

## The Shanty By the Way

Dr Percy Jones collected this song in New Zealand from a man who heard two old diggers singing it. They had learnt it from a miner on the west coast who had come from Australia in the 19th century. It is derived from an E J Overbury poem (1865)

### Verse

It's in a first-rate bus-iness sec-tion where four bush-roads cross and meet.  
 It stands in a qui-et and neat di-rec-tion to rest the wear-y trav-el-lers' feet.  
 Ker-o-sene lamps are shin-ing bright-ly; cards and lo the bil-liard balls:  
 Men and maids are danc-ing light-ly to the mus-ic in-side those walls.

### Chorus

Rows of bot-tles stand-ing up-right, label-led with bright blue and gold,  
 Beer's so cold it needs no ic-ing from the cel-lar's drear dark hold.

There's quoits and games and bagatelle, all to suit your fancy-oh;  
 But better far behind the bar stands smiling darling Nancy-oh.  
 Nancy's smiles are quite beguiling to make some fun she's willing-oh.  
 You give a rap she turns the tap and thanks you for your shilling-oh.

Landlord stands with smiling face, He likes to see your cash forked out.  
 Landlord stands with smiling face, Sometimes he will stand a shout.  
 Landlord shouting is uncommon. He's kidding you to dance and play.  
 How the devil can a man keep sober in the shanty by the way?

When you wake up in the morning In your thirst without a mag  
 You cast around a sad reflection As you shoulder up your swag.  
 Penniless you'll have to wander for many a long and weary day  
 Till you earn another cheque to squander in the shanty by the way.