

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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The Last Saskatchewan Pirate

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I used to be a farmer and I made a living fine
I had a little stretch of land along the C.P. line
But though I tried and tried the money wasn't there
And bankers came and took my land and told me fair was fair
I looked for any kind of job, the answer always no
"Hire you now?" they'd always laugh "We just let 20 go"
The government they promised me a measly little sum
But I've got too much pride to end up just another bum
Then I thought who gives damn if the jobs are all gone
I'm going to be a pirate on the river Saskatchewan

And it's a heave ho, high ho, coming down the plains
Stealing wheat and barley and all the other grains
And it's a ho hey, high hey, farmers bar your doors
When you see the Jolly Roger on Regina's mighty shores

Well you'd think the local farmers would know that I'm at large
But just the other day I saw an unprotected barge
I snuck up right behind them and they were none the wiser
I rammed their ship and sank it and I stole their fertilizer
A bridge outside of Moose Jaw spans a mighty river
Farmers cross in so much fear their stomachs are a-quiver
Because they know that Tractor Jack is waiting in the bay
I'll jump the bridge and knock them cold and sail off with their hay

Well, Mountie Bob he chased me he was always at my throat
He'd follow on the shoreline cause he didn't own a boat
But cutbacks were a-coming and the Mountie lost his job
And now he's sailing with me and we call him Salty Bob
A swinging sword, a skull and bones, and pleasant company
I never pay my income tax and screw the GST
Prince Albert down to Saskatoon, the terror of the sea
If you want to reach the co-op, boy, you gotta get by me

Well, pirate life's appealing but you just don't find it here
I heard that in Alberta there's a band of buccaneers
They roam the Athabasca from Smith to Fort Mackay
And you're bound to lose your stetson if you
Winter is a-coming and a chill is in the breeze
My pirate days are over once the river starts to freeze
I'll be back in springtime but now I have to go
I hear there's lots of plundering down in New Mexico

Spoken: when the lead singer sings "Screw the GST" the band echoes, "Screw it!" During the instrumentals between verses, they yell, "Aarrrr... ya salty gopher.... aarrrrr... ya salty grain elevator..." and so forth

The song is by the Arrogant Worms (I've confirmed that) and is on their "Live Bait" CD.

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