

I was born on December 1st, 1878 at a time when there were two classes of people - the rich and the poor. I happened to be from a large family which had a small income. I went to work on a dairy farm when I was ten years of age. I had to milk cows morning and evening. I also learned to ride horseback, we had no saddles in those days. It was my duty to bring in the cattle from the fields.

When I arrived at Taylorton in December, 1904, the mines were only working part time. I didn't get a job for two months. I went to work at Roche Percee in February, 1905 for one month and that was the only work I got that winter. In April, 1905, I went to Taber, Alberta with Mr. W. L. Hamilton. He was opening up a new mine. There were no buildings in Taber at that time except an old box-car for a station house. I ^{ed} ~~was~~ working during the summer months and on until November. I made enough money to pay my fare back to England. I sailed from New York in a ship called the Campania and on the journey the seas were very rough, and two men were washed overboard. I worked in the mines in England that winter but was very dissatisfied and I came back to Canada in May, 1906. I sold my furniture from my home in England and brought my wife and daughter, Hildred with me.

In the years that followed I asked myself why I came back to this country.

In 1908 I got fired^d for belonging to a Labour Union and had a rough time for two years. I left school when I was in Grade 4. There was no free education in those days. We had to pay three pence per week for tuition every Monday morning and if you did not take the money the teacher would send you back home.

I started to work in the mines when I was thirteen years of age. My pay was one Shilling a day for an eight-hour day. The mines were working five days per week at that time.

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