

THE SHORES OF GRAND LAKE

Performed by: Frankie Nash

One night as I sat in my old cosy corner,
Thinking away a few dollars to make;
My wife said to me, 'Why don't you try sawing;
They're making good money up on Grand Lake.'

I said to my wife, 'I don't know what about it,
I don't want the AND Company¹ to break;
I'm sure they won't find enough money to pay me,
If I had a month's sawing up on Grand Lake.'

'Twas there and then I made my decision,
I then started out preparations to make;
I got in some firewood, I packed up my old kit-bag,
Then started out for the shores of Grand Lake.

I arrived at the camp one fine Sunday evening,
About four o'clock if I make no mistake;
The bunks were all full and I slept on the table,
The first night I spent on the shores of Grand Lake.

Some lads in their sleep were piling up timber,
Others were shouting: 'Pass down the shortcake';
And others, such language, I cannot remember,
Those lads they were using up on Grand Lake.

Getting out of your bunk quite early in the morning,
Into the forepeak² your bucksaw to take;
A good show of timber, I heard down in Howley,³
It cannot be found on the shores of Grand Lake.

Two fifty they'll pay you for piling up timber,
Twenty-two dollars for board you will take.
If you want a pair of blankets, six dollars they'll charge you,
That's just how you're soaked on the shores of Grand Lake.

Come all ye young peddlers who stand round the counter,
Waiting, a poor subbs⁴ money to take,
And when you sits down to your fresh pork and cabbage,
Think on the poor subbs that saws on Grand Lake.

¹ Editor's note: the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company.

² Editor's note: 'forepeak' is a nautical term for the front end of the hold in the angle of the bows of a ship. Given the context, it's likely that another word was intended, perhaps 'forest.'

³ Editor's note: Howley, Newfoundland, is a town on the shore of Grand Lake.

⁴ Editor's note: 'subbing' refers to the practice of taking a sub-contract for work.

Come all ye young girls who are seeking a husband,
Take a poor sawyer's warning, and make no mistake;
If you want a good home and plenty of money,
Don't marry a subb saws on Grand Lake.

Come all ye young men who are seeking employment,
Take a poor subb's warning and make no mistake;
Get aboard of the express and get over to Topsail.
Keep clear of the subbs up on Grand Lake.