Belt, Robert V. Papers, 1885–1898. .33 foot.
Government employee and attorney. Five letter books (1885–1898) containing correspondence from Belt, an assistant commissioner of Indian affairs, to government officials regarding the administration of federal Indian policy and legal matters of his private law practice.

Box 1:
Letterpress copy of a 7-page typed memoranda regarding the state of American Indian affairs, possibly circa 1885. Topics briefly mentioned include: population given as about 260,000; conditions and conduct of Chiricahua Apaches, Cheyenne of Indian Territory, Nez Perce of Joseph's Band, and Paiutes; the conversion of a portion of Old Winnebago and Crow Creek Reservations to public domain via Executive Order, February 27, 1885; unlawful intrusion upon and invasion of the rights of Indians as a cause of Indians’ troubles; breaking up of tribal relations; citizenship; Indian youth; Indian Land Policy; and living conditions on reservations.

Letterpress Book I: July 28, 1885 - April 11, 1893
Letter copies listed in order by page number:
Page:
383    Robert V. Belt to E.D. Bannister, July 28, 1885. (tipped in before page 1)
388-9  Belt to Col. R.S. Gardner, July 28, 1885. (tipped in before page 1)

Page:
1      Belt, office correspondence
2-6    Belt, personal correspondence
7      Belt, office correspondence
8      Belt to Hon. John Oberly, March 6, 1886, regarding Oberly's position on the Civil Service Commission.
9-10   Office correspondence
13-14  Belt to The Herald Bureau, March 30, 1886, regarding article concerning Cherokee Land Strip and Treaty of July 18, 1866.
15-19  Belt, personal correspondence.
20-25  Belt, office correspondence.
26-27  Belt to Mr. C.C. Painter (Corresponding Secretary, Indian Rights Assoc.), August 3, 1886, regarding removal of Major Wright of Rosebud Agency, South Dakota; Bill for Relief of A.J. Carrier.
28     Belt, Office correspondence
29-30  Belt to J.C. Harkness, deceased, n.d.
31-35  Belt, personal correspondence.
36-38 Belt to Hon. H.M. Teller, February 8, 1887, regarding petitions to Senate for passage of the bill granting a charter to the Washington Cable Railroad Company.

39 Belt, personal correspondence.

40-42 Belt, Office correspondence.

43-45 Belt, personal correspondence.

46-52 Belt, office correspondence.

53 Belt, personal correspondence.

54 Belt, November 26, 1887, regarding employment of Indians in the Department of Interior.

55-57 Belt, personal correspondence.

58-64 Belt, office correspondence.

65-66 Belt, personal correspondence.

67 Belt, office correspondence.

68 Belt to Hon. J.K. Jones, June 20, 1888, regarding concerning enclosed memorandum on Oklahoma Country.

69-74 Belt, memorandum on Oklahoma Country, regarding portion of Oklahoma Territory ceded by Seminole and Creek Nations under and by Treaties of 1866.

75 Belt, personal correspondence.

76-78 Belt to Capt. R.H. Pratt, July 12, 1888, regarding Sioux Commission and Sioux Reservations.

79 Belt, office correspondence.

80-81 Belt to C.C. Painter, August 2, 1888, regarding Seger Colony of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in the Indian Territory and the Department's investigation of it.

85-86 Belt to Mrs. H.M. Teller, November 6, 1888, regarding Nooksack Indians and Lummi Reservation and memorandum on this.

87-88 Belt memorandum on Nooksack Indians.

89 Belt to Mrs. H.M. Teller, December 3, 1888, regarding education of Osage children by M.E. Church.

90 Belt to Hon. H. Price, December 4, 1888, regarding laws regulating selling of liquor in the Indian Territory.

91-95 Belt to Hon. James K. Prince, December 6, 1888, regarding extracts from treaties and laws regarding land ceded by Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in the Indian Territory.

100 Belt to Mrs. H.M. Teller, December 26, 1888, regarding educational provisions for Indians in Alaska.

101-110 Belt's length of service, capacity; history seeking position of Indian school; superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs.


118 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by ex-Secretary of the Interior I.J. Kirkwood.

119-120 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by L.Q.C. Lamar, Justice of Supreme Court and ex-Secretary of the Interior.

