F. E. Gillett Papers 1897-1936

Archives of the Big Bend
Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library
Sul Ross State University
The F. E. Gillett Papers is an extensive collection of business papers with some personal papers of Frank Edwin Gillett (1863-1937). The primary focus of the records is Gillett's business operations, including Mitchell-Gillett Dry Goods Company, Gillett-Brown Company, and the Alpine Lumber Company. Also in this collection are materials relating to personal and community activities. The collection was donated to the Sul Ross State University by the West Texas Historical and Scientific Society in 1968.

Frank Edwin Gillett, born March 25, 1863 to Methodist minister John S. Gillett and Francis Kerr Gillett, was reared in DeWitt County, Texas. Gillett's siblings were John Ashley Gillett, Mrs. J. W. Burns, Mrs. J. N. Goforth, and Mrs. E. N. Marfoy. During the 1880s, Gillett moved to Marfa, Texas, where he was employed by the Murphy-Walker company, a general merchandise company. In 1888 Gillett married Mary Humphris. Four sons and three daughters were born to this union: Thalia Gillett, Mrs. Lee Hancock, Frances Gillett, John W. Gillett (1893-1969), F. Edwin Gillett, Jr., Irvin W. "Bus" Gillett, and Richard H. "Bay" Gillett. While a resident of Marfa, Gillett acted as Treasurer for Presidio County. After some twenty years in Marfa, Gillett moved to Del Rio, Texas, where he was briefly involved in the banking business.

In 1904, Gillett and W. B. Mitchell acquired the Alpine [Texas] Lumber Company. Moving to Alpine in 1907, Gillett acquired R. A. Werth's interest in the Mitchell-Werth Company. In that same year, the name of the company was changed to Mitchell-Gillett Dry Goods Company. In time, this company expanded to include stores in Marfa and Fort Stockton. In 1928, Mitchell sold his interest in the company to George W. Brown, making the company the Gillett-Brown Company.

From 1924-1928, Gillett served as Mayor of the City of Alpine [Texas]. He also served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Alpine Public Schools. In later years, Gillett allowed the management of the Gillett-Brown Company to pass into the hands of associates as he concentrated on the management of the Alpine Lumber Company. He served as the major stockholder, president, and manager of the lumber company until his death in Alpine on October 4, 1937. Upon his death, his son, John W. Gillett, took over the management of the Alpine Lumber Company.

Additional materials relate to Gillett’s participation in real estate speculation, mining properties, public school administration, and other professional/business activities. Although the collection includes material between 1897 and 1936, the bulk dates between 1912 and 1930. Primarily correspondence, there is also a good deal of financial material, including business ledgers.

Julia Payne
Assistant Archivist
NHPRC Grant Project
October 29, 1980
F. E. GILLET PAPERS, 1897-1936

PROCESSING NOTES

The collection was partially processed before 1980. This processing included removal from the file folders and placement of the papers into manila envelopes. In 1980, these materials were returned to file folders and given appropriate file titles. Materials which were already in file folders with titles were kept. The files appeared to have been originally arranged in alphabetical order, which was maintained. Within each folder the material is arranged chronologically. The collection is housed in archival boxes. In 1999 folders were numbered consecutively throughout the collection and guide edited. Oversize ledgers and journals are shelved following the boxes.

Collection rehoused in document boxes, oversize reorganized on shelves, and guide edited, 2008. Gaylan Corbin, Associate Archivist

ABBREVIATIONS USED

OS       Oversize material (housed at end of boxes)
BK       Book (bound volume)
BIOGRAPHICAL CHRONOLOGY

