

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA
Date: 10/31/55

LEE SLATER OVERMAN

(1854 - 1930)

The papers of Lee S. Overman, lawyer, politician, U.S. Senator for 5 terms, are deposited in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. In addition to much miscellaneous political material, they contain correspondence concerning the Federal Reserve Banks which may be of interest.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied:

Approximate number of items: 40,000

The collection is open to use by qualified students.
A general description is appended.

Biographical Note

1854, Jan. 3	Born, Salisbury, North Carolina
1874	B.A., Trinity College, North Carolina
1876	M.A., Trinity College
1875-76	Taught school
1877-79	Private secretary to two successive governors (Vance and Jarvis)
1878, Oct. 31	Married Mary Merrimon (3 daughters)
1878	Admitted to the bar
1880	Began law practice in Salisbury
1883-1900	Successive terms as member North Carolina House of Representatives (speaker 1893)
1900	Presidential elector-at-large, pledged to Democrats
1903-30	Served 4 terms and part of 5th as U.S. Senator (Democrat)
1930, Dec. 12	Died

See: Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942, vol. I, Marquis

Description of Series

"We have here a portion of the correspondence of Senator Lee S. Overman, consisting of about 40,000 items and covering the years 1920-30. The following is a description of this collection: The bulk of the letters are from Overman's constituents, asking for information, relief, and assistance of every sort. The thousands of letters bearing on tobacco and cotton culture, the eradication of the boll weevil, farm legislation, Negro suffrage, appointments to office, the bolt of Senator F. M. Simmons from the Democratic Party in 1928, and state and local politics constitute a valuable source for the economic and political history of North Carolina in the 1920's.

The collection is also rich in correspondence bearing on national problems including prohibition, immigration restriction, the payment of World War pensions, adjusted compensation certificates, and war risk insurance, radio control, the proposed lease of Muscle Shoals to the Alabama Power Company, war debts, the Federal Reserve Banks, the Washington Arms Conference, the London Naval Treaty, and Near East Relief.

Among the correspondents are Bernard M. Baruch, T. W. Bickett, Locke Craig, Josephus Daniels, H. M. Daugherty, R. L. Doughton, C. R. Forbes, O. Max Gardner, Carter Glass, Clyde R. Hoey, Herbert Hoover, Charles E. Hughes, W. G. McAdoo, Mrs. W. G. (Eleanor Wilson) McAdoo, Angus W. McLean, Harry S. New, Robert Owen, Lucy Patterson, F. M. Simmons, William S. Sims, James Sprunt, Charles M. Stedman, Mark Sullivan, Henry Wallace, Jr., and L. A. Williams."

(Excerpts from letter, July 19, 1954
from James W. Patton, Director,
Southern Historical Collection,
The University of North Carolina
Library, Chapel Hill.)