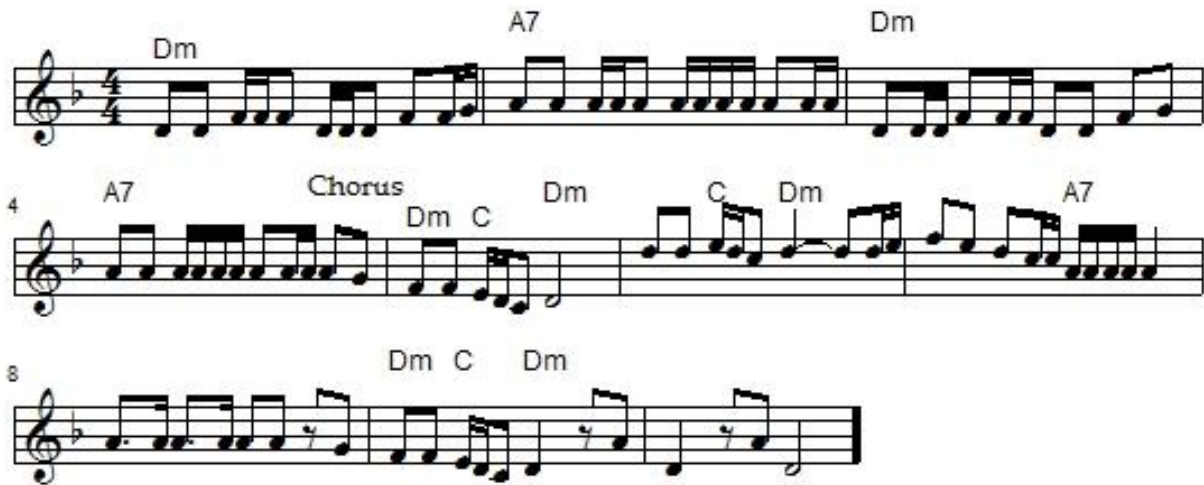


Drill ye Tarriers, Drill



1. Every morning about seven o'clock
There were twenty tarriers drilling at the rock
The boss comes along and he says, "Keep still
And bear down heavy on the cast iron drill"
Chorus:
And drill, ye tarriers, drill
Drill, ye tarriers, drill
For it's work all day for the sugar in you tay
Down beyond the railway
And drill, ye tarriers, drill
And blast, and fire.
2. The boss was a fine man down to the ground
And he married a lady six feet 'round
She baked good bread and she baked it well
But she baked it harder than the hobs of Hell
Chorus
3. The foreman's name was John McCann
By God, he was a blamed mean man
Last week a premature blast went off
And a mile in the air went big Jim Goff
Chorus
4. And when next payday came around
Jim Goff a dollar short was found
When he asked, "What for?" came this reply
"You were docked for the time you were up in the sky"
Chorus

Not really a folk song, "Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill" was first published in 1888 and attributed to Thomas Casey (words) and much later Charles Connolly (music). It sounds like a work song and makes references to the construction of the railroads in the mid-19th century. The "tarriers" of the title refers to Irish workers, drilling holes in rock to blast out railroad tunnels. It may mean either to tarry as in delay, or to terrier dogs which dig their quarry out of the ground, or from the French word for auger, "tarière". The song was probably written for the vaudeville stage where the Irish were considered comic characters in the 19th century. The song has been recorded by The Weavers, The Clancy Brothers, The Tarriers and many others.