

Transcription of Interview with Fred Casey.

Q. When were you born? A. 1890. 13th of April.
 Q. That makes you 89 this year. A. 89 this year.
 Q. Where you born in Springhill? A. No, I was born in Chignecto, but I was only about a month old when they moved here.
 Q. Was your father a miner? A. Yeah... When he was 53 he was killed in the mines. He just moved up here one year when he was killed... He was killed in 1921. Well, then I was the oldest one in the family, I had to take over and fix these buildings, they were all leaking, everything. There was an old kitchen along there, it was leaking. They tore that down, there was three other old buildings next to it, tore them all down, didn't need that anyway, we had lots of room. Had to start to work and shingle the house here, it was leaking. And there was two big barns there, I had to shingle them.
 Q. Have you lived here on Mechanic Street all your life? A. Oh no, we moved here in 1920.
 Q. Where did you live before that? A. Chapel Street.
 Q. Was it a big house? A. No, not as big as this. There was a seven-room house, I think it was. This is a ten-room house here.
 Q. How many people were there in your family? A. Well, altogether there was twelve of us... One fellow died, he was only five weeks old. And I had a brother killed in the mine, too. 1914.
 Q. How many brothers did you have? There were five boys... then there was two girls... then there was another boy, two boys after that.
 Q. Where did you fit into the family? A. I was the oldest.
 ...

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[comments on the P.W.A.: 'I don't know if you could call it a union or not when they first started here. They had a union called the P.W.A. But the head man of the union was a shareholder of the coal company, in Cape Breton.... Boys under 16 didn't belong to unions. When you were 16 you had to belong to it.']

[father's health: 'He had asthma pretty heavy in the last few years that he lived. There were lots of times that he couldn't work... once he got down in the mines he was alright, change of air.']

Q. Had he been a miner all his life? A. He started when he was 11 years old, at River Hebert. Then when they started mining at Chignecto he moved up there.
 Q. Did he ever tell you what it was like, in the early days of River Hebert? A. No, him and his brother decided to go to Cape Breton one time, in 1893, they were blowing it up, what a great place that was, so they decided to run down, and they worked at a place, a mine they called Ligan. Well they had company stores there, you see. And you had to deal at the company store, you bought all your clothes at that place, work clothes and everything. And the company owned the big boarding house. Your boards were checked off your pay. And at the end of the fortnight, you was lucky if you had anything in the envelope. They stayed there three months, and they were going behind all the time, so they had to borrow money to come back home....]

[entry of the U.M.W. in 1908 or 1909: everything changed in Cape Breton, "everything changed down here too."]

[bought his house through the building society. Halifax building society. had an agent in Springhill--used to collect \$3.00 a month--3 per cent interest. never lived in a company house, lived in his own house.]

[company rented houses too--\$2.75 a month.]

['The last house we was in, down on Chapel Street, we used to pay \$300 for it--\$3.00 a month, and \$3. a year interest.]

['You had to pay \$3.00 per month rent anyway.']

--well -built houses, says Casey, but they had no basement--built right on the ground.

'I started in the mine when I was fourteen...well, there was nothing else here, unless you got out of town. Outside of town, you could get work most anywhere, lots of work....I started in the coal mine, I stayed with it. And I worked in the coal mine for 43 years.

Q. What was your first job in the mine? A. Pushing down coal, shoving down coal. On steel sheets.... Two men used to work together in a place,.... They used to put boys shoving down coal, you see, like I was only 14 and there were boys 14, 15... some of them maybe 12.

Q. What year did you start work? A. 1904--fourth of July.

Q. Did you ever work as a trapper boy? A. Trapper? Oh, I could have had that job steady, but I didn't want it. I thought it was too long a day there, nothing to do much--just open the door, shut it... So I didn't stay at it, and I got after the boss for a job with a little more working....

Q. Do you remember the boys going on strike? A. In the first year I started, there was 23 strikes that year. Boys used to tie her up for a day or two.

Q. Did the miners think the boys were doing the right thing? A. Oh yes, sometimes they'd shift a boy around to another job, you know, and didn't want to be shifted or something, and he wouldn't take it, they'd stop his lamp. Well, when they stopped his lamp the whole thing stopped.

Q. How long did these strikes last? A. Oh, they'd only last a day or two.... Company would cave in....

Q. They'd always cave in, would they? A. They had a big demand for coal then, you know.

Q. They didn't have too much choice? A. No.

...

