

TRANSCRIPTION OF INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH DAUVIN.

b. Marc innelle, Belgium.
near Charlevoix.

came to Canada, 1904.

his father decided this would be a better life. a lot of
advertisements for Canada.

five in the family when they came over.

12 years old, when they emigrated.

b.1892.

settled at Chignecto.

he had worked in Cape Breton before going to Chignecto.

father came over first to Cape Breton--he sent for them to come to
Chignecto.

'I didn't feel too good about it, to tell you the truth. Right around here,
there wasn't too much, a lot of wood.'

paid about \$2 a day. around there.

Maritime Coal Company in chignecto at that time.

75 or 100 men at that time.

--mine in Belgium was much larger. Wages were a little lower.

--father made five to six francs a day.

--some of the Belgian miners in Chignecto had come from the same
area in Belgium.

--there were Germans.

--young fellows got along with the fellows better.

--his parents were Walloons.--French-speaking Walloons. different dialect that
normal French.

--Belgians: some were Catholics, some were Protestants.

250-300 people in Chignecto at that time.

company housing prevails--cheap rent. \$2-\$3 a month. no electricity at all.

village was electrified when the power plant was put in.

company houses: some double and some single. over 100 houses.
all spread out through the town. also had acompany store.

--Dauvin liked it there. a lot of fun. a lot of fishing, hunting in the fall.

Transcription of an Interview with Mr. Dauvin.

started out on trapping doors.

paid 60c a day for a ten-hour day (and sometimes more)

had to be down the mine at 7 o'clock and sometimes you didn't get out before 5 o'clock.

did those jobs couple of months. then went driving horses. 70c a day for that.

went loading coal; got \$1.50.

went loading coal for his father. a little hard to work for your own father.

'Papa was pretty good...You'd learn your trade, you see?'

--'I worked there, and from there we went into Joggins--that's where I started digging coal.'

--at Chignecto he only got up to loading coal for his father--he was getting \$1.50.

on day's pay at Chignecto when he was loading.

--then went to the Joggins--1910.

--worked in No.4 at the Joggins; then No.5.

--Lower Cove Road in the Joggins.

worked in the Allan Shaft in Pictou Co.--he "didn't like that." doesn't like shafts at all.

'You didn't go down there--they threw you down.'

shaft would go down awful fast.

whole family went up to Pictou Co. altogether--up to Stellarton. Again, lived in a company house.

his brother was killed in Chignecto--1907. he was running the cage--some way or other he was struck.

then to Joggins, then to Chignecto.

explosion in Chignecto. there were two explosions. in the first explosion, he was in it. gas explosions.

explosions in 1910. 'You can see the fire flying.'

'But the guy that was working with me, he was driving a horse and I was helping him. And I got blowed against the air and he got blowed right into the air.

He was burned--oh! you could pick up the cooked flesh. Oh, poor fellow.

I'd sooner not talk about that.'

after this he got a job in the Joggins.

most of his working life was in the Joggins.

worked in pretty near all the mines around the Joggins.

--worked in a "kind of a bootleg mine" in this district.

worked in Fundy. 'You work in so many mines, you get kind of mixed up, you know.'

make any where from three to four dollars.

retired from work 1954. and stayed in Joggins until five years ago.

--Italians, Russians, French, Belgians, pretty well mixed up there.

Hottentot; he lived right above it. 'There were some rough times there.'

'The Hottentot--that was a hot place....On Saturday night I'd never go up that road at all. I'd go up around time and go home.'

--a place to be avoided on Saturday night.

after he got married, he lived on Lower Cove Road.

lived in a six room house--no basement. his father-in-law was going back to

Belgium and he sold it to him, and that's where he brought up his family.
married 1913.

five children. all close to the area--except a daughter in Massachusetts.
did a little fishing and hunting, and gardening--"you got along."

remembers the 1947 strike.

'We didn't get what we were looking for....' demanding that the UMW be
accepted.

--got a dollar out of it.

--Green Crow and Bright Light.

--one was owned by a certain company and the other one by another one.
--some claims that the bosses set fire to it to get clear of it--but the
miners got the blame of it anyway. the Bright Light never went again.

[What does he think happened?] 'I don't know. I wouldn't want to say.'

remembers some short strikes. strikes for a few days.

1947 was the big strike. 'We out for over two months on strike with that one.'

--admits there was a little bit of bitterness against the immigrants.

--calling immigrants name.

--he threw a few punches himself about this.

He started working on the Green Crow. He got the first job of
screening the coal there.

he started there in 1939.

he was there in 1954--all at that the Green Crow.

--never worked in River Hebert.

--worked for a week in Strathcona for about a week.

'You had to load the coals and push the cars--it wasn't too pleasant, either.
Very low coal.'--Strathcona Mine.

this was in 1909. pretty bad. 'Not too much of a mine,' he says of Strathcona.
paid \$1.50.

he worked at the St. George mine. not too many men there. they were just
working the pillars. then they moved to Fenwick.

--all traces of the power plant have disappeared. Worked in the power plant
1918. 2 weeks in the power plant.

he was offered a steady job there but the wages didn't suit him.

unload coal from the Joggins, had a chute to put it in--a conveyor conducted
the coal to the power plant. Chignecto mine was shut down.

belonged to the P.W.A. in Chignecto.

--thirty-thirty-five men at the lodge meetings. 'It wasn't as strong as the UMW.
Quite a difference there.'

--had to join the P.W.A. at Strathcona for three days when he worked there.

--he was financial secretary of the UMW in the Joggins for thirty-three years and
three months.

'There was some friction there between the Cape Bretoners and the mainlanders,
because we were all underpaid, ...we couldn't get up to the standard of Cape
Breton.'

friction there.

mine was closing down at the end of his career. River Hebert had a separate
local.

• old Fundy used to have a separate local too.

little mines joined in. Fundy came into the local union--ran under one number. 4519.

River Hebert on their own.

'He was a hard man, Boy.' --verdict on Oz Fife.

--feeling in the Joggins was solidly behind a strike in 1947.

--there were local pay issues in the Joggins.

won the first week of vacation the miners ever got.

in 1949, they won two weeks. it was still two weeks when he retired.

became secretary in the 1920s, anyway

his brother-in-law was financial secretary--he voted him in through the union.

--local left-wing executive. 'But that's not it. They were the higher-ups and you had to put up with them.'--his judgement on dealing with left-wingers in C.B.

--there was a left-wing element in the Joggins area.

--no strong political preference. 'I believe they're all alike.'

recording secretary got \$5 a month.

penalties to keep the officials running steady--docked a dollar if they were absent.

Belliveau president; George Mitchell; Elgin Murphy; Curtis Vickery was pres. for a couple of terms; UMW presidents. A como was in but he forgets his first name.

--he thinks of the union's importance as defending the day-to-day issue.

Q. Did the union mean much to the members? Was it important to them?

A. Oh yes. Well, see, on account of trouble around in the mine, according to the work and one thing or another, they brought it up to the union and then the union committee would go to settle it out. That meant a lot to them. Because if you let them go with whatever they were trying to do, well, then, they'd go a little further. Then that would stop them, see. Because they knew the men was looking after themselves.'

--the mine was strong after the strike, he says.

--mines started to go down was when Mr. Taylor passed away. then things went from bad to worse.

After Oz Fife passed away, Taylor took over. he was the lynchpin of the whole thing.

--he's a Protestant.

--in his younger days he played baseball. He didn't play in the league.

--had a couple of local teams in the Joggins--play against one another, and play River Hebert--that's about all.

--they had baseball at Chignecto--he played there in his young days.