Biographical Sketch

Frederick O. Robinson was born in Port Arthur, Ontario on Aug. 2, 1903. He attended public and high school in Port Arthur and then served his apprenticeship to the machinist trade in the C.N.R. shops. He worked for 25 years as a skilled machinist in the Port Arthur shops of the C.N.R. until his election to the Ontario legislature in 1943. He continued to work as a C.N.R. machinist between sessions of the legislature, and after his election to the office of mayor, he worked in the C.N.R. shops on weekends.

He entered public life in January 1943 when he was elected to the Port Arthur Board of Education. In August of the same year he was elected to the Ontario legislature as C.C.F. member for Port Arthur. He was M.L.A. for Port Arthur until his defeat in 1951. In civic affairs, he remained on the Board of Education until 1946 when he was elected as alderman. In 1949, he became Mayor of Port Arthur; he remained in this post except for 1952 when he was defeated until 1955 when he resigned to become personnel manager for the Public Utilities Commission. He left active political life at this time. He resigned from the Public Utilities Commission in 1966 because of ill health. In July, 1969, he died.

Provenance

These papers were received in July, 1971, from Mrs. Jean Robinson, Mr. Robinson's widow.

Restrictions

None of these folders are restricted. Some correspondence from persons in prisons, seeking workmen's compensation, and on welfare have been placed in restricted access files. They are of a confidential nature and are of no value for research purposes.

General Description of the Papers

The Frederick O. Robinson papers comprise 7 feet of correspondence, clippings, pamphlets, articles and other material and are contained in seventeen transfer cases. The folder titles in the main are those designated by Mr. Robinson. Some re-arrangement of the material has been effected in order to comply with the folder titles. Since the folders themselves were in no apparent order when they were donated to the university, the following arrangement was thought to be most suitable for research purposes:

I. Pre-1943 Period
II. Political Affairs (relating to the C.C.F.)
III. The Ontario Legislature and Provincial Affairs, 1943-51
IV. Provincial and Local Affairs.
V. Local and Municipal Affairs.
VI. General
VII. Miscellaneous
I  Pre-1943 Period

This category concerns some aspects of Robinson's life before his
election to public office, including his work as machinist for
the C.N.R., some material about his activities in the labor move-
ment as an executive officer in the I.A.M. (International Association
of Machinists) and the Port Arthur Trades and Labor Council, and on the
Lakehead Council of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy. The
folders contain material of local, national, and in some cases, inter-
national origin.

Folder 1: General Correspondence relating mainly to employment
with C.N.R., 1937-42.

Folder 2: Canadian Railways Amalgamation; pamphlets, clippings,
articles, correspondence, legislation re proposal to
amalgamate C.N.R. and C.P.R., 1938-1939.

Folder 3: Spain, China, India, Japan; clippings, articles, pamphlets,
1938-39.

Folder 4: International Affairs; clippings, articles, map on
European situation, 1938-39.


Folder 6: Church and Democracy; leaflets, pamphlets, clippings
relating to labor, the C.C.F., the church, 1939-42.

II  Political Affairs (relating to the C.C.F.)

These folders are listed topically into five sections:

1. Provincial elections; 2. C.C.F. National and Provincial Offices;
3. Port Arthur Constituency; 4. Radio and Publicity; 5. Federal
Affairs, 1957-63.

Within each section the material is organized chronologically where
feasible. The files include correspondence, literature and other
material emanating from the national, provincial and local C.C.F.
Also included is material from other political parties.

1. Election campaigns

Folder 7: Provincial election, August 4, 1943; correspondence,
leaflets, clippings, 1943.

Folder 8: Provincial election, June 4, 1945; correspondence,
leaflets, clippings, 1945.


Folder 10: Provincial election, June 7, 1948.

Folder 11: L.P.P. (Labor-Progressive Party), clippings, statements
Folder 12: Provincial election, November 22, 1951; correspondence, 1951.

Folder 13: Provincial election; clippings, leaflets, speeches, 1951.

Folder 14: Provincial election (Oliver Breton, candidate) leaflets, clippings, speeches, 1959.


Folder 16: Ontario Party Leaders; clippings re election campaign, 1959.

2. C.C.F. National and Provincial Offices — These folders contain correspondence, literature and material relating to C.C.F. conferences and conventions.

Folder 17: C.C.F. Provincial office; correspondence, mimeographed memoranda, 1943-47.


Folder 19: C.C.F. National Office, correspondence and clippings. Also material re 8th National Convention 1944, and Inter-Provincial Conference, Jan, 1950.

Folder 20: C.C.F. National Office, policy statements for election campaigns on international affairs, social ownership, etc., 1943-45.

Folder 21: C.C.F. 10th National Convention, 1948, Reports, clippings.

