



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

REFORESTATION COMMISSION

An Inventory of Its Record of Investigation and Hearings

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency:	Reforestation Commission
Series Title:	Record of investigation and hearings,
Dates:	1927-1928
Abstract:	Journal of the commission's tour of northern Minnesota (Aug. 1927) to gather information on forest industry issues; and the commission's printed report and recommendations.
Quantity:	3 folders.
Location:	103.E.8.8F

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE REFORESTATION COMMISSION

The Minnesota Reforestation Commission was established as an interim commission by the state legislature on April 18, 1927 (Laws 1927, chapter 244). Its mission was to study and investigate problems concerning reforestation, delinquent real estate taxes, and the finances of counties and taxing districts in the forest areas of the state. The Commission was composed of five members appointed by the speaker of the House, five members appointed by the president of the Senate, and one member appointed by the Governor. The president of the Senate and speaker of the House were ex-officio Commission members. William Ignatius Nolan, the Lieutenant Governor, was the Commission's chairman. After touring northern Minnesota and holding public hearings in Bemidji, Baudette, International Falls, and St. Paul, as well as making fact finding trips to Madison, Lansing, Montreal, Boston, Albany, and Augusta, Maine, the Commission issued its report with recommendations to the legislature in November 1928.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The Commission's records consist of a journal of its fact-finding tour of Northern Minnesota, and its final report. The first two folders (315 pages) contain the typed journal of the Commission's tour of northern Minnesota during August 12-20, 1927. The Commission traveled to Brainerd, Bemidji, Lake Itasca, Grand Rapids, Virginia, Ely, Grand Marais, Duluth, Cloquet and points between gathering information and listening to forest service, lumber industry, and civic officials. Included in the journal are statistics on population, fires in 1926, acreage burned

in 1926, number of logging operations, acres cut in 1926, lumber employment and payroll, and related figures. Also present are several background papers, including "Reforestry in St. Louis County," "Sketch history of Cloquet Industries," and "Notes on the Forest Situation in the United States." There are hearing notes from meetings in Bemidji, Baudette, and International Falls dealing with tax delinquency, ditch bonds, and the financial situation of Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, and Koochiching counties.

Apparently missing (according to the 5-page index in folder 1) are pages 315-444 (plus). These pages contain the January 1928 report of the Commission's secretary as well as statements from the St. Paul public meeting of January 1928.

The printed summary of the Commission's recommendations (41 pp.) and its final report (129 pp.) are found in the last folder. The first 41 pages of the final report reprint the summary. Also part of the final report are texts of bills that would implement the Commission's recommendations, and background articles on the public domain, development of forestry in the United States, conservation in Minnesota, forestry practices in other states and in Europe, and the profitability of reforestation, as well as a section on delinquent taxes in Minnesota.

RELATED MATERIALS

Another copy of the commission's final report is in the Minnesota Historical Society book collections.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Forest conservation—Minnesota.
Forests and forestry—Minnesota.
Investigating.
Reforestation—Minnesota.
Taxation—Minnesota.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and page here]. Minnesota Reforestation Commission. Record of investigation and hearings. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none

Provenance: Found among miscellaneous reports and publications of the Conservation

Department: Forestry Division.

Processing Information:

Described by: Rich Arpi, November 1995

PALS ID No.: 0800001222 RLIN ID No.: MNHV1777-A

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Folder	
103.E.8.8F	1	Index for pages 1-444 (plus). 5 pages. Commission's journal, August 1927, pages 1 -150.
	2	Commission's journal, pages 151-315.
	[3]	<i>Commission's journal, pp. 316-444(plus) (missing)]</i>
	4	Summary (41 pages) and Final Report (129 pages). November 1928. Published.