1863  Frank Edwin Gillett born on March 25 in DeWitt County, Texas.
188?  Moves to Marfa, Texas
18??  Treasurer of Presidio County, Texas [see S. A. Thompson Collection]
     Treasurer of Dry Farm Progress Association
1882?-1901 Works for Humphris & Company in Marfa, Texas (Chief officers:
     John Humphris, Charles S. Murphy, James Walker) See Mrs. 0. L. (Alice
     Jack) Shipman Collection and S. A. Thompson Collection for more on
     Humphris Company. Later works for Murphy-Walker Company.
1888  Frank Edwin Gillett marries Mary Humphris
1900?  (after approximately 20 years in Marfa) moves to Del Rio, Texas where he
        engages briefly in banking
1904  With W. B. Mitchell, acquires lumber company in Alpine, Texas and
        changes its name to Alpine Lumber Company
1907  Acquires Werth's interest in Mitchell-Werth Company in Alpine, which
        becomes Mitchell-Gillett Dry Goods, and moves to Alpine
1907-1914 Vice President of Mountaineer Club of Alpine (a social club for men)
19??   President of Board of Trustees of Alpine Public Schools
19??   Dry goods business expands with stores in Marfa & Fort Stockton, Texas
19??   With wife, organizer of Episcopal Church of Alpine
19??   Margaret Linn is manager of the Alpine store
1919   R. N. Settle is manager of the Marfa store
1923   J. R. Nash is manager of the Marfa store
       B. H. Smith is Fort Stockton store manager
       F. E. Gillett becomes charter member of Rotary Club of Alpine
1924   On January 24, 1924, Fort Stockton store is sold [or exchanged for an
       alfalfa farm] to W. B. Poole of Artesia, NM
1924-1928 City Commissioner/Mayor of Alpine, Texas
1928   W. B. Mitchell sells his interest in Mitchell-Gillett to George Brown;
       business becomes Gillett-Brown Company. During these later years,
       Gillett allows associates to take over management of Gillett-Brown
       Company and concentrates on Alpine Lumber Company, becoming major
       stockholder, president, and manager
1937   F. E. Gillett dies. Son, John W. Gillett, takes over the business.
BUSINESS PROFILE: Alpine Lumber Company

Alpine Lumber Company (formed May 1, 1904, transferred July 1, 1964) was first Beever & Hindes (dates unknown), C. H. Larkin & Co. (?-1904), and later Foxworth-Galbraith Co. (1964-present). Owners of the business were Frank E. Gillett and W. B. Mitchell (1904-?), Frank E. Gillett (1904-1937), John W. Gillett (1937?-1964), and Foxworth-Galbraith Co. (1964-present).

W. G. Hayes was the first manager; John W. Gillett was clerk and later manager between 1913 and 1964. The business was and is located at the corner of North Fourth and Holland Street along the Southern Pacific railroad tracks in Alpine, Texas. The slogan of Gillett's business was "We put the pine in Alpine."

BUSINESS PROFILE: Mitchell-Werth/Mitchell-Gillett/Gillett-Brown Company

A mercantile for retail sales of dry goods (clothing, boots, shoes, bulk fabrics, and ladies' ready-to-wear) with store outlets in Alpine (1907-1928), Marfa (c.1912-1930), and Fort Stockton, Texas (c.1912-1926). Owners were F. A. Mitchell and R. A. Werth in partnership from an unknown date to 1907, F. A. Mitchell and F. E. Gillett in partnership from 1907-1928, and F. E. Gillett and George Brown in partnership from 1928 to an unknown date. Other employees included R. N. Settle, manager of Marfa store, c.1919; J. R. Nash, manager of Marfa store, c.1923; Ben H. Smith, manager of Fort Stockton store, c.1923; Margaret Linn, manager of Alpine store, c.1912-1930; Gladys Beeman, employee of Marfa stores, c. 1923-1928; Troxie Daughtery, employee of Alpine store, c.1914-1926; E. L. Frazer, employee of Alpine store, c.1912-1928; Vernie Hicks, employee of Alpine store, c.1921-1925.
F. E. GILLETT PAPERS, 1897-1936

Business Correspondence and Records, 1897-1936 & undated (22,000 leaves)

Folder 1  Alpine Chamber of Commerce, 1917-1927 (51 leaves)
Folder 2  Alpine Lodge No. 766, 1912 (3 leaves)
Folder 3  Alpine Lumber Company, 1912-1929 and undated (1171 leaves)
Folder 4  Alpine Power Company, 1912 (6 leaves)
Folder 5  A. E. Anderson and Company, 1915 (4 leaves)
Folder 6  Bankers Life Company of Des Moines, Iowa, 1913 (4 leaves)
Folder 7  Beeman, Gladys, 1923-1928 and undated (123 leaves)
Folder 8  Blackwell-Wielandy Book and Stationery Company, 1914 (2 leaves)
Folder 9  Bowles, C. W., 1927 (1 leaf)
Folder 10  Brewster County, 1911-1930 (19 leaves)
Folder 11  Bronner Manufacturing Company, 1914 (2 leaves)
Folder 12  Butterick Publishing Company, 1912-1929 (49 leaves)
Folder 13  Cinnabar Mining, British Columbia, 1912-1924 & undated (65 leaves)
Folder 14  J. M. Chanut and Cie., Inc., 1914-1915 (8 leaves)
Folder 15  Chattanooga Lots, 1914 (2 leaves)
Folder 16  Christian Institutions, 1913-1927 (10 leaves)
Folder 17  City of Alpine, 1916-1928 (8 leaves)
Folder 18  Cohen, Friedlander and Martin Company, 1914-1926 (23 leaves)
Folder 19  Contracts, 1912-1930 and undated (371 leaves)
F. E. GILLET PAPERS 1897-1936

Business Correspondence and Records, 1897-1936 & undated, cont.