3. Port Arthur Constituency — These folders contain material relating to organizational work and political campaigns.

Folder 22: Port Arthur Constituency; correspondence, zone council material, clippings, 1943-48.

Folder 23: C.C.F. (Port Arthur Unit); Correspondence, organizational material, message to constituents, clippings, 1946-49.

Folder 24: Port Arthur Constituency (Outside Points); correspondence, contacts lists, clippings.


4. **Radio and Publicity** - These folders contain radio broadcasts delivered by C.C.F. leaders and by Robinson during election campaigns, and at other times, as well as general C.C.F. publicity.


Folder 30: Radio Broadcasts by Robinson, 1943-49.

Folder 31: "My Speeches". Copies of addresses by Robinson at meetings and in legislature and as reported in the press. Also speakers' notes, 1943-51.


5. **Federal affairs 1957-63** - These folders contain material relating to Douglas Fisher’s election campaigns and his political activities as M. P. for Port Arthur Riding. There is also a folder relating to the formation of a New Party, co-sponsored by the C.C.F. and the Canadian Labour Congress, out of which was formed the New Democratic Party, 1959. Material of local and national origin is included.

Folder 34: New Party; clippings, pamphlets, reports on formation of New Party (re New Democratic Party), originating nationally and locally, 1958-59.


Folder 37: Federal election; (April 8, 1963)

Folder 38: Fisher; clippings, 1959.
III The Ontario Legislature and Provincial Affairs, 1943-51

This category concerns Robinson's role as M.L.A. Included is material on the work of the legislature, various government departments, and agencies, the role of the C.C.F. caucus and C.C.F. policy, briefs by various lobbies and organizations, and background information on legislative matters. Also included is material concerning Robinson's activities as M.L.A. for Port Arthur, both in the house and in the riding. Since Robinson held civic office during this period, some of the material relates directly to civic affairs.

1. Legislature

Folder 39: Legislature; clippings, mimeographed material re Robinson as M.L.A. and re provincial legislature. Also some floor plans of Legislative assembly, 1943-51.

Folder 40: "Legislative"; briefs, submissions to house from various organizations, 1949-51.

Folder 41: Caucus; correspondences, clippings, C.C.F. reports on sessions, minute book 1949, bills, also Provincial Council, 1951, 1949-51.

Folder 42: Legislature; correspondence and resolutions sent to Robinson as M.L.A. from city council on a variety of concerns from labour union individuals, 1944-51.


2. Ontario Government Departments and Agencies — This section concerns the work of government departments and the political issues surrounding these departments; frequently material relating to the subject in general is included, as well as C.C.F. policy statements. Sprinkled throughout is correspondence to and from Robinson.

Lands and Forests — The forestry controversy was a major issue during Robinson's career as legislator. The folders concern the Kennedy Commission (1946), Robinson's brief on behalf of the C.C.F. to same, the battle between lumber and paper companies, as exemplified by Great Lakes Lumber and Shipping Company vs. Great Lakes Paper Company, and the resulting political ramifications. There is a massive amount of promotional material from the former company, from community and political organizations and from the press.

Folder 44: Royal Commission on Forestry; brief presented on behalf of Ontario C.C.F. by Fred Robinson, supplementary brief re Southern Ontario, evidence of Robinson at hearings Dec. 10 and 11, 1946.
Folder 45: Forestry brief; correspondence re Robinson brief to Royal Commission, 1946.

Folder 46: Forests; Legislative material re forests in Ontario, statements by C.C.F., Colonel George Drew, excerpts from legislative debates, 1941-57.


Folder 48: "The Ontario Timber Problem"; background material, pamphlets, mimeographed articles on Kennedy Commission, controversy circa 1950 between lumber and paper companies (issued by Fort William Natural Resources Development Board?)

Folder 49: Lands and Forests; pamphlets, addresses, legislation re forestry situation, 1943-50.

Folder 50: Forests (clippings), 1946-59.

Folder 51: Ontario Department of Lands and Forests; news releases June 18-Oct. 15, 1951 which include a series of articles on integrated forestry operations.

Folder 52: Export - Ontario's forests; correspondence, briefs, statements by Robinson re export to U. S. of pulpwood.

Hydro - These files contain considerable material relating to municipal affairs, as much of the material relates to Fort Arthur's relationship with the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission (HEPC) and the Political controversies surrounding the HEPC's projects at Aguassabon and Rat Portage in which Robinson contended the HEPC favoured paper companies over municipalities.

Folder 53: Aguassabon; correspondence, brochures, speeches, clippings, 1943-49.

Folder 54: Hydro; correspondence, 1943-49.

Folder 55: Power costs; documents relating to this issue (Robinson contended the HEPC favoured the paper companies over the municipalities), 1947-51.

