

UA1980.38

## Dorr Felt Collection

### Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Records

**Dates:** 1915-1926, Undated

**Creator:** Felt, Dorr (1862-1930)

**Extent:** 1 linear foot

**Level of description:** Folder

**Processor & date:** Meredith Gozo, May 2012; Ashley Howdeshell, January 2013;  
Andrew Paddock, November 2014

#### Administration Information

**Restrictions:** No restrictions.

**Copyright:** Consult archivist for information.

**Citation:** Loyola University Chicago University Archives and Special Collections. Dorr Felt Collection, Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Records, 1915-1926, Undated. Box #.  
Folder #.

**Provenance:** Records transferred to Loyola University Archives in November 1955 by Raymond Koch, son-in-law of Dorr Felt and then president of Felt and Tarrant Mfg. Co.

**Separations:** No separations.

**See Also:** Dorr E. Felt Collection – United States Employers’ Commission to Europe, 1918-1920; Dorr E. Felt Collection – Railroad Strikes, 1916-1921; Dorr E. Felt Collection – International Trade and Labor Conferences, 1919-1921; Dorr E. Felt Collection – World War I, 1909-1930

#### Biographical Sketch

Dorr Eugene Felt was born in Rock County, Wisconsin on March 18, 1862. At fourteen he began working in a machine shop in Beloit, Wisconsin. He moved to Chicago in 1882 and obtained work as a mechanic. A perceptive and skilled worker with an entrepreneurial spirit, in his free time Felt devised and constructed a computation device out of such crude materials as a macaroni box, rubber bands, and metal skewers. Felt called the machine a Comptometer. A mechanical calculator, the Comptometer was the first mechanical calculator to greatly improve upon the first mechanical computing device created, the arithmometer, which was first commercially distributed in 1851. Felt opened Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Company with Chicago businessman Robert Tarrant in 1889; a large manufacturing facility in Chicago, out of which he built and sold Comptometers. The Comptometer computing device became a great commercial success and was sold and used world-wide. Felt went on to invent more devices and acquired 46 domestic patents and 25 foreign patents.

As a result of Felt’s experience as president of a large industrial company, he was asked by the U.S. Department of Labor to participate in a study of labor relations in Europe. Joining a team of other individuals from the United States, Felt toured England and France in order to examine manufacturing facilities and to speak with owners, managers, and laborers about the successes and frustrations of labor conditions in the two countries. The results of the commission’s inquiries were reported and published, but

more importantly this trip marked the beginning of Felt's close involvement with national and international trade and labor interests. Felt attended and spoke at labor conferences and wrote about labor conditions, unions, communism, Bolshevism, and other labor-related subjects.

In addition to writing and speaking on broad topics, Felt held posts as president and director of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, president of the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution, and director of the United States Chamber of Commerce in 1920. Felt was a regional advisor on the War Industries Board in 1918, a board member of the Chicago Association of Commerce, and a member of Chicago's Union League Club.

### **Scope and Content**

The Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Records consist of 1 linear foot spanning the years 1915 to 1926. The records consist of correspondence, newspaper clippings, certificates, payroll ledgers, inventories, and employee lists. Subjects include Dorr E. Felt, Felt & Tarrant Mfg. Co., employee relations, labor relations, and World War I. Arrangement is chronological.

#### **Series 1: Correspondence, 1918-1921, Undated, Box 1**

This series includes correspondence related to the business of Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing. Correspondence includes letters between Dorr Felt and Illinois Senator Lawrence Y Sherman and Felt's business contacts in France.

#### **Series 2: Comptometers, 1915-1926, Undated, Box 1**

This series includes a photograph, news clippings, reports on number of Comptometers sold, and meeting minutes.

#### **Series 3: Employee Relations, 1918, Box 1**

This series includes correspondence related to interactions between employees and management. Subjects include layoff compensations and employee strikes at Felt & Tarrant.

#### **Series 4: Finances, 1917-1922, Box 1**

This series includes payroll ledgers and figures about the manufacturing of Comptometers.

#### **Series 5: World War I Records & Correspondence, 1915-1918, Box 1-2**

This series includes company and employee records related to World War I. Subjects include company employees, employees in military service, employee and company donations to military and charitable causes, War Bond purchases, coal usage by the factory, publicity for a French Phrase Book Felt & Tarrant sent to troops, and manufacturing inventories and correspondence regarding capability of war production.

#### **Series 6: War Industries Board, 1918, Undated, Box 2**

This series includes correspondence between Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing and the War Industries Board, as well as correspondence between Felt and Tarrant and other

manufacturers. Priority certificates issued by the Priorities Committee of the War Industries Board are also found in this series.

