

Title: Payne, Henry C.

Manuscript Number: Mss-1039

Inclusive Dates: 1904-1905

Bulk: 0.23 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss. (.03 cu. ft.)
RC 21A, Sh. 3 (0.2 cu. ft.)

Scope and Content: Mr. Payne was a prominent, though controversial, business man and politician in Milwaukee and nationally during the late 19th century. He was born in Massachusetts in 1843 and came to Milwaukee after the end of the Civil War. He energized the Republican Party in Milwaukee County and was appointed postmaster of Milwaukee by President Grant in 1876. He retired from the post office in 1886 and served as president of the Wisconsin Telephone Company and the Milwaukee & Northern Railroad Company. In 1890, he helped form the Milwaukee Street Railway Company, the first integrated utility in the U.S., which became the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company in 1896. Public opinion turned against Payne during a two-month streetcar strike in 1896, but he found another political post when President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him Postmaster General in 1902. He passed away after a long illness in 1904. The file includes letters pertaining to dissatisfaction of Mrs. Cameron with Mr. Walter Hyams handling of a publishing job on Henry C. Payne's memorial book, and an image of J. W. Payne of South Carolina. In addition, the collection includes a scrapbook of obituaries collected from newspapers nationwide.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Administrative Note: Processed by Illiana Zambrano, March 2017