

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA

Date: 11/2/55

OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD

(1862 - 1929)

The papers of Oscar Underwood, lawyer, politician, Congressman and Senator, are deposited in the Department of Archives and History of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama. A few of them deal with banking legislation in 1911, and carbon copies of correspondence begin about 1919.

Senator Underwood pushed the Glass-Owen bill to passage by holding the House in session against the protests of members who wanted to go home to campaign.

There is evidence that W. P. G. Harding, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, was appointed because of Representative Underwood's influence. Harding had advised Underwood on financial legislation prior to the Wilson administration.

## Biographical Note

- 1862, May 6 Born, Louisville, Kentucky
- Educated at Rugby School, Louisville and University of Virginia
- 1884 Admitted to bar of Alabama, in practice in Birmingham
- 1885, Oct. 8 Married Eugenia Massey, dec. 1900 (2 children)
- 1892 Chairman, Democratic Exec. Committee, 9th district, Alabama
- 1895-1915 Member 54th to 63rd Congresses, 9th Alabama district, leader of the House and chairman of Ways and Means Committee, 62nd and 63rd Congresses
- 1904, Sept. 10 Married Bertha Woodward (2nd wife)
- 1917-27 U. S. Senator from Alabama
- 1920 Elected Democratic leader of the Senate
- 1924 Candidate for Democratic Presidential nomination, defeated
- 1927 Member, International (Peace) Commission between U. S. and France
- 1929, Jan. 25 Died

See: Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942, vol. I, Marquis  
 Doctoral thesis on Underwood written by Evans C. Johnson, and  
 available at University of North Carolina Library

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Description of Series

In Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery

30 file drawers

Papers arranged chronologically, day by day.  
Received in Washington

Letter boxes

Unarranged. Each box covers a definite  
period, usually a year. Within the box, the  
papers are arranged alphabetically. Mostly  
correspondence received in Birmingham.