

Saskatchewan Archives Board, Tape R-326

Excerpts transcribed from interview with Howard A. Babcock, local resident and mine cook in 1930s, interviewed 19 June 1973 in Regina by Larry Johnston.

Town Council and the Police

There was quite a lot of pressure put on the city hall or the Town Hall as it was called in those days, in Estevan, to forbid the parade to come in. The Chief of Police forbid them to hold a parade, forbid them to hold a march in the town of Estevan, and they got police into the area, they were brought in by the railroad most of the time. They group was aware they were there and there was some of the more radical ones were itching for a fight. But they thought there was only one way to go and that was for conditions to get better. But the solid front against them – the police, supporting the employer groups, and the town, again supporting the employer groups. Because at the time there was many wholesale houses in Estevan which the mine company y stores bought their supplies from. They bought some of from Winnipeg but some of it was picked up in Estevan. And this made for two definite sides for each, tow different battle groups, if you like, and both were sort of itching for a fight. The mine owners were bearing pretty heavily on the police to protect their property, protect their interests. And the miners were just as determined that they were going to get justice out of their labour.