

# BALLAD OF A WORKING MAN

© SPIN PUBLICATIONS

Top V

*Dm C Dm*

I left the land to try and earn some pay, ————— They

*A7*

said "There's work in Lan-ca-shire to day." ————— I've

*Dm C A7 Dm*

torn me hands and broke me back, hump-ing cot-ton and tot-ing sacks, But I've

*C Dm*

not seen much of gold or sil-ver coin. —————

*Dm*

**Chorus:** Hey, hey, a work-ing day, four-teen hours to earn your pay. —

*Dm C Dm*

Hey, hey, a work-ing day, cot-ton and coal and steam.

I left the land to try and earn some pay,  
They say there's work in Lancashire today,  
I've torn me hands and broke me back,  
Humping cotton and toting sacks,  
But I've not seen much of gold and silver coin.

**Chorus:**

*Dm C* Hey, hey, a working day, *A7*  
*C Dm* Fourteen hours to earn your pay. *A7*  
*Dm C* Hey, hey a working day,  
*C Dm* Cotton and coal and steam. *Dm*

*Dm C Dm* From Preston, Bolton, Oldham and by Colne,  
*Dm C A7* I've tramped the roads and never been along. *A7*  
*Dm C A7* I've seen men die in falls of stone,  
*C A7* And watched men starve to skin and bone. *A7*  
*Dm C* In England's pure and green and pleasant land. *Dm*

**Chorus:** Hey, hey, etc.

*Dm C* There are looms I know that are just never still,  
*Dm C A7* With men to work all hours to earn their fill. *A7*  
*Dm C* With women grafting and children too,  
*C A7* To earn enough to see them through. *A7*  
*Dm C* While the masters they get richer every day. *Dm*

**Chorus:** Hey, hey, etc.

*Dm C Dm* I've worked in iron and pig for Whalley coal, *Dm*  
*Dm C A7* I've followed the rails and burrowed like a mole. *A7*  
*Dm C* I'm a weaver, miner, a working man,  
*C A7* I'll turn me hand to owt I can. *A7*  
*Dm C* For a lad must earn himself a living wage.

**Chorus:** Hey, hey, etc.

*Dm C Dm* I've eyed the girls and courted with the best, *Dm*  
*Dm C A7* I've drunk me ale and killed with the rest. *A7*  
*Dm C* But I'll always work and I'll always strive.  
*C A7* To try and keep myself alive. *A7*  
*Dm C* But I'd rather be rich and watch the world go by. *Dm*

**Chorus:** Hey, hey, etc.

Alan A. Bell  
March 1973