Folder 56: Hydro-Power costs; correspondence, reports, excerpts from Hansard, 1949-51.
Folder 57: HEFC; correspondence, brochures, maps, clippings re HEFC, changeover from 25 to 60 cycle, and hydro in Northwestern Ontario.


Folder 59: Dept. of Education.

Folder 60: Royal Commission on Education (Hope Commission); briefs, recommendations, commentaries re French language, separate schools and other educational issues from C.C.F. and other organizations, 1946-51.

Folder 61: Department of Games and Fisheries; includes legislative material, resolutions from tourist, fish and game associations, correspondence re fishing licenses; of particular interest is correspondence re government's refusal to grant fishing licenses to Finns during war; 1942-49.

Folder 62: Dept. of Highways; resolutions, correspondence re need for extension of highways in Northwestern Ontario and applications for gasoline stations, etc., 1943-49.

Folder 63: Marathon-Schreiber Highway; clippings, correspondence, resolutions, 1946.

Folder 64: Dept. of Labor; includes correspondence with local labor bodies and the Department.


Folder 66: Mines and Mining Municipalities; correspondence, briefs, clippings relating to Sudbury, Geraldton, taxation of mining properties, 1943-51.

Folder 67: Legislation; correspondence, briefs, material, 1943-51.

Folder 68: Parks – Provincial and National; material re Sibley, Kakabeka Falls, Quetico, Nishing Lake, 1944-49.

Folder 69: Travel and Publicity; survey, pamphlet, 1946-47.

Folder 70: Auto Insurance; correspondence re legislation, pamphlets, mostly on Saskatchewan insurance, 1947-51.

Folder 71: Liquor Control Board; C.C.F. policy statements, correspondence re permits, 1942-49.
Folder 72: Motion Picture Censure; Robinson statement, Regulations, 1947.

Private Member's Bills

Folder 73: Community Centre; the Bill, correspondence, clippings, plan re proposed community centre, 1945-46.

Folder 74: Port Arthur Private Bill (Strathcona Subdivision), 1950.

Social Services — These folders deal with government departments' provincial policy towards local institutions, C.C.F. policy statements, correspondence with Robinson from constituents, and background material regarding social services in general.

Folder 75: Unemployment Insurance; legislation, correspondence with individuals, unions, the Commission, Policy Statements, 1941-49.

Folder 76: Workmen's Compensation Board, 1944-

Folder 77: Dept. of Health; material relates to dept., local institutions, health care, 1943-49.

Folder 78: Hospital and Medical Plans; clippings, brochures, C.C.F. policy statements, broadcast, 1943-51.

Folder 79: Family Allowances; pamphlets, clippings, resolutions, C.C.F. policy statements, 1944-51.

Folder 80: Family Allowances (22 Points – Drew); special bulletin for the information of C.C.F. members, 1944.

Folder 81: Welfare Department; correspondence, literature, addresses re welfare, blind, old age pensions, mothers' allowances, Port Arthur Home for Aged, 1943-51.


Folder 84: Veterans' Training and Welfare; correspondence with individuals of government departments, veterans' organizations, 1943-47.
Folder 85: Rehabilitation and Post War Reconstruction; correspondence, clippings, policy statements, including material from Port Arthur Council on Rehabilitation and Post-War Reconstruction, 1943-46.

IV Provincial and Local Affairs

This category relates to Robinson's dual roles in civic and provincial affairs, although material of national significance is sometimes included. The first three files relate to the history of the origins of Lakehead University and the local campaigns to obtain a university or institute of higher learning in Northwest Ontario. Robinson was in the forefront of this campaign, beginning with his election to the Board of Education; he continued to promote the university in the legislature and in government circles. Other folders relate to the ship-building crisis in the Lakehead, and other issues of local and broader concern.

Folder 86: Technical Institute; correspondence, minutes re campaign to obtain institute of higher learning in Northwestern Ontario, 1945. Correspondence, minutes re work of District Technical Institute Committee, 1945.

Folder 87: University; clippings, correspondence, addresses, re campaign to obtain university, 1946-49.

Folder 88: Lakehead College of Arts & Science; prospectus minutes, correspondence, 1953-54.

Folder 89: Transportation; correspondence, literature, pamphlets re Canadian shipbuilding industry, from Port Arthur, C.S.U., Canadian Shipbuilding Association. Also some material on air, rail and motor transportation, 1944-45.

Folder 90: Milk; clippings, resolutions re milk prices and Ont. Milk Control Board, 1946-51.

Folder 91: Housing; clippings, pamphlets, resolutions, C.C.F. policy statements, 1945-51.

Folder 92: Northwestern Ontario issues; miscellaneous correspondence, 1944-46.