121 Signed letter of recommendation for R.V. Belt by H. Price, ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs.


149 Belt to George Bird Grinnell, April 17, 1889, regarding Grinnell's charges against Agent Baldwin of the Blackfeet Indian Agency.

173-175 Belt to Capt. R.H. Pratt, Supt. Carlisle Indian Training School, January 8, 1890, regarding Carlisle School.

200-201 Belt to Dr. D. Dorchester, Supt. of Indian Schools, April 4, 1899, regarding education of Pueblo and Apache Indians.

210-212 Belt to Dorchester, May 29, 1890, regarding Indian education.

240-242 Belt to Mrs. S.E. Coleman, January 3, 1891, regarding Belt genealogy.

282-291 Belt to his wife, August 11, 1890, regarding description of trip west through Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, California and San Francisco.

311-315 Belt to Dr. Dorchester, August 10, 1891, regarding Indian education, schools and school personnel.


324 Belt to B.H. Miller, November 23, 1891, regarding Murphy case, Fond du Lac Reservoir.

338-339 Belt to Sen. H.L. Dawes, May 13, 1892, regarding Dawes presentation of the Choctaw and Chickasaw case in the Senate.

342-352 Belt, memorandum on the Choctaw and Chickasaw case, May 28, 1892, regarding Indian Appropriation Bill of March 3, 1891 and history leading up to this bill.

367-368 Belt to Capt. Pratt, June 29, 1892, regarding Indian Appropriation Bill.

369-378 Belt speech "Our Country."

405-407 Belt genealogy.

431-433 Belt to Capt. William E. Dougherty, April 4, 1893, regarding Indian agent, etc., Round Valley Agency.

435-436 Belt to C.F. Meserve, April 7, 1893, regarding Civil Service of Politics and Indian School Service.

437-444 Belt, general correspondence, including his resignation, 1893.

Book II: April 13, 1893 - December 9, 1893
List of subjects and relevant page numbers:
2. Rights to cut timber on the reservation, 9-10.
3. Sac and Fox Indian lands, history of and claims, 16-20,191
4. Leasing of Kaw lands, 21, 22, 49-51, 182
15. Oto and Missouri Tribes, personal claims, 130-133, 220-224.
17. Sisseton and Wahpeton Indians of Devils Lake Reservation, restoration of Annuities, 177-178.
18. Cherokee, Carolina claims, 185-186.
23. General correspondence about notes and claims, 481-484.
24. General correspondence about contracts, services, and supplies for Indian agencies, 485-493.
25. General correspondence about claims and land patents, 494-500.

Box 2
Book III: May 1, 1895 - March 9, 1896.
General list of subjects covered:
1. Index of names, Round Valley Reservation, California.
2. Claims, contracts, annuities, timber rights, land rights, and patents.
4. Irregularities at Pine Ridge Reservoir, Capt. Chas. G. Penny; Mr. Cadman, Inspector; Mr. Dickinson, Special Agent. Charges presented by Dickinson against Penny as made by Howell Morgan; also involved in correspondence with George P. Comer and Mr. Smith.
5. Cherokee.
7. Pensions.
8. Clatsop and Tillamook Indians.
9. The state of accounts of various Indian tribes.
10. Eastern band of Cherokees in North Carolina, large amount of correspondence.
12. Choctaw freedmen.
13. Choctaw and Chickasaw freedmen.
14. Various Indian schools and education.
15. Letters to various senators concerning Belt's cases.
16. Oneida.
17. Dawes Commission.
18. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.
19. Sioux, various agencies, claims.

Book IV: March 11, 1896 - June 25, 1897
General list of subjects covered:
1. Index of correspondence by correspondent's names.
2. Wyandotte.
3. Sac and Fox.
6. Dawes Commission Bill.
7. Freedmen of Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations
8. American Indian schools and education.
10. Contracts
11. Law business
13. Penny case.
15. Dawes Commission.
17. Correspondence concerning Belt's attempt to gain appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in McKinley's administration.
18. Indian Trader's license.

Box 3
Book V: June 26, 1897 - October 22, 1898
General list of subjects covered:
1. Index.
2. Oto-Missouri.
3. Choctaw Freedmen and legislation.
4. Sac and Fox.
5. Cheyenne and Arapahoe.
7. Osage.
8. Omaha.
9. Chippewa.
10. Ute.
11. Indian schools and education, physical plants.
13. Correspondence to various Congressmen regarding Indian claims and legislation.