

Send Her Down Hughie

The Rouseabout's Prayer

Sung by Duke Tritton and recorded by John Meredith. It is based on the music hall song 'Swing Me Higher Obadiah'

Verse

Half - way through the shear - ing and the weath - er was ver - y dry,
 But the clouds were gath - er - ing, ___ and low - down in the sky;
 Just as we were hav - ing a smoke, a show - er came o - ver the plain,
 And we heard from the shear - ing shed ___ the rouse - a - bouts re - frain:

Chorus

Send her down a lit - tle bit hard ___ er, dear old Hugh - ie do!
 Send her down a lit - tle bit hard - er and we'll love you;
 Send her down for a week or two; All the rous - ies will stick like glue
 Just a lit - tle bit hard - er dear old Hugh - ie do!

It is known as the rouseabouts prayer, it's been sung in every shed,
 For when the sheep are too wet to shear the rousies get board and bed,
 And their pay goes on if it's wet or dry, and they haven't a worry or care,
 So they lay in their bunk and sleep or read, and sing the rouseabouts' prayer:

Ten points of rain and the shearers vote on whether it's wet or dry,
 And if they all decide to shear, you will hear the rouseabouts sigh,
 'Spare me days', you will hear them say, 'There's frogs in the blanky wool',
 And they stare over the counting pens and sing, for their hearts are full:

When the rain is tumbling down the shearers grumble and curse,
 And the boss goes round with a hungry look, for it hits him in the purse;
 So he prowls about the shed all day like a bull in a stockyard ring,
 And grinds his teeth in futile rage when he hears the rouseabout sing: