

- 1) My roving days are started
And to Southland I must go
To the land of bush and bunnies
To slog for a month or so
- 2) I come back from Invercargill
with no buttons on my shirt
And all my coat and trousers
were plastered thick with dirt
- 3) And then the Willow Bridge harvest
at Fletcher's; down the way
There we done the harvesting
For eleven bob a day
- 4) and then to Blenheim's sunny fields
away to the north of the lake
There I started farming
and farmed for a little while
- 5) Once more I'm back to Studholme
To see the folk at home
Once more we do the harvest
and once more I start to roam

6) This time to the northern Island
The land of bush and bogs
I strike a job bushwhacking
So I wear my oldest togs

7) We soon get up to our workings
Each man a good cook and baker
And so we start to fall the bush
for thirty bob an acre

8) Surrounded with bush and Maoris
Away in the far back blocks
Where right in the midst of winter
men go without their coats

9) With axes slashers and billy cans
We mean to make things hum
We got a rifle to shoot the pigs
and a double barreled gun

10) But the contract soon is finished
and once more we roll our swags
and pack them down to the river
with a couple of Maori nags

11) Then across to Taranaki
To where the cowboys live
I'm going to see the milking machines
and best what the coopers will give

12 But of milking cows and skumping
I soon get quite enough
But I wait there just till Christmas
Just to have some Christmas duff

13 Once more I'm back to Skedholme
And the news I soon am told
That a farmer was going to sell his farm
Because he was getting too old

14 So I just looked over the homestead
and something more I did
For while the farm was on the market
I just tossed in a bid

15 Now the little farm belongs to me
and I've something more to tell
I've a wife and Bonnie daughter
So I think I'm doing well.

W. H. Mills

1 On the twenty-eighth of March in 1905
Bob Russell and I left Studholme for Southland
there to strive

We boarded the mid-day express with swag and portmanteau each
and at half past five in the evening Dunedin at last we reach

2 We stopped that night in Dunedin and we stopped the next
day as well

Just to see the sights of the city and to act the bloomers well
But one more we get aboard the train for Invercargill bound
Bought another railway ticket which cost us half a pound

3 at last we're in Southland City and went strolling up
the street

and as both of us felt a bit hungry we thought we'd get
something to eat

So we went to Mr. Renzie's Boarding house - a very nice
place indeed

If you ever happen to go that way you'll find that's the
place for a feed.

4 At last we got work at the Registry Office, we did not help my George
Bob was to go to Devry's at the Otupiri gorge
I was to go to Philipsons on the Maimakaha line
But Bob's job proved a failure and worse luck
so did mine.

5 But if we hadent a bob or two we'd have been in
a funny fix
For just for ~~getting~~ that job or two we both had to pay
seven and six

So I said "good bye" to Bob and he said "good bye" to me
hoping that sooner or later each other we soon would see

6 Then we wished each other the best of luck
and again we said good bye
and after Bob had left me I felt as if I could cry
left all on my lonesome away in that Southern hell
with nothing to cheer me but letters from home and a
letter from sweetheart Nell.

