Guide to the Frank Roney Papers, 1870-1917 (bulk 1878-1886)

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Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 366

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Date Completed:
August 2004
Finding Aid written by:
Nicole Waugh and completed by Alison E. Bridger

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Frank Roney papers,
Date (inclusive): 1870-1917
Date (bulk): (bulk 1878-1886)
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 366
Creator: Roney, Frank, 1841-1925.
Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes Linear feet: 0.8
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Abstract: Contains materials given by Frank Roney to Ira B. Cross to complete his book, History of the Labor Movement in California, including correspondence, writings, materials relating to Roney's activities with labor organizations in San Francisco, clippings and ephemera. Writings include Roney's diary when he first arrived in San Francisco, the manuscript of his autobiography Frank Roney: Irish Rebel and California Labor Leader, and drafts and articles about the labor movement including anti-Chinese sentiment.
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog
Languages Represented: English
Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Frank Roney papers, BANC MSS C-B 366, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Related Collections
Ira Cross: California Labor Notes, BANC MSS C-R 12
Haskell Family Papers, BANC MSS C-B 364
International Workingmen's Association Records, BANC MSS C-A 306

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Roney, Frank, 1841-1925--Archives.
Federated Trades Council.
Iron Molders' Union of North America.
Knights of Labor.
Representative Assembly of Trades and Labor Unions of the Pacific Coast.
Workingmen's Party of California.
Pacific Coast League of Deliverance.
Iron Trades Council.
Iron industry and trade--San Francisco (Calif.).
Labor unions--California--San Francisco.
Labor movement--California--San Francisco Bay Area--History.
Chinese--Employment--California--San Francisco.
Manuscripts for publication.
Diaries.
Autobiographies.
Cross, Ira B. (Ira Brown), b. 1880.

Provenance
The Frank Roney papers were removed from the Ira Cross: California Labor Notes collection (BANC MSS C-R 12), which were given to The Bancroft Library by Ira B. Cross in 1933.

1841  Born in Belfast, Ireland on August 13th
1875  Settled in San Francisco, California in April
1877  The Workingmen's Party of California is formed
1878  Served as chairman of the executive committee of the Workingmen's Party of California
1880  Served as president of the Seamen's Protective Association
1882  Arrested for anti-Chinese propaganda activity for the League of Deliverance. Roney was tried and declared not guilty for misdemeanor charges in San Francisco on July 25th.
1885  Served as president of the Representative Assembly of Trades and Labor Unions of the Pacific Coast
1915  Completed his autobiography. Published in 1931, as Frank Roney: Irish Rebel and California Labor Leader.
1925  Died in Long Beach, California on January 24th

Scope and Content of Collection
The Frank Roney Papers, 1870-1917, consist of a selection of correspondence and writings given to Ira B. Cross to complete his book *History of the Labor Movement in California*. A substantial amount of this collection is material devoted to Roney's activities with various labor organizations in San Francisco. This material contains union meeting reports and printed circulars. There are also documents regarding a strike of San Francisco iron workers in 1886, led by the Representative Council of the Iron Trades. Roney's documented involvement with the League of Deliverance reflects the anti-Chinese sentiment apparent in the California labor movement during the late nineteenth century.

His writings include his diary (1875-1876) and a handwritten draft of his autobiography, later published as *Frank Roney: Irish Rebel and California Labor Leader* in 1931.

Box 1, folder 1

**SERIES 1: Correspondence, 1906**

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains 3 incoming letters that focus on Roney's role as president of the Representative Council of the Iron Trades in San Francisco, and 1 letter from Burnette G. Haskell in 1906, about history of the labor movement and seeking employment.

Box 1, folder 2

**Diary, 1875-1876**

**Drafts**

- Letter to editor of *Morning Call* about greenback issue [incomplete], undated
- History of the Workingmen's Party of California, undated
- *The Relations Socialists Should Bear Towards Other Reforms*, undated
- Miscellaneous fragments on labor issues, undated
- Proposed laws against Chinese, 1882
- Letter to editor of *Daily Report* about Federated trades, 1885
- Letter to Irving M. Scott about Iron Trades wages for unskilled workers, 1886
- *Frank Roney: Irish Rebel and California Labor Leader*, 1915

**Scope and Content Note**

Handwritten autobiography edited by Ira B. Cross.

Box 1, folder 3

**Letters to Ira B. Cross, 1917**

**Scope and Content Note**

**SERIES 3: Labor Organization Activities, 1870-1900**

**Arrangement**
Arranged alphabetically by organization

**Scope and Content Note**
Contains materials that document Roney’s role with various labor organizations in California given to Ira B. Cross to complete his book on the California labor movement. Organizations include the League of Deliverance, the Workingmen's Party of California, and Representative Council of the Iron Trades.

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<th>Box 1, folders</th>
<th>Hook and Ladder Company, 1870</th>
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<tr>
<td>12-21</td>
<td>Iron Molders Union, 1884-1885</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Knights of Labor, 1886</td>
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<tr>
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<td>League of Deliverance, 1882</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representative Assembly of Trades and Labor Unions of the Pacific Coast, 1880-1882</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representative Council of the Iron Trades, 1885-1886</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Seamen's Protective Association, 1880</th>
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<td>Vallejo Trades and Labor Council, 1900</td>
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<td>Workingmen's Party of California, 1878</td>
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<td>Box 1, folders 22-24</td>
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**SERIES 4: Ephemera and clippings, 1875-1906**

**Arrangement**
Arranged hierarchically

**Scope and Content Note**
Includes a membership certificate to the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows Lodge in Utah, and clippings relating to the California labor movement collected by Roney from 1878 to 1906.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, folder 22</th>
<th>Ephemera, undated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 23-24</td>
<td>Clippings, undated</td>
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