Folder 20  Credit Associations, 1914-1924 (6 leaves)
Folder 21  Credit Clearing House, 1915-1925 (?) leaves)
Folder 22  Daugherty, Troxie, 1921-1926 (53 leaves)
Folder 23  Del Rio National Bank, 1912-1918 and undated (91 leaves)
Folder 24  Fall City Clothing Company, 1914-1922 (9 leaves)
Folder 25  First National Bank of Alpine, 1909-1923 (69 leaves)
Folder 26  First National Bank of Fort Stockton, 1914-1928 & undated (45 leaves)
Folder 27  Frazer, E. L., 1912-1928 and undated (31 leaves)
Folder 28  Galveston City National Bank, 1912 (10 leaves)
Folder 29  Gause-Langenberg Hats Company, 1912-1929 (69 leaves)
Folder 30a Gillett-Brown Company, 1917-1929 (139 leaves)
Folder 30b Gillett-Brown Company, '1930 (78 leaves)
Folder 31  Gillett, Bay, 1919-1924 (231 leaves)
Folder 32  Gillett, F. E., 1897-1936 and undated (194 leaves)
Folder 33  Gillett, F. Edwin, Jr., 1912-1929 and undated (84 leaves)
Folder 34  Gillett, I. W. "Bus," 1918-1929 and undated (20 leaves)
Folder 35  Gillett, J. Ashley, 1912-1927 (45 leaves)
Folder 36  Gillett, John W., 1912-1925 (?) leaves)
Folder 37  Gillett, Richard H., 1917-1922 (31 leaves)
F. E. GILLET PAPERS 1897-1936

Business Correspondence and Records, 1897-1936 & undated, cont.

Folder 38  Gillett, W. R., 1912-1925 (16 leaves)
Folder 39  Hicks, Vernie, 1921-1925 and undated (10 leaves)
Folder 40  Internal Revenue Service, 1913-1930 (60 leaves)
Folder 41  George E. Keith Company, 1912-1930 (82 leaves)
Folder 42  Edward A. Kennedy, 1915 (5 leaves)
Folder 43  A. B. Kirschbaum and Company, 1912-1925 (11 leaves)
Folder 44  Kokernot Family Accounts, 1916-1926 (61 leaves)
Folder 45a Mail orders to Margaret Linn, 1912-1922 (157 leaves)
Folder 45b Mail orders to Margaret Linn, 1923-1925 (208 leaves)
Folder 45c Mail orders to Margaret Linn, 1926-1930 and undated (135 leaves)
Folder 45d Mail orders to Margaret Linn, undated (195 leaves)
Folder 45e Mail orders to Margaret Linn, undated (61 leaves)
Folder 46  Loans, 1917-1928 (125 leaves)
Folder 47  Marathon Lumber Company, 1912-1923 (87 leaves)
Folder 48  Marfa and Mariposa Mining Company, 1912-1926 (69 leaves)
Folder 49  Marfa National Bank, 1914-1922 (9 leaves)
Folder 50  Marfa State Bank, 1917-1918 (41 leaves)
Folder 51  Merit Manufacturing Company, 1914-1922 (181 leaves)
Folder 52  Mills and Gibb Corp., 1917-1928 (31 leaves)
Folder 53  Mitchell, F. A., 1912-1927 (49 leaves)
Folder 54  Mitchell, W. B., 1912-1913 and undated (10 leaves)
F. E. GILLETTE PAPERS 1897-1936

Business Correspondence and Records, 1897-1936 & undated, cont.

