

When It's Springtime in the Mallee

from Australian Folksongs of the Land and People, published in 1974 by the Folk Lore Council of Australia. The tune is clearly 'Springtime in the Rockies' written by R Sauer, M H Woolsey in 1929 and it is an example of the pervasive cultural influence of the USA

The musical score is written in treble clef, G major, and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: 'When it's spring-time in the Mal-lee, And the Mal-lee scrub is green, Then we make for the old rol-ler and yoke up the bull-ock team. With a creak of chains, whips crack-ing 'Get up, Dark-ie, Come on, Pride, Move-on there, you laz-y blight-ers! Hup, you mules! I'll skin yer hides!'

Well, we roll the flamin' scrub down,
And the air is thick with flies;
Then, as yer go round snaggin',
Flamin' dust fair blinds yer eyes!
Yer throat is parched and achin',
And the sun gets hot as hell,
But yer plod along till smoke-o,
While yer bullocks have a spell.

When it's springtime in the Mallee,
And yer pickin' stumps all day,
Yer could dance to the sound of them knockin'
In the bottom of the dray!
When yer get a load, yer stack 'em
And yer light 'em as yer go
Then yer go around and stoke 'em
Till they burn up into coal.

When the fire's done and the paddocks clear
Yer got to plough the earth
With yer bullock team and mouldboard
They're pulling for all their worth.
Then yer gets the corn and chucks 'em
and then yer rakes 'em in
And yer know that if the rain don't come
Yer'll have to start again.