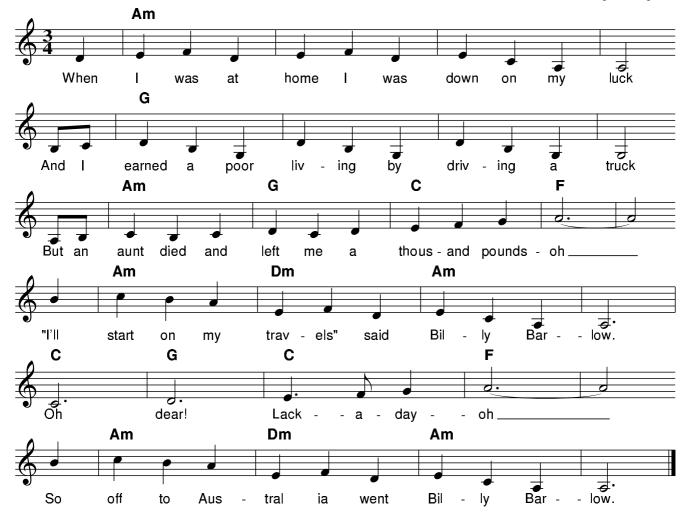
Billy Barlow in Australia

Songs about immigrants and their successes and woes were quite common in the 1800s. This version came from Goulburn musician, Peter McLaren and is based on that in the first Penguin songster.



When to Sydney I got there a merchant I met
Who said he would teach me a fortune to get
He had cattle and sheep past the colony's bounds
Which he sold with the station for my thousand pounds
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
He gammoned the cash out of Billy Barlow

So I got my supplies and I gave him my bill And for New England started – my pockets to fill! But by bushrangers met – with my traps they made free Took my horse and left Billy tied up to a tree Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o! "I shall die of starvation" thought Billy Barlow

At last I got loose and I then did repair
For my station once more and at length I got there
But a few days before that the blacks, you must know,
Had speared all the cattle of Billy Barlow.
Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
"It's a beautiful country" said Billy Barlow

And for nine months before that no rain there had been So the devil a blade of grass was to be seen One third of my wethers the scab they had got And the other two-thirds had just died of the rot Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o!
"I shall soon be a settler" said Billy Barlow

I'm in Sydney – insolvent – in poverty's toil I've no cattle for salting, no sheep for to boil I can't get a job, though to any I'd stoop If 'twas only the making of portable soup Oh, dear! Lack-a-day-o! Pray give some employment to Billy Barlow!