Folder 55  "A" Correspondents, 1912-1929 and undated (65 leaves)
Folder 56a "B" Correspondents, 1912-1928 and undated (110 leaves)
Folder 56b "B" Correspondents, 1912-1928 and undated (1291 leaves)
Folder 57  "C" Correspondents, 1912-1929 and undated (218 leaves)
Folder 58  "D" Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (108 leaves)
Folder 59  "E" Correspondents, 1912-1928 and undated (73 leaves)
Folder 60  "F" Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (111 leaves)
Folder 61  "G" Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (1151 leaves)
Folder 62  "H" Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (254 leaves)
Folder 63  "I" Correspondents, 1912-1926 (28 leaves)
Folder 64  "J" Correspondents, 1912-1930 (62 leaves)
Folder 65  "K" Correspondents, 1913-1928 and undated (49 leaves)
Folder 66  "L" Correspondents, 1912-1929 and undated (131 leaves)
Folder 67  "M" Correspondents, 1912-1929 and undated (233 leaves)
Folder 68  "N" Correspondents, 1913-1930 (41 leaves)
Folder 69  "O" Correspondents, 1912-1925 and undated (18 leaves)
Folder 70  "P" Correspondents, 1912-1929 and undated (216 leaves)
Folder 71  "R" Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (1 item; 183 leaves)
Folder 72  "S" Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (252 leaves)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>'T' Correspondents, 1912-1928 and undated (120 leaves)</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>&quot;U&quot; Correspondents, 1920-1924 (2 leaves)</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>&quot;V&quot; Correspondents, 1913-1928 and undated (35 leaves)</td>
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<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>&quot;W&quot; Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (235 leaves)</td>
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<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>&quot;XYZ&quot; Correspondents, 1912-1930 and undated (29 leaves)</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Business Memoranda and Incomplete letters, 1913-1929 &amp; undated (71 leaves)</td>
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<tr>
<td>79a</td>
<td>Mitchell-Gillett Dry Goods Company (Marfa, TX), 1912-1921 (182 leaves)</td>
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<td>79b</td>
<td>Mitchell-Gillett Dry Goods Company (Marfa, TX), 1922-1930 (124 leaves)</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>Mitchell-Gillett Dry Goods Company (Fort Stockton, TX), 1912-1916 (113 leaves)</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>Morrell, R. W., 1912-1918 (33 leaves)</td>
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<td>82</td>
<td>Morris, Mann and Reilly, 1915-1924 (5 leaves)</td>
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<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>The Munsingwear Company, 1924-1926 (11 leaves)</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>National Guard, 1913 and undated (3 leaves)</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>Nash, J. R., 1914-1925 and undated (97 leaves)</td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>New York Life Insurance, 1912-1915 and undated (34 leaves)</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>Pelgram and Meyer, 1915-1924 and undated (12 leaves)</td>
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F. E. GILLET PAPERS 1897-1936

Folder 88a    Financing Notes, 1910-1917 and undated (252 leaves)
Folder 88b    Financing Notes, 1918-1930 (183 leaves)
Folder 89     General Business Correspondence, 1912-1929 and undated (105 leaves)
Folder 90     Peters Shoe Company, 1915 (10 leaves)
Folder 91     Thomas G. Plant Company, 1915 (19 leaves)
Folder 92     Prude, John G., Sr., 1922-1929 (11 leaves)
Folder 93     Rice-Stix Dry Goods Company, 1912-1930 (188 leaves)
Folder 94     K. C. M. & O. Railroad, 1911-1924 (20 leaves)
Folder 95a    Real Estate, 1903-1916 (232 leaves)
Folder 95b    Real Estate, 1917-1925 (215 leaves)
Folder 96     Red Cross, 1917-1925 and undated (20 leaves)
Folder 97     Reed, Hal C., 1916-1929 and undated (11 leaves)
Folder 98     Retail Merchants Association, 1915-1930 and undated (57 leaves)
Folder 98a    Rio Grande Wax Company, 1912-1913 (6 leaves)
Folder 99     The Selby Shoe Company, 1915-1924 (20 leaves)

**Alpine Public Schools**

Folder 100a   Alpine Public Schools: Business Records, 1915-1924 (241 leaves)
Folder 100b   Alpine Public Schools: Business Receipts, 1925 (254 leaves)
Folder 100c   Alpine Public Schools: Business Receipts, 1926-1929 (166 leaves)
Folder 100d   Alpine Public Schools: Sandifer Grocery Receipts, 1924-1926 (39 leaves)
F. E. GILLET PAPERS 1897-1936

Alpine Public Schools

Folder 101a  Alpine Public Schools: Correspondence, 1912-1925
(+/- 174 leaves)
Folder 101b  Alpine Public Schools: Correspondence, 1926-1928
(+/- 174 leaves)

