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STATE OF VERMONT

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Papers of Governor Edward C. Smith, 1898-1900

These papers consist of three bound volumes of transfer copies of outgoing correspondence. With some variations, each is identified on the spine of the binding as "Letters of Gov. Edward C. Smith." The three volumes are, respectively: Vol. 1, Oct. 12, 1898 to May 18, 1899; Vol. 2, May 29, 1899 to Jan. 13, 1900; and Vol. 3, Jan. 13, 1900 to Oct. 2, 1900. The letters are all in chronological order within each volume. The large majority of them are typewritten, the transfer copies of which are generally very good. A very few are handwritten by Gov. Smith, and a scattering of others carry his handwritten post scripts. The transfer copies of these are poor to fair. A fair number of letters were signed for Gov. Smith by somebody else, probably his executive clerk, Frank E. Chamberlin. A few letters are written and signed by Chamberlin. (Apparently no incoming correspondence to Gov. Smith has been preserved, at least not in the State Papers Office.)

There are two indexes for this outgoing correspondence. One, of which there are actually three parts, is the existing index which appears at the beginning of each volume. These

appear to be exclusively an index of the addressees of the letters in each volume. Hence, entries are almost exclusively personal names (a few letters are addressed to some government agency or other non-personal entity, and are indexed by that name).

There are no subject entries or related cross-references.

To make up for this lapse in what is hereafter referred to as the name index (or indexes), the undersigned prepared the following supplemental index. It is primarily a subject index (and is hereafter so called), but does include numerous personal names. These are individuals who are referred to in one or another of Gov. Smith's letters but who are not addressees (such names, however, may also appear in the name indexes).

The subject index is reasonably comprehensive but by no means totally so. Liberal use of cross-references was made to minimize repeat listings of volume and page entries for both a name and related subject. Two principal limitations of the subject index:

(1) Entries were not made for letters which the undersigned viewed as dealing with routine or insignificant matters. These are quite limited. Examples are correspondence relating to arrangements for meetings, minor State accounting or financial matters, and requests for photographs of the governor.

(2) Entries were not made for individuals when some subject heading provided a suitable basic entry. One example is correspondence relating to appointments of justices of the peace; entries are made only under that subject heading, while the individuals appointed or considered for appointment are not indexed by name. Similar treatment is given to requests for pardon;

with a few exceptions, they are indexed only under the subject heading, "Pardons, individual."

Important Note: Researchers may well find materials relating to one or another State board or agency by checking in the name index(es) for the person or persons who served on that board or superintended that agency or institution. Rosters of these personnel appear in both the Laws of Vermont, 1898 and the Vermont Legislative Directory, 1898. The undersigned has provided some cross-references of this sort in the subject index, but lapses almost surely exist. Conversely, a researcher who initially uses the name index may find further information by checking the subject index for the subject dealt with by the letter which he or she is lead to by the name index.

And a final special note: the subject index includes Gov. Smith's own name with several subject sub-headings, one of them, "Personal and family matters and interests." In this way, leads are provided to some, though limited, information about this prominent Vermonter's private life.

For records of appointments and commissions, designations of State beneficiaries (blind, deaf and dumb, and feeble-minded), and proclamations made by Gov. Smith, see Executive Records, Vol.IV, pp. 157-341.

Robert L. Hagerman  
Assistant Editor of State Papers  
February 6, 1930

(The original of this description is with Gov. Smith's papers.)

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