Q. How long did you shove down coal? [Seven or eight months]

[down at the lower level he was pulling the rag--long piece of canvas, put a ton of coal on that and pull it down three hundred feet.]

[two of them pulling a rag--four boys altogether.]

[If you had coarse coal you put it on the bottom of the rag, you see, and you'd pin it up with nails--you could sit on it and ride down.... Your work was pulling that up again, that's a pretty heavy thing to pull up. And it would be about 20 feet long, I'd say....]

[after pulling the rag, after the big strike--the Dominion Coal Co. takes over.]

[when new company comes in: 'They sent a manager here from Cape Breton--Bill Wilson. He was supposed to be an overseer or something. Bill Matthews was the manager at the time... He come up the chute and found out how many young men and boys had their papers, mining papers. He put them on the coal, if they had them. The way it was there, there used to be two old men work together, see. Well, them pillars was all the way from 40 to 50 to 60 feet long, and they start digging this coal and shovel it down, and you'd have to shovel that coal four or five times till you got down to the box to load it.... Well, I got working with my uncle and I says, "There must be an easier way than that to get the coal down." He says, "I don't know how," he says. Well, there's some fan-pipes and an old head in there, I'll get them, ... [so he uses pipes like a giant slide for the coal on its way down. coal used to slide pretty good on them, that would save a lot of work.]

... My uncle says, 'You'll be sacked,' 'That's all right,' I says, 'I'll take the blame for it.' I wasn't particularly worried, sacked or not, because I could pick up a job any place. But he was an older man and I suppose he was... these pipes, the company never used to take them out, they used to buy new ones all the time, they had a man here who made the pipes, Weatherbee. They used to buy them from him, they could buy them from him cheaper than they could make them themselves. They had a man out there at the blacksmith shop making pipes for them and it used to cost them pretty near twice as much.... Well, these pipes that they put up these heads, they never bothered taking them down anyway, so... no harm in using it.

Q. Did they agree with you on that? A. No, they... the boss came over a couple of days after and he seen this, much more coal coming out, let us go ahead, they all started it then.... All my uncle had to do was dig the coal and shovel it on these pans, they'd come down and ... they had these guineas, they were small boxes, they used to take three of them for a ton of coal. [ginney]s.... You shoved that three, four hundred feet and dump it into a chute. And these two men used to be together, the best they could get out was thirty of these ginneys a day. They'd be played out, they could hardly walk out the levels. Their legs would give out, see. One man would be on a ginney till 11 o'clock, then the other fellow would take over. He'd be done at 2 o'clock. By putting the young man on, his legs wouldn't give out, see? They'd be just as fresh [...] Never bothered me. No. I didn't feel a bit tired, not as tired as I did coming down and pulling the rag.... Now, on steel sheets, walking on steel sheets, it's not that easy walking.

Q. Was this mostly in No. 2 mine? A. No, I started in No. 3 first. And it caught fire and--took fire there in 1907--and they double-shifted No. 2, and they put the men in No. 2. Well, then they started that No. 3 mine again, after a couple of years. And some of us went back then. But after that it caught fire in the pipe slope, you see it's about six hundred feet down, they put so much water down there, they never thought it would go any lower. Take an awful lot of pumping to pump that out.... It was the old timber that caught fire. See, they had steam pumps then, one time, ... and about sixty pounds of pressure in her. Used to run them pumps on steam, you see. When this Dominion Coal Company took over, they took the steam all out. They'd built an air compressor outside, and they used to compress their air, and run everything by compressed air.

