

Transcription of Interview with William Blenkhorn.

B. Jan. 17 1908. in Springhill.

father was 14 when he came to Springhill. he was born in Shulee.
at that time there were four mills at Shulee.

started in mine at 14. 'He was a man then.'

--started out driving a horse.

he got 60c a day.

other fellows got 45c.

1884 he started in the pit.

worked 60 years in the pit.
Thomas Blenkhorn.

big strike here. 1909-11. 22 months.

'I can faintly remember little things. Like wood--they were cutting, piling up wood, on the porch. You wouldn't be doing it if there wasn't a big strike. So I said one time, I remember one time boys put wood on the porch, and he said, that was in the big strike.'

three in his family.

lived on Clarence Street.

only three in the family, they were a little better off.

no garden--there wasn't enough room.

got to grade 8.

then decided he ought to go to work. father tried to talk him out of it. 'But you know how kids are.'

--becoming a man in grade eight.

'Imagine some of those little fellows starting to work at eight years old. My father-in-law told me he still believed in Santa Claus when he was working in the pit.'

--he was driving a horse for a delivery time--D.M. Smith hardware.
not working in the mines.
\$5 a week.

--around 20 when he went in the mine.

had a wood wagon as his first job. \$3.30 a day.

five or six years before he was a miner.

in Ontario after the bump--there for fifteen or sixteen years.

all during the big strike his father was on the town council. He was on strike himself. chairman of the police committee. he was against bringing the soldiers in--chief of police said he could handle it. 'Some of them had lines'-- story of the widows.

'If there was a labour man ran at all, he supported him.'

was president of the UMW probably. helped organize men in Ajax, Ontario.
--the teamsters, that's one of the best unions. 'It's the capitalists that don't like them. That's the best union you could get.'

on Bill Hayes; 'My father said he was one time--there was no union for a while, and he told me he was on the committee and they had to go and see the manager, Bill Hayes was a young man, he was a company hand's committee, and he said, he was just a kid, and he put up good arguments, you know. He was a natural. Just a natural.'

he was in the bump--buried up to his neck, he got out of that alive. Bruised up