

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA,IB
Date: 12/9/55

NELSON WILMARTH ALDRICH

(1841 - 1915)

The books and papers of Nelson W. Aldrich, financier, Senator from Rhode Island, author of the Aldrich Plan for monetary reform, appear to be divided between the Baker Library at Harvard, the Library of Congress and the family home at Warwick, Rhode Island. It is, however, possible that the collection at Warwick (See privately printed list entitled "Books in the library of Nelson W. Aldrich, Warwick, Rhode Island, 1914-16") is the one which is now installed in the Aldrich Room at the Baker Library. Mr. Winthrop Aldrich has in his possession a complete set of the National Monetary Commission Report, annotated by his father. He will make this available to this Committee.

The collection of papers at the Library of Congress was given to the Library in 1944-45 by Mr. Aldrich's children.

Measure of size: 9 boxes

Approximate number of items: 3,500

Most of the correspondence, contained in 9 boxes chronologically arranged by months, concerns the years of Mr. Aldrich's Senatorial career, 1881-1911. Material of interest to this Committee would probably be in boxes 3 through 7 (1903-13).

The Library of Congress has a temporary register of these papers which can be consulted. Papers can be used only by permission of Mr. Aldrich's son, Winthrop. (Permission has been obtained for this Committee.) Literary rights will probably be assigned to the Library, but they reside at present in the children.

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Biographical Note

1841, Nov. 6	Born, Foster, Rhode Island
1869-71 1872-75	Member, Providence Common Council (President, 1872-73)
1875-77	Member, Rhode Island House of Representatives (speaker, 1876-77)
1879-81	Member, 46th and 47th Congresses (Republican)
1881-1911	U.S. Senator from Rhode Island; Senate leader in McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft administrations - influenced passage of McKinley Tariff Act (1890), Silver Purchase Act (1890), Anti-Trust Act (1890), Gold Standard Act (1900), Payne Aldrich Tariff Act (1909)
1908	Chairman, National Monetary Commission to study banking reform
1910	Host at Jekyll Island Conference Author, Aldrich Plan
1915, Apr. 16	Died

See: Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942, vol. I, Marquis Century Cyclopedia of Names, 1954, Appleton Century Encyclopedia Britannica, 1952