Q. Which would have been better, I suppose? A. Oh, it was a lot better, a lot cooler.

- Q. Do you remember anything about the early managers of the mine, like J.R. Cowans?
A. Oh, J.R. Cowans, he owned the mine.
- Q. What did you think of him? ... He owned the mine, and then there was Chris Hargreaves.
- Q. He was the underground manager, wasn't he? A. No, he was the general manager. They sent to England for him. He come from England.... He'd come down the mine every day.... Oh yes, he was a nice, old fellow.... Well, you see, in the early days, you wouldn't get a raise, you had to go and see him. You wouldn't go in a crawl [?], you know.... I went down to see him one day for a raise, I was only getting 61 cents.... Oh, he says to me, said, "You're pretty small," and he took and picked me up, put me on the desk, and I said, "The money's pretty small, too." Oh, he says, "Alright," and he wrote me out a paper, he said, "You go and take this up to the timekeeper, ..." Oh, he give me ten cents more, or come to 73 cents altogether--paid a percentage, 22 per cent....
- Q. So you were paid a percentage over and above your previous rate? A.... So I got 73 cents.
- Q. Were most of the boys paid a datal rate? A. They all got paid day's pay, yes. Only them that on the coal got paid by the ton. They got fifty cents a ton.... After they changed around, they put a young man with an old man, and they come up about five tons a day for each man.
- Q. So you were saying they used to have two old men working together, and then when Dominion Coal came in, everything changed? And that really made a difference?
A. You see, it was too heavy a work for an old man, pushing and shoving and loading them ginneys. Push it out about three hundred feet.... But a young man, it wouldn't particularly bother him.
- Q. What older man were you working with? A. He was about, I'd say, around 55, and I was 21.
- Q. Did you get on pretty well together? A. Oh yes, we got on together.
- Q. Do you remember what his name was? A. Luke, Luke Casey.
- Q. Was he a relative of yours? A. Uncle.... I wasn't supposed to go with him, but he asked the boss, let me go in with him. See, that [seam] was only four feet high there, you see, and you take a big man in there, you had your road laid, and you had your timber up, and you... you didn't have more than three feet height.... And a big man was--it would be pretty hard on him, because it would scrape the skin off his back.
- Q. Was it hard on you? A. No, no.... I wasn't too tall...
- Q. You had about three feet of working space? A. Four feet, ... while you was working pushing out your box, or your ginney, you were laying the road down, and that took up four or five inches, and then your booms took up another four or five inches. That's all the height you had.
- Q. Sounds like you'd get a sore back, stooping over all the time. A. No, never bothered me.
- Q. Did it bother other people? A. Some of them used to have sore backs, but I didn't.
- Q. Do you remember anything about the big strike from 1909-11 and when the UMW first came into Springhill? A. I remember them trying to come in, I believe it was 1908. ... They had about 10,000 men in the union in Nova Scotia.
- Q. Were you in favour of the UMW at that time, or were you in favour of the PWA?
A. Oh, no, I didn't belong to any... I didn't join the PWA at all. Oh, no, I didn't belong to any... Well, you didn't have to under 16, but even after 16, I never joined it. They didn't force you to.
- Q. Did you have an opinion about it? Did you think the UMW was wrong to come in? A. No, it's not that at all. But they didn't win out anyway.... 'Cause, you see, they were bringing them in by the boatload in Cape Breton. 'Course the men they bring in here, they--the men in the UMW would take them out, and camps there--they'd put them in, and they'd say, "Stay here awhile and we'll let you get out." ... They're wasn't many here that was working, strikebreakers you call them, couldn't go, in here. It's all different work altogether here, you see, it's all hand-pick work. There was a lot here who couldn't make their salt. It's the way you work this coal.
- Q. You need to be pretty skilled to do it? A. Yeah. After the 1891 they wasn't allowed to shoot in Springhill, see.
- Q. Not much powder in the mine? A. No powder in the mine.
- Q. So that made it a lot harder for the strikebreakers? A. Yes. ... See, this coal here, especially in No. 2, it run in big lumps, and you couldn't just pick the coal out and get any amount of coal, you see, because you had to know just how to do it. You had to go in behind the lump, you had to... maybe work an hour or so, get a little soft place maybe about that wide, dig right in till you got to the back of it, like that lump [lead??] would be maybe five or six feet thick. And when you got to the back of that, you got ten or twelve foot prop, and three or four men would get on to it, and pull on it, and pull it out. You couldn't break that lump in the face, you had to pull it away from the face, ... it would break easy after it goes out, you see.... Some places you'd have to mine underneath, you couldn't do it... You had to watch your....
- ...
- Q. Do you remember how much money you received from the United Mine Workers during

