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POWER, Charles Gavan

MG 27, III, B 19

Finding Aid No. 1244 / Instrument de recherche no 1244

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POWER, Charles Gavan (1888-1968). Cabinet Minister.

Originals, n.d., 1900-1966. 24 cm. Photocopies,
1760, 1812-1820. 14 pages. F.A. No. 1244.

Charles Gavan "Chubby" Power was born at Sillery, Quebec on 18 January 1888. He attended Loyola College and Laval University and, after graduating practiced law in Quebec, Quebec. In February 1915 he enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and embarked for England in the same month.

In March 1915, Power was transferred to Divisional Headquarters where he served until April 1915, when he was appointed temporary lieutenant and posted to the 23rd Battalion. He proceeded to France in October 1915 and served successively as lieutenant, captain and acting major with the Royal Montreal Regiment. While in France, Power participated in the June 1916 Battle of Mount Sorrel and the Somme offensive of September 1916. He was wounded at the Somme and later received the Military Cross for bravery before being invalided home in August 1917.

Shortly after returning home, Power was elected to the House of Commons as the Liberal member for the riding of Quebec South, and he represented that constituency without interruption from 1917 until he was called to the Senate in 1955. Power entered the Cabinet as Minister of Pensions and National Health in 1935; he was appointed Postmaster General in 1939; and he held the portfolios of Minister of National Defence for Air and Associate Minister of National Defence from 1940 to 1944. He resigned from the Cabinet during the 1944 Conscription Crisis.

Power died in hospital at Quebec, Quebec on 30 May 1968.

Two maps transferred to the National Map Collection. Four photographs transferred to the National Photography Collection.

Finding Aid No. 1244 is a file list and a subject analysis of World War I letters.

Memoirs, 1900-1957. 10.5 cm (volume 1).

This portion of the working papers for Power's published memoirs contains draft chapters concerning his life and experiences to 1917; the topics covered are Quebec Nationalism, his political education to 1908, the Canadian Navy 1908 to 1911, Reciprocity 1911, his participation in World War I and his first election to the House of Commons in 1917. The research notes of, and Power's correspondence with, Norah Story, an employee of the Public Archives of Canada, document Power's political career from 1917 to 1944. Also included are the questions raised by Frederick W. Gibson, an employee of the P.A.C. and later a professor of History at Queen's University, when he read the draft chapters of the memoirs.

MG 27 POWER, Charles Gavan (1888-1968). Cabinet Minister.
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Scrapbook, 1902-1948. 4 cm (volume 2).

Letters, newspaper clippings, photographs and other miscellaneous manuscript material record the military careers of Power and his brothers, Frank and Joseph, in World War I, and his sons, Francis and Pendleton, in World War II. The political career of Power's father, William, is also highlighted. Other items of note include newspaper references to the work done by his wife, Rosemary, during World War II and a letter from Wilfred Laurier to William Power dated 4 May 1909 (1 page). Presented by Miss Norah Story in 1960.

Memoranda and Memorabilia, n.d., 1760-1966. 2.5 cm (volume 2).

Items of note are a 1962 pre-election riding analysis of the Quebec District and photocopies of various pre-Confederation documents. Transferred to the Public Archives through the National Library by Mr. F. Power in 1971.

Personal Correspondence, n.d., 1905-1934. 7 cm (volume 3).

The personal letters from Power to his fiancée Rosemary Pendleton, who he married in September 1912, range in content from the love letters of their courtship to those of a soldier fighting in the trenches in France during World War I. The wartime letters include Power's philosophy of life in the trenches, descriptions of the Battle of Mount Sorrel of June 1916, comments on the duties and responsibilities of an intelligence officer and a company commander and interesting comparisons of periods of relative calm with times of heavy bombardment. Presented by Mrs. Rosemary Cannon in 1980.

Charles Gavan Power

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<u>Volume</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	C.G. Powers, Memoirs, 1, Quebec Nationalism	n.d.
	2	C.G. Power, Memoirs, 2, Education for Politics, Youth to 1908	1900-1908
	3	C.G. Power, Memoirs, 3, A Canadian Navy	1908-1911
	4	C.G. Power, Memoirs, 4.	1911-1914
	5	C.G. Power, Memoirs, 5, World War I and the 1917 Election.	1914-1917
	6	C.G. Power, Memoirs, Members of the House of Commons.	1920
	7	C.G. Power, Memoirs Notes of Norah Story; Orders-in-Council; excerpts from Hansard.	1918-1944
	8	C.G. Power, Memoirs Notes by F.W. Gibson; correspondence with Norah Story	1952; 1956-1957
2	9	Scrapbook	1902-1948
	10	Honorary Doctor of Law from the University of Saskatchewan to C.G. Power	1966
	11	Photocopies of Pre-Confederation Documents	1760; 1812-1820
	12	Memorabilia; speeches; riding analysis for Quebec District, 1962.	n.d., 1936, 1961-1966

