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MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

DIVISION DES MANUSCRITS

REFORD, Robert, Company

MG 28, III 59

Finding Aid No. 998 / Instrument de recherche no 998

- Prepared by the staff of the
Economic-Scientific Section,
1976 and revised in 1979 and
1983

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la Section économique-scientifique
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Canada

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REFORD, Robert, Company (est. ca.1850). Shipping Agent.

Originals, 1852-1959. 3.8 m. Finding Aid No. 998.

The Robert Reford Company originated in a firm founded in Toronto by William Ross, which flourished in the 1850's. At first a wholesale grocery business with contacts in Canada East, Canada West, and the northern United States, the firm expanded into the carrying trade when it acquired and operated a fleet of Great Lake schooners. Around 1865 Ross sold the business to Jonathon Dillon, an employee, and Robert Reford, a partner in the William Strachan Company. In 1866 an office was opened in Montreal and a decade later the business was moved entirely to Montreal and changed its name from Reford and Dillon to Robert Reford Company.

Meanwhile William Ross had moved to Scotland where he took over the Temperley Line and converted it from sailing ships to steamships. Subsequently known as the Ross Line, it ran the first regular steamship service between London and Montreal, and the Reford Company was its Canadian agent. Later the Reford Company became the agent for the Donaldson, Thompson and Lord Lines. In 1913, Robert Reford died and was replaced as president by his son, Robert Wilson Reford.

About 1911 the Thompson Line was bought by the Cunard Line, and the Reford Company became Cunard's agent in Montreal. Cunard acquired a 25% interest in the Company in 1919, raising it to 50% in 1929. In 1929 the Company became agent for Cunard in Canada, with offices in Vancouver, Halifax and other cities. This arrangement was terminated in 1946, when Cunard established its own offices in Canada and sold its interest in the Company back to the Reford Family. Robert Wilson Reford's son Eric assumed the presidency of the Company in 1947.

Presented in 1973 by Mr. Eric Reford, Montreal, Que., and 1983 by Mr. Alexis Reford, Montreal, Que.

Books and pamphlets were transferred to the Public Archives Library and maps to the National Map Collection.

Finding Aid No. 998 is a shelf list of letterbooks and some account books and a file list of the remaining material.

Letterbooks, 1852-1913. Originals, 2.1 m (volumes 1-10).

The volumes contain an incomplete series of letterbooks which relate to the operations of the Robert Reford Company and its predecessors Reford and Dillon of Toronto and Montreal, and William Ross and Company, Toronto. There originally appears to have been a number of series of letterbooks which covered the private, foreign and local interests of the companies. There is, therefore, some overlapping in the dates covered by each volume. Most of the letterbooks came from Jonathon Dillon (including the Ross letterbooks) and W.I. Gear, a Vice-President. A letterbook relates to Robert Reford's activities as Chairman of the Royal Commission on Transportation, 1905-1907. Also included are some account books of the Robert Reford Company, and a small amount of loose correspondence.

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REFORD, Robert, Company (est. ca.1850). Shipping Agent.

Account books and record books, 1852-1959. 1.9 m (volumes 11-29, 31).

Books kept by William Ross & Co., Reford & Dillon and Robert Reford Company. Included are grain purchase books; ships' ledgers, giving details of ships, voyages and cargoes; freight engagement books, with details of voyages and cargoes; a telegraphic code book; account books from the Passenger Dept., Steerage Branch and Italian Branch; general ledgers, cash books, journals and sales books.

Miscellaneous and personal material, 1897-1931. 10 cm (volume 30).

Business correspondence; correspondence of Robert Wilson Reford concerning a report by W.T.R. Preston on shipping rates from Canada (1925); related material.

