

Leader Post,

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TELLS PROBE MINERS' PAY IS NOT HIGH

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Evidence at Estevan Shows
Men Got Average of \$79.22

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Per Month

ESTEVAN, Oct. 13.—During a four-year period from 1927 to 1931, miners in the southern Saskatchewan lignite field averaged \$79.22 per month. Day men during that period averaged \$95.86.

These figures were divulged before the commission enquiring into conditions in the Saskatchewan lignite field by Ken John, accountant at the Bienfait mine, Saturday. The accountant's figures indicated that during the period from October, 1930, to March, 1931, the company paid for 810 tons more screened coal than it sold.

Medical fees collected from the men at \$1.25 per month and turned over to an eastern firm of doctors since 1926, totalled \$5,548.05, according to figures produced at the request of W. J. Perkins, counsel for the commission. No commission went to the mine company for collecting these fees.

In engaging men at the time the seniority system prevailed, the accountant revealed, resident miners were favored at all times, and second consideration was given experienced miners. No system of blacklisting was admitted by the accountant.

The mine boarding house was operated by an individual with free rent and fuel. Men living in the boarding house paid five cents a day to the company to cover overhead and those living in private homes were charged \$1 a month by the mine company. Those charges were to encourage residence in the boarding house which found existence difficult and to discourage overcrowding of private homes.