

U DX112

Travel Diary of Robert Arthur Taylor MP

1928

Biographical Background:

Robert Arthur Taylor was born in Manchester in 1886. His family moved to Lincoln when he was 7 and back to Manchester when he was 12. Aged 13, he became an office boy before going into the tailoring trade. He studied economics at Ruskin College, Oxford and returned to Lincoln in 1904, where in 1912 he set up a tailoring business with his brother.

From 1913-1918 he was returned as a member of the City Council by Park Ward, until he enlisted. After the war he was re-elected and represented Park Ward until 1930 when he was raised to the Aldermanic Bench. He became Labour candidate for Lincoln in 1918 and was the first Labour MP for Lincoln between 1924 and 1931. He was also the first Labour Lord Mayor of Lincoln.

In Parliament he worked to promote Anglo-Russian trade and in February 1928 he was the author of a bill to amend the Shop Hours Act, although this was eventually blocked. After his defeat in the parliamentary election of 1931 he became an organiser for the Shop Assistants Union. He died after a short illness in 1934.

Custodial history:

Copied with the permission of his daughter, Mrs A Walker, 12 April 1976

Description:

This collection contains one item, a photocopy of Robert Taylor's diary of his journey to the West Indies, Canada and America, in 1928. It provides an insight into both his opinions of the trip, the scenery and, at times, his political views. Although his trip appears to have included some semi-official meetings with and welcomes by prominent figures from the places he was visiting, it would seem that this was not an official business trip.

Extent: 1 file

Related material:

File. Robert Arthur Taylor (1886-1934). [U DLB/4/62]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX112/1 Photocopy of the diary of Robert Arthur Taylor MP
Photocopy of Robert Arthur Taylor's diary detailing his journey to the West Indies (Trinidad & Leeward Isles), to Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver), to America (Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle) and back to Canada (Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto). Includes a photocopied note from the depositor describing, in brief, the contents of the diary. The diary is handwritten and can be difficult to read. Robert Taylor gives his opinion of the people he meets, describes the events of the day and the scenery of the places he visits. He writes about meeting various local officials and businessmen whilst in the West Indies and attending the annual meeting of the Leeward Islands Legislative Council. He notes his horror at the living conditions of the poor in the West Indies, comments on the unemployment rates and labour conditions in San Francisco and becomes embroiled in a disturbance over the repatriation of British harvesters in Canada. Much of his journey is spent visiting family and friends. Some entries at the end of April are written by his wife, Laura, as Robert was too ill to write. Robert spent most of June in hospital and the entries for July through to August are dedicated mostly to his illness and treatment.
1 item

Mar-
Sep 1928