Robert Reford Company

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<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	William Ross & Co.	5 Nov. 1852 - 8 Feb. 1854
	2	William Ross & Co.	7 Feb. 1856 - 31 July 1856
	3	William Ross & Co.	10 June 1858 - 1 Nov. 1858
	4	William Ross & Co.	1 Nov. 1858 - 21 Mar. 1859
2	5	William Ross & Co.	21 Mar. 1859 - 5 Oct. 1859
	6	William Ross & Co.	5 Oct. 1859 - 14 Feb. 1860
	7	William Ross & Co.	14 Oct. 1860 - 25 June 1860
	8	William Ross & Co.	25 June 1860 - 6 Oct. 1860
3	9	William Ross & Co.	14 Feb. 1859 - 11 Jan. 1861
	10	William Ross & Co.	11 Jan. 1861 - 21 June 1861
	11	William Ross & Co., (letterbook-accounts)	9 Mar. 1861 - 29 June 1863
4	12	William Ross & Co.	2 Dec. 1861 - 23 May 1862
	13	William Ross & Co.	22 May 1862 - 3 Oct. 1862
	14	William Ross & Co.	3 Oct. 1862 - 16 Feb. 1863
	15	William Ross & Co.	17 Feb. 1863 - 30 July 1863
5	16	William Ross & Co.	21 May 1864 - 15 Sept. 1865
	17	Reford & Dillon, Toronto, Ont.	11 Apr. 1866 - 22 Jan. 1867
	18	Reford & Dillon, Toronto, Ont.	11 May 1866 - 10 Jan. 1867
	19	Reford & Dillon, Toronto, Ont.	10 Jan. 1867 - 10 June 1867
	20	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	15 July 1867 - 6 May 1869
6	21	Reford & Dillon, Toronto, Ont.	15 June 1868 - 20 Nov. 1868
	22	Reford & Dillon, Toronto, Ont.	16 July 1868 - 28 Nov. 1870
	23'	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que., (letterbook-accounts)	29 May 1868 - 19 Mar. 1884
	24	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	1 June 1869 - 21 May 1870
	--	Reford & Dillon, loose correspondence file	1868 - 1875

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	25	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	7 May 1869 - 1 Sept. 1871
	26	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	1 Sept. 1871 - 18 Sept. 1874
	27	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	28 Mar. 1874 - 5 June 1875
	28	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	18 Sept. 1874 - 26 May 1876
8	29	Reford & Dillon, Montreal, Que.	31 Mar. 1876 - 16 Oct. 1878
	30	Robert Reford Company	8 May 1876 - 7 Dec. 1877
	31	Robert Reford Company	24 May 1876 - 2 Mar. 1877
	32	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	2 June 1876 - 31 Oct. 1878
9	--	Robert Reford Company, loose correspondence	1883, 1901
	33	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	18 Feb. 1885 - 17 Sept. 1894
	34	Robert Reford Company, letterbook-accounts)	8 Oct. 1894 - 28 May 1895
	35	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	5 Oct. 1894 - 1 Mar. 1901
10	36	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	27 Aug. 1897 - 15 Mar. 1898
	37	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	29 July 1904 - 15 Feb. 1913
	38	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	19 Jan. 1905 - 12 Apr. 1907
	39	Robert Reford Company, (letterbook-accounts)	Jan. 1906 - 9 Jan. 1911

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
ACCOUNT BOOKS AND RECORD BOOKS			
11	1	William Ross & Co. Cash book	1852-1856
	2	William Ross & Co. Flour and grain purchase record book	1852-1860
	3	William Ross & Co. Grain book, showing transactions in wheat, barley and peas	1861-1864
	4	William Ross & Co. Pass book (Bank of British North America)	1862-1864
	5	Reford & Dillon, Cash book	1863-1869
	6	Reford & Dillon. Consignment book for "Jessie Drummond"	1864-1871
	7	Reford & Dillon. Ship's Captains' account book	1865-1871
12	1	Robert Reford Company. Arrival and departure book	1879-1885
	2	Robert Reford Company. Arrival and departure book	1886-1894
	3	Robert Reford Company. Arrival and departure book	1894-1900
	4	Robert Reford Company. Freight engagement book for Bristol	1879-1884
	5	Robert Reford Company. Freight engagement book for Glasgow	1879-1885
	6	Robert Reford Company. Freight engagement book for London	1880-1885
	7	Robert Reford Company. Freight engagement book for London, Glasgow and Leith	1916-1919

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
ACCOUNT BOOKS AND RECORD BOOKS			
12	8	Robert Reford Company. Ships' ledger,	1893-1896
(cont'd)		including data on individual ships and details on voyages and cargoes	
13	1	Robert Reford Company. Passenger Department. Journal	1910
	2	Robert Reford Company. Passenger Department. Journal	1914-1916
	3	Robert Reford Company. Passenger Department. Ledger	1910-1911
	4	Robert Reford Company. Passenger Department. Ledger	1910-1911
	5	Robert Reford Company. Shipping Office, Advice of freight engagements	1911
	6	Robert Reford Company. Steerage Branch. Ledger	1911-1912
<u>Oversize Account Books</u>			
14		Reford & Dillon. Sales Book No. 1	1866-1872
15		Reford & Dillon. Sales Book No. 2	1872-1876
16		Robert Reford Company. Accounting Office Statement Book No. 4	1910-1911
17	"	Robert Reford Company. Accounting Office Statement Book No. 5	1911-1912
18		Robert Reford Company. Bills receivable and bills payable	1886-1896

