American Railway Express Company personnel files and rule books

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Descriptive Summary
Title: American Railway Express Company personnel files and rule books
Dates: 1918-1928
Collection Number: MS 527
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 1 half box
Repository: California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives
Sacramento, California 95814
Abstract: Personnel files and rule books.
Language of Material: English
Access
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Biography/Administrative History
The American Railway Express Company was created during World War I when the federal government took over operation of the railroads. The railroad-owned Great Northern Express Company, the Northern Express Company, the Western Express Company joined with the privately owned Adams Express Company, American Express Company, Wells Fargo Inc. and Southern Express Company to form (July 1, 1918) a single express company called American Railway Express Company. George Taylor, president of American Express Company, became president of the new company. After the war it proved difficult to return the companies to individual ownership. However, at the urging of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the railroads organized the Railway Express Agency which purchased the American Railway Express Company (March 1, 1929). •Bibliography: V.S. Roseman, RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY: AN OVERVIEW (1992).

Scope and Content of Collection
Personnel files include: applications for employment, letters of reference, and sometimes a photograph of the applicant. There are also American Express Company rule books and ephemera.