Folder 102  R. B. Slight, 1913-1917 (3 leaves)
Folder 103  Ben H. Smith, 1912-1926 and undated (126 leaves)
Folder 104  L. B. Starnes, 1914-1917 (2 leaves)
Folder 105  State National Bank, Alpine, Texas, 1911-1923 and undated
(10 leaves)
Folder 106  Study Butte Mining Company, 1912-1925 (11 leaves)
Folder 107  Sui Ross State Teachers College Account, 1925-1930 & undated
(50 leaves)
Folder 108  City & County Taxes, 1912-1925 (1091 leaves)
Folder 109  Texas Cinnabar Mining Company, 1915-1924 (13 leaves)
Folder 110  Texas Rangers, 1917 (16 leaves)
Folder 111  A. F. Thrift, 1918-1926 (23 leaves)
Folder 112  Thrift Quicksilver Mines, 1923 & undated (7 leaves)
Folder 113  H. F. Wigle, 1913-1923 & undated (61 leaves)
Folder 114  Laura Wilcox, 1912-1924 & undated (1071 leaves)
F. E. GILLET PAPERS 1897-1936

MITCHELL-GILLET BUSINESS RECORDS

Box A  Inventories, 1914-1925 (4 items)
        Jan 1914 - Jan 1915 (88 pages)
        Dec 28, 1921 (50 pages)
        Dec 31, 1924 (15 pages)
        Dec 31, 1925 (46 pages)

Box B  Sales Slips 1910 (4258 leaves)

Mitchell-Werth [Gillett] Co. (Apparently they used up slips imprinted
Mitchell-Worth after the company became Mitchell-Gillett.)

Box C  Sales Slips 1911 (3205 leaves)

UNBOXED OVERSIZE

OS BK1  Day Book, AUG 1911 - OCT 1913 (200 pages)

OS BK2  Day Book, SEP 1911 - MAR 1920 (200 pages)

OS BK3  Day Book, APR 1920 - MAR 1924 (200 pages)

OS BK4  Checkbook, MAR 1914 - MAY 1916 (129 pages)

OS BK5  Mitchell-Werth Stock Certificates, unused (100 pages)

OS BK6  Bank Register, JUL 1909 - SEP 1923 (80 pages)

OS BK7  Trial Balance, 1911 (34 pages)

OS BK8  Trial Balance, JAN 1912 - DEC 1912 (27 pages)

OS BK9  Trial Balance, JAN 1913 - APR 1914 (27 pages)
### MITCHELL-GILLET Business Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OS BK10</th>
<th>Cash Book, MAY 1907 - APR 1908 (76 pages)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OS BK11</td>
<td>Cash Book, JAN-MAR, 1908 (100 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK12</td>
<td>Cash Book, MAY 1908- MAR 1910 (198 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK13</td>
<td>Cash Book, APR 1910 - MAR 1912 (200 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK14</td>
<td>Cash Book, AUG 1911 - OCT 1912 (50 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK15</td>
<td>Cash Book, OCT 1912- JUL 1914 (50 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK16</td>
<td>Cash Book, APR 1912 – APR 1916 (200 leaves)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK17</td>
<td>Cash Book, Marfa store, SEP 1924- FEB 1926</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK18</td>
<td>Journal, SEP 1905 - JAN 1910 (150 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK19</td>
<td>Journal, JAN 1911- SEP 1911 (315 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK20</td>
<td>Journal, AUG 1911 -MAR 1913 (249 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK21</td>
<td>Journal, MAY 1913- DEC 1914 (250 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK22</td>
<td>Journal, OCT 1913- OCT 1914 (252 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK23</td>
<td>Journal, NOV 1914- JUN 1916 (250 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK24</td>
<td>Journal, JUL 1916- APR 1919 (250 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS BK25</td>
<td>Journal, APR 1922- DEC 1928 (252 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS BK26</td>
<td>Journal, OCT 1923- OCT 1925 (150 pages)</td>
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</table>
F. E. GILLET PAPERS 1897-1936

MITCHELL-GILLET BUSINESS RECORDS

OS BK27    Ledger, AUG 1907-MAY 1911 (143 pages)
OS BK28    Ledger, JUN 1911- JUN 1916 (193 pages)
OS BK29    Ledger, APR 1913- DEC 1924 (600 pages)
OS BK30    Ledger, JUL 1915- JUL 1921 (144 pages)
OS BK31    Ledger, SEP 1923- DEC 1925 (250 pages)
OS BK32    Invoices, JAN 1914- DEC 1915 (126 leaves)
OS BK33    Invoices, DEC 1915- DEC 1917 (132 leaves)