- that big strike? A.They spent a million and a half dollars in Nova Scotia.
- Q.How much money would each man receive? A.Each man would receive two dollars a week, and his wife got a dollar, and each child got fifty cents.
- Q.Was that pretty good money? A.It was then. We got forty-four dollars at our place, per month....It wasn't too bad. And they provided the hard wood and every three months they'd give you what they call a clothing order,
...
- Q.How old were you in 1909? A.19 when we come on strike, I think.
- Q.You were still living with your family? A.Yeah....
- Q.Was it a fairly exciting time or was it a quiet time? A.Oh, it was quiet around here....Anybody could go outside and work, you know, at different...A lot of men went to Joggins, coal mining, they worked there, they...shipped coal in big quantities there. And a lot of our men went down there. And they still got their orders up here. And the union. Some of the boys got a plaster quarry, they had a plaster quarry going up in Maccan, and they had the shoe factory going in Amherst, and they had Rhodes and Curry--they had a big lumbering business up there, building cars and box cars and everything--they worked up there, a whole bunch of them.
- Q.Did you work there? A.Yeah, I worked at all them things.
- Q.What did you think of that compared to coal mining? A.Well, it wasn't hard work, but there were long hours--you had to work ten hours up there.
- Q.In the coal mine how long did you work? A.We only worked eight....seven sometimes.
...
- Q.Did the company agree with this? A.As long as the coal got out, they didn't mind. Of course the mines used to hoist from seven o'clock in the morning until half-past five, see. Some of the boys had to stay ten hours, them that was chain runners and all them fellows. They all worked ten hours. But anybody that was shovelling down coal or loading or miners...they'd come home at about three o'clock.
- Q.So when you went to work at Rhodes Curry, how did people think about you there? Were the workers at Rhodes Curry a little bit worried that the miners might take all their jobs? A.They didn't think we was doing right by being on strike up there, cause they had no union....They were working for awful small pay up there.
- Q.So you don't think they were very strong union men? A.No.
- Q.Later on they were. A.Oh, later on, yes. All we got up there was \$1.35 a day. Amherst.
- Q.Did many of the miners work during the strike? A.Oh, quite a few of them worked around.
- Q.Did many of the miners go a long way away during the strike? A.Well, some of them went out west and stayed out there. Some of them were killed out there. ...But you see, there was a lot of men left here in the 1920s, when the No.2 mine started to bump and...a lot of them left.
- Q.But up until 1920 most of the men were staying around Springhill? A.Yeah. After 1891, mine explosion, they were short of men--and they sent men up to New Brunswick and they come down with a hundred, I think a hundred men down and...they hired them all.
- Q.So they brought in a lot of New Brunswick men after the '91 explosion. A.They had a lot of New Brunswick men, yeah. A lot of them used to work in the mills, some of them never had no jobs at all, just worked on the farms, you know....
- Q.And from what you were saying, it must have taken a long time before those men became real miners. A.Yeah, you had to work there a long while before you got used to it.
- Q.How long did it take you to become a skilled miner? A.Oh, it didn't take me very long....
- Q.When did you get your papers? A.Well, you could get your papers before you start mining. Got [first] papers and then you were supposed to work a year with a miner, experienced miner, before you got the second. But they didn't do that...they didn't give me papers before I started to work at all in the coal mines....
- Q.When did you become a full-fledged miner in your own opinion? A.Well, that was a couple of years....But you see the difference is the coal there, the seam of coal that I started in, that was a...the North Slope, No.3 Mine they called it, they had a top seam and a bottom seam. I started in the bottom seam. They didn't do too much work on the top seam, because that coal was awful hard. You'd only go in far enough for airways. Two men could only dig two boxes of coal a day there. It's that hard.
- Q.You're not going to get too rich...A.No. Well, they put them on day's pay, \$2.44 a day. And where we was working, one man could dig as much coal as two men could load. It was soft, you see. Coal was soft. It was a matter of getting it out.
- Q.So how much would you have been making as you got to be a coal miner? A.Well, we was making all the way from \$3.00 to \$5.00 a day.
- Q.Pretty good money for the time. A.Oh yes, it was good money then.
- Q.The company always said you were making such good money, why complain all the time? Why all the strikes? A.Well, you see, the company used to have--whenever you was out on strike or wanted more money, they'd tell you how much coal you was producing. They'd tell you was only producing one or two tons per man. Well, they were figuring in all the officials and all whole [duffs?] that they had in, you see....
- Q.Wasn't there an issue called "local stone" as well? A.Well, some places, they had

local stone, and other places they hadn't any stone at all.

Q.Was that ever a problem with you? A.Oh, no, I used to pick it out. We were supposed to pick it out anyway. But there was some fine stone that you couldn't get out, see? ...They'd get after you about that. But then they put in a washing plant, they used to wash that right out, you see.