Folder 93: Closed cases; miscellaneous correspondence, 1944-46.

Folder 94: Personal; miscellaneous correspondence relating in the main to Robinson's role as M.L.A., 1944-50.
Local and Municipal Affairs

This category relates to Robinson's role in civic affairs, as school trustee, as alderman, and as mayor. It also includes material relating to civic election campaigns. Of prime interest are the folders relating to Canadian oil and gas pipelines controversies in which Robinson as mayor played a leading post.

Folder 95: Board of Education; correspondence, minutes of Board, reports, 1943.

Folder 96: Children's Aid; correspondence, reports, resolutions, 1943-46.

Folder 97: Thunder Bay Municipal League, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (Robinson was President of latter body, 1948); minutes, correspondence, resolutions, clippings, 1944-50.

Folder 98: Municipal Affairs; clippings, election leaflet, estimates, 1944-49.


Folder 102: Oil Pipe Line - Correspondence, clippings, debates, articles, re campaign to have Interprovincial Pipeline terminus located at the Lakehead. Some correspondence between C. D. Howe and Robinson.

Folder 103: Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities; reports, speeches, clippings re community planning, social services, etc., June, 1951.

Folder 104: Accident Corner; Cameron and Cumberland Streets; correspondence, reports, clippings; some material re other accidents, May 31, 1951.

Folder 105: Municipal affairs; inaugural addresses, mayor's reports, municipal business, 1947-57.

Folder 106: Ads - Civic election; letters, clippings, 1952.

Folder 107: City of Port Arthur - clippings, releases, notes re Robinson, civic affairs, etc., 1950-59.
Folder 108: Newspaper Polls on Works, 1953.


Folder 111: Zoning By-Laws.


Folder 113: Gas Pipeline; correspondence, including exchange of telegrams with C. D. Howe, brief by Robinson on behalf of Northwest and Northern Ontario Municipalities, clippings, 1953-55.

Folder 114: Resignation from office of mayor, including statement by Robinson, minutes of city council, clippings, July 15, 1955.

VI General

This category is divided into two sections: 1. Background material from newspaper, labour organizations, and community groups, political groups and corporations on a multitude of topics in which Robinson was interested during his public career. 2. Files started by Mr. Robinson in 1959. In this year, Mr. Robinson 'clipped and filed' on a number of subjects. Some of these clippings were included in files started earlier but most are in separate files begun in 1959. Some of the material is of local interest.

1. General - Background material

Folder 115: Dominion- Provincial Relations; pamphlets, articles by the Trades and Labor Congress, Frank H. Underbill, and others, 1938-44.

Folder 116: Electoral Reform; statutes, pamphlets, clippings, 1943-45.

Folder 117: Export and Canada's future; material re Steep Rock, clippings, 1943-51.

Folder 118: Finance; insurance, budget, taxes, clippings, 1943-59.

Folder 119: Controls; clippings, articles, submissions re price controls, inflation, 1951.


Folder 121: Socialism; clippings, pamphlets, articles, 1943-51.
Folder 122: Britain; pamphlets, clippings re Labour Party and
economic development in Britain, 1945-50.

Folder 123: Social Credit; Social Credit, C.C.F. material,
clippings, 1943-59.

Folder 124: Speech leads; pamphlets, articles, clippings on
various subjects, 1939-51.

Folder 125: Miscellaneous material on international affairs,
other subjects, 1944-63.

2. **1959 Clippings**

   Folder 126. Finances

   Folder 127. Education

   Folder 128. Highways

   Folder 129. Energy Board

   Folder 130. Medical Plans

   Folder 131. Agriculture

   Folder 132. Liquor – Housing

   Folder 133. Unemployment

   Folder 134. Defence (Canada)
                International Affairs – Civil Defence.

   Folder 135. Health and Welfare

   Folder 136. Labour – National and Provincial

   Folder 137. Fluoridation

   Folder 138. Inflation

   Folder 139. Reform Institutions

   Folder 140. Natural Gas. Northern Ontario Natural Gas Co. Ltd "scandal".

   Folder 141. Canadian Independence

   Folder 142. Ontario – federal affairs.

   Folder 143. Britain

   Folder 144. China
Folder 145. Germany
Folder 146. Manitoba
Folder 147. Newfoundland
Folder 148. Quebec
Folder 149. Church and Politics
Folder 150. Lakehead Ports - Seaway

VII Miscellaneous

This section includes correspondence mostly of a personal nature and other material which is self-explanatory from the titles.

Folder 151: Encyclopedia Britannica
Folder 152: Kings Printer
Folder 153: Unitarian Church
Folder 154: Signed photograph of Prime Minister and Mrs. St. Laurent, April 22, 1949.

Signed presentation from City of Duluth, Aug. 9, 1951.