 32, 4-7.

Collected Pamphlets and Clippings: 1-3, 1-5, 2-1, 2-2, 22, 29, 4-4, 38, packet, 41.

### Material Filed Topically

E.S.W. enters public debate: 1-2.

E.S.W. and City of Victoria: 1-4

Hitler and Economic Reform: 7

Early articles for The Way Out: 8

Banking and money system of Australia: 9

E.S.W. in Alberta: 10

The Alberta drama: 11, packet.

E.S.W.'s comments of Social Credit & Alberta situation: 12, packet.

E.S.W. splits with Dr. Fack over Hitler and War: 17.

Brief for Fisheries Institute: 2-9.

Electioneering for Liberals, 1956: 27.

Letter series to H.W. on economic subjects: 28, 33.

Book promotion and review: 34.

Book review contest: 35.

E.S.W. Lectureship: 36

Handbook produced by Vancouver Board of Trade: looseleaf book.

## E.S. WOODWARD (Biographical and Personal)

See topics listed in overview. Also:

Reminiscences: 24, 1 (copies of material in 24)  
 Career Summary: 33  
 Impetus for writing his book; early formulations: 28-33.  
 Religious basis of his economic thinking: 30, 34, 35.  
 Distancing from Single Tax movement: 21.  
 Break with Free Economy Movement: 31.

The following topics dominate the file. In many cases they overlap and appear in folders other than those listed after each sub-topic. In particular, they appear in the correspondence, newspaper articles, Town Meeting presentations and miscellaneous writings, and also in E.S.W.'s collection of pamphlets and clippings.

### LAND TAXATION AND POLICY

Henry George and the Single Tax movement: 2, 29, 38.  
 Henry George and money reform: 8, 21, 22, 33.  
 Land Valuation and taxation: 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 29, 30.  
     City of Edmonton: 13.  
     City of New Westminster: 16, 24.  
     City of Victoria: 1, 3.  
     City of Vancouver: 18, 20, 21, 26.  
     British Columbia: 16, 21, 23.  
     Canada: 16, 21, 23, 29.  
     Various countries: 5, 19, 16, 26, 29, 30, 33, 38.

### THE FREE ECONOMY MOVEMENT

Sylvio Gesell: 5, 8, 14, 29, 30 and throughout.  
     Gesell on land policy: 5, 13.  
     Gesell on interest: 5, 13.  
     Demurrage Principle: See "money, banking, etc." below.  
     Prominent endorsers: 8, 10, 14, 29.  
 Distinguished from socialism, communism, capitalism: 21, 30, 33.  
 Distinguished from Social Credit: 10, 12, 14, 16, 30, 31.  
 Hitler's economic reform vs. Gesell principles: 7, 14.  
 Movement in Canada and the USA: 6, 8, 14, 23, 29, 30, 31, 33, 37.  
 Movement in various countries: 5, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 29, 30.

## MONEY, BANKING, INTEREST, MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

### Money

History; what it is and is not: 5, 14, 22, 25, 29.

Circulation of; demurrage principle: 5, 8, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, 31, packet.

Volume of: 21, 23 +++

Gold standard: 19, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31, 38 +++

Banking practices: 5, 8, 9, 21, 23, 25, 38 and throughout

Irving Fisher: 5, 21, 25.

Ralph W. Manual: 14, 16, 21, 22.

Crick & Soddy: 14, 16, 22.

James E. Coyne: 23, 26, 29, 30, 38.

Louis Rasminsky: 38.

Interest: throughout, 14, 30.

Fiscal Policies; deficit spending; etc.: 5, 8, 14, 29, 32, 38 +++

Alberta: 11 ++

Australia: 9

England: 14, 16, 22.

Germany: 14.

Hitler: 7, 14.

Taxation (see also Land Taxation and Policy)

Income tax: 18, 19, 29, 30, 32, 38 +++

Bank debit/credit levy: 16, 21, 29, 30 +++

Commission on turnover: 30 +++ (?)

Transaction tax: 29, 30 +++ (?)

Three other topics appear with some frequency because of E.S.W.'s opposition to them:

### Social Credit

General; Major C.H. Douglas: 10, 11, 12, 21, 37, 38, 39, 40, packet.

In Alberta; Wm. Aberhart: 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 23, packet.

In British Columbia and the rest of Canada: 33, 38, packet.

Distinguished from Gesell and Free Economy: 10, 12, 14, 16, 30, 31, packet.

Ezra Pound's interest in: 10.

VACCINATION: 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29, 39.

WELFARE STATE: 19, 21, 25, 30, 33, 38, 39, 40.

Numerous other topics pertaining to public affairs (municipal, provincial, national, and international) appear in the published newspaper articles and the Town Meeting presentations--also, to a lesser extent, in the correspondence, miscellaneous writings, and collected pamphlets and clippings. No systematic inventory has been made of the newspaper and Town Meeting folders, but the following list covers many of the topics which they contain. The folder numbers used don't pretend to be inclusive; they represent notations made during pursuit of more major themes within the file.

Municipal affairs (Vancouver, New Westminster): 18, 19, 20, 24, 39.  
 Provincial affairs/politics (B.C.): 2, 25, 38, 39.  
 Dominion (national) affairs/politics: 19, 21, 38, 39, 40.  
 Dominion-provincial relations (Sirois Report): 19, 27, 40.  
 Commonwealth affairs: 19, 38, 39.  
 Foreign and International affairs: 19, 39, 40.  
     World War II and aftermath; disarmament; world peace: 13, 19, 39, 40.  
     Trade: 13, 16, 19, 21, 39, 40.  
 Socialism, communism, capitalism: 14, 21, 30, 33, 38, 39, 40.  
     Soviet Union: 19, 39.  
 Civil liberties; Canadian Bill of Rights: 21, 22, 25, 39, 40.  
 Cooperative movement: 13, 39.  
 Crime; criminal justice: 20, 24, 39.  
 Education (financing of); Cameron Report; 19, 20, 21, 26, 39.  
 Housing: 19, 20, 39, 40.  
 Labour relations: 19, 26, 39, 40.  
 Natural resources: 20, 21(a), 26.  
 Religion and politics: 39.  
 Unemployment; depression: 13, 14, 26, 38, 39.