Q.Do you remember any strikes about local stone before the big strike of 1909? A.Well, the miners wanted pay for the local stone. They got paid for local stone in tight work, they wanted to get paid for it in pillars. Company didn't want to pay it, there, local stone in pillars. You never got paid for it.

Q.Do you think the men were right or the company? A.Well, I don't know. You could... at local stone, if you worked it right, you could get that local stone out without mixing it up with the coal, anyway. I used to take that off first and shovel it away.

Q.So it wasn't much problem for you? A.No. But other men wouldn't care, they'd just pull away at it, and let it all go together, all rolled up together. Well, it's pretty hard to pick it out.

Q.That fits with what you were saying earlier, about miners' work being pretty skilled, and some men having a hard time picking it up....Did you leave home at a certain point and set up on your own? A.No, I always stayed.

Q.After the strike, you went back to work in the mines. Did it make a lot of difference when the new company came in? A.No, it was better for the company hands. The company hands all got the same pay. They had different rates under Cowan--sixty cents, seventy cents, eighty cents, ninety cents, a dollar. Well, this Dominion Coal Company paid them all \$1.52. And your company hands are men...[?] But the miners got cut, they lost 12 per cent.

Q.I bet the miners weren't too pleased with that. A.No, they weren't.

Q.Maybe among the workers there were some workers who thought that would be a good thing and some who thought it was a bad thing. A.Yes.

Q.Was there ever an argument in the union about whether the miners should be getting this cut? A.Oh yes, they were arguing all the time....Oh, the miners of Springhill got better conditions after the big strike, because they had some hard places, you know, and different sections of the mines, and they wasn't making much, so there was five hundred that put in their resignation to quit after the big strike, you know, so the big boss came up from Cape Breton to find out what was wrong, D.H.McDougall, and there was places on the west side of No.3 that was pretty hard, you'd could get three-four boxes of coal a day and manager wouldn't pay them any consideration. Oh, he comes along and says, "Well, we'll pay a dollar eighty or something a yard, he gives us five dollars a yard, so much more a ton...

Q.Quite an increase. A.Yeah. So the men were satisfied, they made a fair wage, and the men stayed. These fellows, these officials that belong here, they were the bunch from Cowan. No...Some of these hard places, they'd get so bad, once they got through that, it was alright. It was like the pay, see. You'd strike in hard places.

Q.Did you ever work in a hard place like that? A.Yes, I did....You couldn't get the same amount of coal, you see....Coal was stuck on the bottom....Some of the bench would get pretty hard, you know. Sometimes there'd be stone in it. You'd have to take that up. But sometimes those bands [of stone]--you'd go for a little way, maybe a hundred feet, and you'd be all out of it, you see? ...

...

Q.Were you here during the First World War? Springhill was a patriotic place, was it not? A.First World War, there was a lot of them signed on, well...They had a military board...at that time, they told us, they wouldn't take no more from the mines. They even sent to England, sent some men back from England to work in the mines. They had quite a job to get them.

Q.Because they thought mine production was so important?...A.Yes. Well, you see, they was bunkering ships in Halifax, there.

Q.They needed all the coal they could get? A.Well, they used to come around and try to get you to load a box or two more a day if you could, you see.

Q.There was a strike during the war about the Germans in the mine? Do you remember that? A.Oh yes, there were Germans, Austrians, all different nationalities.

Q.What did the other workers think about them being in the mine during the war? A.Well, they got along pretty good with them for awhile. It was quite a while before they got on to them. A lot of them used to work on the coal--they used to do company work and shift work and something like that....

...

[On the strike during the First World War]...We was pretty well acquainted with them fellows, we didn't think they'd do any harm, but...There was a lot of them thought they would, ...Well, ...they didn't want them...to have our kind of a lamp, you see, these lamps that we had, you could open them, see.

Q.Were there a lot of immigrants here?...[general answer then:] When they first started longwall, the company had brought in fifty men, I think, from Scotland, to start longwall, and they wanted more men--I don't know what they wanted more men for, because they had all the men they needed.

Q.When did the company start longwall? A.I believe they started longwall in 1923.

...

Q.What did the men think about that? Did they like it? A.Well, not that they liked it, but they had to do it, I guess. They recommended it....

Q.Do you remember a man called Seaman Terris? A.Oh, Seaman, yes. He was a socialist too....

Q.They had quite a rôle to play in the union? A.Yes....

Q.How long did you support your mother after your father died? A.Well, she died in 1956...