<u>Volume</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2 (cont'd)	13	Map of the city of Montreal	1952
3	14	Personal correspondence to Miss. Rose Pendleton.	n.d., 1907-1913
	15	Personal correspondence	1915
	16	Personal correspondence	1916-1917, 1934
	17	Photographs (photocopies)	1909-1910
	18	Postcards to Miss Rose Pendleton.	n.d., 1905-1909

Appendix A

The personal correspondence from C.G. Power to his wife, Rose, dated 30 March 1915 to 2 September 1916, touches upon many facets of a soldier's life in France during World War I. The following subjects have been commented upon either frequently or extensively:

i) Life and living conditions in the trenches:

8 and 9 November 1915 (15 pages).
12 November 1915 (14 pages).
18 April 1916 (7 pages).

- the illustration referred to in the letter of 12 November 1915 is located in the scrapbook, volume 2, file 9.

ii) Affects of tours in the trenches on soldiers' nerves:

16 and 18 October 1915 (10 pages).
20 October 1915 (6 pages).
30 April 1916 (4 pages).
3 July 1916 (6 pages).

- the poem referred to in the letter of 20 October 1915 is located in the scrapbook, volume 2, file 9.

iii) Philosophy of life in the trenches - a sense of humour is required:

16 and 18 October 1915 (10 pages).
6 April 1916 (4 pages).
13 May 1916 (12 pages).

iv) Clothing requirements and the ever present need for socks:

20 October 1915 (6 pages).
12 November 1915 (14 pages).

- brief requests for socks are made in most of the letters.

v) Opinions regarding people who did not enlist:

28 October 1915 (10 pages).
1 April 1916 (4 pages).
30 April 1916 (4 pages).

vi) Censorship of mail:

12 November 1915 (14 pages).

Appendix A (cont'd)

- vii) Necessity of receiving mail for the maintenance of morale:
 - 20 October 1915 (6 pages).
 - Power's personal need is present in most of the correspondence.
- viii) Duty of work parties while in reserve trenches:
 - 28 October 1915 (10 pages).
- ix) Officers' responsibilities when commanding at the front:
 - 18 April 1916 (7 pages).
 - 3 July 1916 (6 pages).
- x) Feelings toward French Canadians - at home and in France:
 - 8 December 1915 (6 pages).
 - 1 April 1916 (4 pages).
- xi) Encounter with a German soldier:
 - 21 May 1916 (6 pages).
- xii) Friendships formed and lost as the number of casualties mount:
 - 28 October 1915 (10 pages).
 - 15 and 16 June 1916 (3 pages).
 - 21 June 1916 (4 pages).
 - 3 July 1916 (6 pages).
 - 10 July 1916 (8 pages).
- xiii) Activities when not on a tour or in reserve:
 - 8 November 1915 (15 pages).
 - 13 May 1916 (12 pages).
 - 9 August 1916 (6 pages).
- xiv) Medical Corps and Hospitals - French and English:
 - 4 December 1915 (4 pages).
 - 5 December 1915 (2 pages).
 - 8 December 1915 (6 pages).

Appendix A (cont'd)

- xv) Descriptions of battles:
 - 28 October 1915 (10 pages).
 - relates a minor air battle.
 - 28 November 1915 (12 pages).
 - an artillery duel.
 - 5 June 1916 (2 pages).
 - 8 June 1916 (2 pages).
 - the Battle of Mount Sorrel.
- xvi) Readjustment that will be necessary after the war:
 - 6 April 1916 (4 pages).
- xvii) Physical drain of life in the trenches - trench foot, trench fever:
 - 8 and 9 November 1915 (15 pages).
 - 17 November 1915 (6 pages).
- xviii) Personality changes undergone by men at war:
 - 13 May 1916 (12 pages).
 - 10 July 1916 (8 pages).
 - 18 July 1916 (4 pages).
- xix) Contrast in the environment and men's attitudes between a period of calm and a time of heavy bombardment or fighting:
 - 13 May 1916 (12 pages).
- xx) Calibre of new recruits - officers and men:
 - 15 and 16 June 1916 (3 pages).
 - 10 July 1916 (8 pages).
- xxi) Devastation the result of bombing and occupation:
 - 16 and 18 October 1915 (10 pages).
 - 13 May 1916 (12 pages).