

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Gastonguay, Emile, 1886 -

Emile Gastonguay Papers, 1911-1932

MS 4-10

Records of the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company
at Thane and Chichagof Development Corporation,
1911-1932

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Emile Gastonguay was born in Lewistown, Maine in 1886. He received his education at a Jesuit Seminary in Quebec and electrical training at General Electric Company in Schenectady, N.Y., obtaining an honorary degree as an electrical engineer.

In 1913, D.C. Jackling hired Gastonguay as chief electrician for the Alaska Gastineau mine which was under construction at Thane. Jackling was a representative of Haydon, Stone and Company of New York, a financial backer of the mine. He was later in charge of the Salmon Creek and Annex Creek power plants of the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company.

THE DAILY ALASKA EMPIRE (Juneau) reported the closing of the mine on June 3, 1921. Emile Gastonguay continued working as manager of the power company and caretaker for mining properties which were involved in a lawsuit. There were disputes over boundaries and finally the properties became part of the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company.

While in the Juneau area, Mr. Gastonguay was active in the Juneau Chamber of Commerce, Elk's Lodge and was a 33rd degree Mason. He had an interest in some Chichagof Island gold mining development, but this venture did not do well. In 1929 he married his second wife and their two daughters were born in Juneau. The family moved from Thane to California in 1936. Mrs. Gastonguay lives with one daughter, Louise Graf in Sacramento. The other daughter, Diane van Gastel of Los Gatos, California, donated the photographs (PCA 119) and manuscripts in December 1978. Mrs. van Gastel provided the biographical information on her father.

The letter-press book, 1911-1912, of the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company was received by the library as a separate donation.

INVENTORY

- I. Alaska Gastineau Mining Company, Thane.
Records of expenditures and construction costs.
 1. Sheep Creek Division. Bill of material, five room cottage - A. May 2, 1913. 1 v.
 2. [Expenditures of the company from April 18, 1912 to Aug. 1, 1916.] 1 v.
 3. [Expenditures of the company. May 1, 1917.] Includes railroad, underground pocket, fine grinding and concentrating, retreatment and refinery, boarding house, shops, water supply, Salmon Creek, Annex Cr. 1 v.
 4. Detailed costs building and equipment. 5 v. (2 extra copies)
 1. Meat Market, Thane Club rooms 2 c.
 2. Power Houses no.s 1, 2, 3; Outlet Tunnel; Annex Creek; Pipelines, Annex Creek; Transmission Lines, Annex Creek; Sheep Creek railroad.
 3. Coarse crushing plant underground storage bin Thane, Boarding House; six bunkhouses; cottages and school house at Thane. 2 c.
 4. Mine - machine, blacksmith and carpenter shop equipment; mine compressed air plant equipment; mine underground equipment.
 5. Salmon Creek reservoir and dam.
- II. Data on the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company, paper mill possibilities and development of Salmon Creek dam. 2 v. (leather bound) and folder.
 1. Information on Chichagof Power Project, May 16, 1929; estimate of sale value of buildings and equipment at Thane withheld from immediate sale, Sept. 30, 1922 and Oct. 13, 1922, cost estimates for a paper mill sent to B. L. Thane, San Francisco from Management Engineering and Development Co., Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 18, 1922; consolidated balance sheet Alaska Gold Mines Company and Alaska Gastineau Mining Company, Sept. 30, 1923, etc.
 2. Diagrams, schematics and data relating to construction of Salmon Creek Dam; milling data, Alaska Gastineau Mining Company, 1916-1920; engineering material from magazines, etc.
 3. BRIEF REPORT ON PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION PLANT FOR SALMON CREEK POWER PROJECT DAM.

III. Alaska Gastineau Mining Company, Thane.

1. Letter-press book. March 31, 1911 through July 23, 1912. 1 v. (320 p.) Copies of business letters of company officials: John R. Mitchell, Supt.; C.C. Hayward, G.T. Jackson.

IV. Chichagof Development Company.

1. Correspondence, monthly report procedures and liquidation notice (Nov. 22, 1932). 4 items.