...Of course she got compensation, didn't amount too much....the compensation board of Halifax, there. They paid at that time thirty dollars....that was pretty small, even then. Even 1921, the cost of living wasn't that small.

Fred Casey's sister told me that after his father died, Fred struggled very hard to look after the place--all the animals--chickens, cows. etc. It was very hard to take care of the farm and mine at the same time. He never married, but took care of his family.

[Casey seems to be a good example of how an accident in the pit can condemn future generations as well as ruin the present one.]

I was quite awhile..I didn't want to go in the longwall, I'd sooner work tight work. Of course, tight work was more liable to bump than longwall, at that time. But I worked on the tight work as long as I could. Two men worked together.

Q.Was there quite a bit of tight work even after they'd brought in the longwall system? A.Oh yes. They'd keep driving levels and heads, you know.

Q.And you'd really rather do that? A.Yeah.

Q.Was there less supervision under tight work? A.Yeah. Two men worked together.

Q.So you wouldn't be bossed as much? A.Oh well, the boss never used to come around much anyway, in longwall or anywhere. You got paid for the ton, anyhow. So much for your timbering.... The first longwall I worked in, they drove that level in, the 8100 they called it, drove that in, and I went in that wall after it was drove in, that level went in a mile and a half or a little better, and we started in there, longwall. We had local stone in there, that was quite a problem. After we got clear of that, we had all coal. It wasn't much of a problem. There was some hard places in that wall, they used to pay us for hard bench, you know. And then you'd shovel coal away into the pan, if it was over ten feet, they'd pay you a dollar ten per man to shovel it out...

Q.I've heard men complain about being on the dead shift, where all you had to do is shift pans a lot. There was a lot of work involved in that, wasn't there?

A.Yeah. We done that on the 11 o'clock shift....They was pretty heavy, them pans, to shift. All steel, about twelve feet long.

...
Q.Can you tell me what kind of things you did when you were'nt working? What kind of things did you do for fun? A.We never had too much time.

Q.Did you ever play any sports?

[Casey breaks down at this point]

A.There was always something to do.

Q.You liked Springhill? A.Oh yes, I liked Springhill.

...
Q.What was it like at school? A.Oh, it wasn't too bad going to school. I liked it, going to school. Then you'd get up to a certain grade, you should do something else, see?

Q.Is that what everybody did? A.Most of them, around here....

Q.Did you learn anything at school that was useful later on? A.No, not very much. Read and write and figure a few figures.

...
Q.When did your father stop working? A.Well, he was killed in 1921. Killed in the mines....

Q.Did you have a hard time making ends meet? A.Well, we struggled along.

...
A.Well, I guess it was all work, whatever you done.

...
Q.Were you ever a member of any clubs? A.Well, I did belong to the CMBA at one time. ...I wasn't in it very long. There was a fellow coming along here selling life insurance....Bunch of them get together, and get into big arguments.... I didn't think much of that.

Q.You were a Catholic?...Was there much religious feeling in Springhill between Protestants and Catholics? A.Oh no, they'd all get along together.

...
Q.Did people take politics pretty seriously? A.Oh, they'd argue about that one, I'll tell you.

Q.Were you strongly interested? A.Well, the first vote I had was in 1911, Liberals and the Conservatives had an election that year. And before that, the Conservatives were in before that--they had surveyed a railroad from River Phillip right through to Athol, this railroad was supposed to run on North Street, go down that way, right through to Athol. That would mean the railway was running through the town. The Conservatives said all the engineering done and all the sleepers laid for the rails to go on, and when the election was over, the Liberals went in--that was the time Wilfred Laurier was elected--that was all scrapped....

Q.Were you active in politics? A.No, it didn't matter to me....They told me I was a socialist.

Q.Were you a socialist? A.No, they used to call me that.

Q.There were socialists in Springhill? A.I used to say there was no difference between the two [Liberals and Conservatives].

Q.There were some socialists in Springhill, weren't there? A.Oh yes.

Q.Did you know any of them? A.Jules Lavenne, he was a socialist, one time....

Q.Did you like him? A.Oh, yes, he was a friend here.

Q.What did most people think? A.Well, he didn't get along too good here, because there wasn't many socialists around, anyway.

Q.Why was that? A.Well, a lot of these come from Belgium and them places....They wanted to do away with religion and everything.

Q.People would think that was going too far? A.Going too far, with the joke, yeah.

surely a ref to news?