

James A. Little/Donald M. Hogarth fonds

Original, 29 cm of textual records, 1918-1932

Scope and Content:

The Little/Hogarth fonds contains four series composed mainly of correspondence, agreements and financial data, much of it related to the timber industry in Northwestern Ontario.

Series A 83/1/1 - General correspondence - 13 cm. - 1918-1932

Eight files of correspondence primarily between Little and Hogarth relating to joint financial and legal dealings in timber lands, pulp and paper mills, fisheries and real estate, and to provincial politics both at Queen's Park and in Port Arthur. Also deals with the Provincial government's role in managing Northwestern Ontario's forest industries.

Arranged chronologically:

- 1) 1918-1920 includes letters re: legal action against Hogarth by J.A. Smart
- 2) 1921-1924
- 3) Jan. - 13 July 1925
- 4) 13 July - 31 Dec. 1925
- 5) Jan. - Oct. 1926
- 6) Apr. 1927 - Dec. 1929
- 7) May - Dec. 1930
- 8) Undated letters

Series A 83/2/1-4 - Special correspondence and agreements - 7 cm. - 1919-1932

Four files relating to specific subjects:

- 1) Dispute between Little, his estate and W.H. Russell regarding mostly timber and mining properties in the Nipigon region and Hele Township. Also involves D.M. Hogarth and the operation of the Nipigon Fibre and Paper Mills, Ojibway Timber Lands, Central Contracting Co. and other individuals and companies. Includes material relating to law suits. 1919-1927, 1932.
- 2) Timber licenses, agreements involving Thunder Bay Paper Co., Nipigon Pulp Mill, and the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission. All involve D.M. Hogarth. 1923-1928
- 3) Contracts, agreements, correspondence and financial papers regarding Nipigon Corp., the Fort William Paper Co., New Ontario Contracting Co., and Nipigon Fibre and Paper Mills. Relates particularly to Hogarth's interests in the above. 1923-1929.
- 4) The exchange of mining lots for timber lands in Ebb Township, 1930. For maps see 998.63.1-3.

Series A 83/3/1 - Financial records - 6 cm. - 1927-1931

Files and passbooks, chequebooks, deposit books, and financial statements of J.A. Little

Series A 83/4/1-2 - Daily Journals - 3 cm. - 1929-1931

Two daily journals kept by J.A. Little accounting for his financial dealings. Includes bills due, receipts of payment, comments about those with whom he had financial dealings, etc.

Biographical Sketch:

James Arthur Little (1868-1931), Port Arthur banker (Molson's Bank until 1917), Lt. Col. In the

96th Lake Superior Regiment, timber baron, and member of the alleged “Tory Timber Ring”. Little was among those condemned by the Timber Commission in 1921. He acted closely with Donald McDonald Hogarth (1879-1950), Conservative politician (M.P.P. for Port Arthur, 1911-1923, 1926-1934), fellow timber baron, mining magnate (with Steep Rock Mines), and Port Arthur real estate broker. Little handled Hogarth’s financial affairs and acted as a clearing agent for Hogarth’s Port Arthur correspondence.

Additional Information:

Custodial History - The fonds was created by J.A. Little and, upon his death, acquired by Orval A. Knights who worked for Little at Thunder Bay Harbour Improvements Ltd., and who may have been the executor of Little’s will. Knights hid these documents in a tin box under the eaves of his house on High Street where they were found in 1997-1998 by workmen doing repairs. Donated to the museum by Mrs. Knights.