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
ACCOUNT BOOKS AND RECORD BOOKS (cont'd)		
19	Robert Reford Company. Bills Receivable and Bills Payable	1896-1929
20	Robert Reford Company. Cheque Book, Quebec	1942-1947
21	Robert Reford Company. Journal and Ledger	1886-1919
22	Robert Reford Company. Journal	1919-1959
23	Robert Reford Company. Ledger	1919-1959
24	Robert Reford Company. Sales Book No. 1	1876-1885
25	Robert Reford Company. Sales Book No. 2	1885-1886
26	Robert Reford Company. Sales Book No. 3	1886-1896
27	Robert Reford Company. Ship's Ledger	1896-1901
28	Robert Reford Company. Telegraphic Code Book	ca. 1904
29	Robert Reford Company, Italian Branch. Cash Book	1910-1911
"	Robert Reford Company, Italian Branch. Ledger (see also file 30-3)	1910-1911
<u>Transferred to Horizontal Storage</u>		
	Robert Reford Company. Arrival and departure sheets	1883-1912

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MISCELLANEOUS AND PERSONAL MATERIAL			
30	1	Donaldson Line of Steamers - Accounts and correspondence	1897-1901
	2	Donaldson Line of Steamers - Accounts and correspondence	1901-1905
	3	Italian Branch, Robert Reford Company, Manuscript Material found in ledger (vol. 23)	1901-1911
	4	Levis Graving Dock - Diagram, tariff	n.d.
	5	Personal Bank Pass Book and Account Book (Robert W. Reford)	1913-1916, 1931
	6	Report of W.T.R. Preston to Minister of Trade and Commerce on ocean freight and passenger rates from Canada - Clippings	1925
	7	<u>same</u> - Correspondence and memoranda (1)	1925
	8	<u>same</u> - Correspondence and memoranda (2)	1925
	9	<u>same</u> - Report of steamship lines	1925

LIST OF TRANSFERS TO OTHER DIVISIONS

Transferred to Public Archives Library

Canadian Government Railways. Storied Halifax [ca. 1917].

Reply of Steamship Lines engaged in the Canadian North Atlantic Trade to the Report made by Mr. W.T.R. Preston to the Minister of Trade and Commerce on Ocean Freight and Passenger Rates from Canada. n.d.

United Kingdom. Report of the Mission to British Columbia of Brig.-Gen. Sir Henry Page Croft ... and Mr. R.S. Dalgliesh .. to investigate the possibilities of community settlement for British immigrants to that Province in August 1938. Nov. 1938

Transferred to the National Map Collection

Accession No. 83402/11

	<u>Dates</u>
1. Canadian Pacific Railway. Town plans. Terminal lines maps and general information... <u>booklet containing plans of 30 towns and cities</u>	1919
2. Rand McNally & Co.'s indexed county map and shippers' guide to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island...showing in detail the entire railroad system...Chicago and New York, Rand McNally & Co.... 1900. <u>Booklet containing one map</u> Copyright 1898.	1900 (1898)
3. Map of the City and Harbour of Halifax N.S. 1"-800'.	1910
4. File. no. 70 Province de Quebec. <u>Seigneurie de Nicolas-Rioux</u> . Compagnie Aérienne Franco-Canadienne, Montreal. 40 chaines au pouce.	n.d.
5. <u>Lac Caribou and surrounding area</u> .	n.d.
6. Plan of the River Corneille, County of Saguenay	1902 (1891, 1899)
7. Plan & store. The Macintyre Block, Main St., Winnipeg, Man., Canada. 4 feet-1 inch. Robert E. Davies, Architect	n.d.
8. Plan of the City of Victoria. T. Napier Hibben	n.d.
9. Plano de la Habana. 1'-550m. On verso: (a) Plano do los Terrenos de la Compania Terminal Otanes. (b) Vista de los Almacenes Compania Terminal Otanes	1916
10. Clyde Navigation. Hand map of Glasgow Harbour and docks and guide to shipping berths. 1"-900'. Clyde Navigation Chambers, Glasgow.	1904 (1903)
11. Tyne Improvement Commission. Plan showing the Albert Edward Dock, Northumberland Dock and Commissioners' railways and coal shipping staiths. 1"-275'.	1903
12. Plan de la Ville d' Anvers et ses environs. Publié par Richard Huybrechts & Cie. ... 1"-250m.	1891