**Series 7: “Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer”, 1920-1921, Box 2**

This series includes the report titled “Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer”, correspondence between Felt and Tarrant and the auditors who created the report, and requests for copies of the report

**Subjects:**

Comptometer  
*Comptometer News*  
Correspondence  
Felt, Dorr  
Felt and Tarrant Mfg. Co.  
Felt and Tarrant Employee Relief Association  
Fort Sheridan Training Camp  
Fort Benjamin Harrison Training Camp  
French Phrase Book  
International Trade  
Labor and labor relations  
*Le Genie Civil* newspaper  
Liberty Loan War Bond  
Manufacturing  
“Savings to Society as a Result of the Use of the Comptometer”  
Red Cross War Fund  
Sherman, Lawrence Y.  
War Department – Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army  
War Department – War Industries Board  
War Department – Office of Chief Signal Officer  
War Savings Stamps  
World War I

**Accession No.: UA 1980.38**

**Creator: Felt, Dorr (1862-1930)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b><u>Series 1: Correspondence, 1918-1921, undated</u></b>			
1	1	Correspondence: Felt and Illinois Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman	1918
1	2	Correspondence: Letters from Employees at War	1918
1	3	Correspondence: Business	1915-1921
1	4	Correspondence: Felt's Professional Contacts in France	1919-1920, Undated
1	5	Correspondence: Earl Walter	1920
1	6	Correspondence: The Ronald Press Company	1920-1921
<b><u>Series 2: Comptometers, 1915-1926, undated</u></b>			
1	7	Photographs	Undated
1	8	Comptometer Sales Brochures	Undated
1	9	Publicity on Comptometer	1915-1916
1	10	News Clippings	1916, 1918
1	11	British Comptometer Shipping Correspondence	1916-1918
1	12	Comptometers Sold	1918
1	13	Notes of Adding Machine Industry Meeting	1918
1	14	Comptograph Stock Transfers	1918-1919
1	15	<i>Le Génie Civil</i> newspapers	1920
1	16	Comptometer Error Counter	1923
1	17	<i>Comptometer News</i> Volume 1, Number 1	1926
<b><u>Series 3: Employee Relations, 1918</u></b>			
1	18	Felt & Tarrant Employees Relief Association	1918
1	19	Correspondence with War Savings Committee Rejecting War Savings Stamps Drive on Account of Past Employee Strikes	1918
<b><u>Series 4: Finances, 1917-1922</u></b>			
1	20	Payroll: Employees in Service at Mexican Border	1917
1	21	Inventories of Supplies, Manufacturing Materials, & Equipment	1918
1	22	External Salesmen Payroll	1921
1	23	Machine Inspection Costs & Notes	1922

**Series 5: World War I Records & Correspondence, 1915-1918, undated**

1	24	Company Posters for Draft Registration Notices	Undated
1	25	Company Circulars and Correspondence Concerning Employees at Fort Sheridan Training Camp	1915
2	1	Company Bulletin Concerning Fort Benjamin Harrison Training Camp	1916
2	2	War Department – Military Training Camp Recruitment & Correspondence	1916-1918
2	3	Employee List: Paperwork and Lists of Employees in Military	1915-1918
2	4	Employee List with Reported Nationalities	1917-1918
2	5	Employee Donations – Red Cross War Fund	1917
2	6	Employee Donations – Liberty Loan War Bonds	1917-1918
2	7	Newspaper Clippings & Committee Correspondence – Liberty Loan War Bonds	1917-1918
2	8	Felt & Tarrant Company Donations for Military Purposes	1917
2	9	War Department – Circular Recruiting Aviation Engineers	1917
2	10	War Savings Stamps Recruitment Circulars Sent to Felt & Tarrant	1917-1918
2	11	U.S. Fuel Administration: Coal Usage Inquiry & Report	1918
2	12	War Department – Request to Help Ordnance Training School	1918
2	13	War Department – Office of the Quartermaster General	1918
2	14	Publicity for “French Phrase Book” Sent to Troops	1918

***Government Correspondence –***

***Manufacturing Capabilities & Inventories***

2	15	Naval Consulting Board – Inventory for use by War/Navy Departments	1916
2	16	War Department – Office of Chief Signal Officer – Information On Piano Wire & Steel Spring Supplies	1917
2	17	War Department – Gun Division Requests for Production Help	1917-1918
2	18	War Department – Office of Chief Signal Officer Inquiry on War Production & Machine Screw Production	1917-1918
2	19	Inventories & Questionnaires Submitted to	1918

2	20	War Industry Board Navy Department Inquiry in Search of Telescopes	1918
2	21	War Department – Military Intelligence, Plant Protection	1918
2	22	War Department – Questionnaire from Bureau of Aircraft Production	1918

**Series 6: War Industries Board, 1918,**

**Undated**

3	1	War Industries Board and Manufacturers – January-May	1918, Undated
3	2	War Industries Board and Manufacturers – June-August	1918
3	3	War Industries Board and Manufacturers – September-December	1918

**Series 7: “Savings to Society Resulting from  
the Use of the Comptometer”, 1920-1921**

3	4	Correspondence: Lybrand, Ross Brothers, and Montgomery Accounts and Auditors	1920
3	5	Condensed Report on the “Savings to Society Resulting from the Use of the Comptometer”	1920
3	6	Correspondence: Requests for Copies of “Savings to Society”	1921