

Byrontown

Reel 201A No.7

When the singer was asked if he wanted to take his coat off to sing as others had done he said no, not unless you want to have a fight. He said:

Ladies and gentlemen, years ago sometimes a man by the name of Larry Gorman and James Digman walked up this river. It was all walkin' then, no drivin'. They come to a crossroads up there in the northwest some place. I ain't goin' to say where cause I don't know which where it was, but two roads a-goin'. But anyhow they stood there and one looked at the other, "Oh I think we'll take this road, take that." All right, they started off. Well, there was a little house on the corner called MacKenzie's, and if there was one face in the window there was twenty-five, and there wasn't any more glasses in the window, and he said nothin' and walked along for a while. "Oh," he says, "Mister Mr. Digman I think I'll have a smoke." Digman says to him, "I don't smoke; do you smoke? Have a smoke and sit down. O.K." "Well," he says, "now Mr. Digman, there were an awful lot of faces there in that window when we come by that corner?"

"Oh Jim," he says, "I think if there'd be nine more panes they'd be full too." All right. Well then they started on walkin', and they went a little farther and he says, "Mr. Digman come here. Listen to me for a minute. Sit down and have a little smoke here. You remember the time we passed by McKenzie's?" "Yes." "Well their eyes stood out like prongs, but they didn't know what was wrong with the man that made the songs. Now here's his song (Larry Gorman's):

In Barrowtown I do renown is the place I do belong,  
 For it's set my mind on womenkind, I have composed a song,  
 If you will agree and listen to me, mind what I say is true,  
 Oh the ladies gay they will betray and give them all their due.

2

The first of all is the big and small as you may understand,  
 There's the stout and slim both thick and slim in all our glorious land,  
 There's the black and white, they dress alike some young men to beguile,  
 There's the hot and cold both young and old in all their shade any style.

girls

3

O those girls you meet all on the street, oh they look cold and cross,  
 With the suelling(?) face they'll surely trust those men to beguile,  
 With their form and face they will disgrace the blooming flowers of May,  
 With their rosy cheeks they will not speak of women's pride and joy.

4

But to a ball they'll go as you all know, next day they'll feel half dead,  
 "O mother dear I feel so queer I really can't tell how,  
 My head does ache, it will surely break, this day I'm nearly ruined,  
 My back again does ache with the pain, this day what shall I do?"

5

They'll marry a man, that's if they can, and keeping house they'll go,  
 First of all they'll put on style, let the wages be high or low,  
 And a loaf or a cake they cannot bake, and I wish you would see their pies,  
 And they'll swear that the flour is poor and sour and the dough it will not rise.

6

An organ sure you must procure for all those ladies gay,  
 And a sewing machine for to hem up seams to keep the hands so clean,  
 And a late fall hat they must have that no matter what you say,  
 And a brand new shawl they'll have in the fall and me the debts to pay.

Sung by Mr. John Holland, Glenwood, N.B. and recorded at the Miramichi Folk Song Festival by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1958



Reel 201B

- 1 Banks of the Miramichi; sung by Mr. Art Matchett, Peel Head; local song in praise of river; 4 vs. words better than tune
- 3 3 The Plain Golden Band; late song sung by Mr. Geod. Duplessis; nice tune quite well sung; see also 116A
- 4 2 The City of Baltimore; sung not very well by Mr. John Jilks, Newcastle
- 5 4 The Gum Tree Canoe; pretty little late folk song very well sung by Mr. Bill Turney, Woodstock
- 22 Voici la gais Pranton; (this spelling may not be right); French song <sup>pranton</sup> well sung by Miss Annette Plourde, Negeoc; words not typed out
- 6 Dance You Boatman, Dance; pretty little 8 line song with nice tune well sung by Mr. Bill Turney, Woodstock
- 7 Joseph Johnston's Death; sung in French by Mr. Chiasson, Rogersville; words typed out in English
- 8 La Belle Rose; very well sung by boy soprano Roland Richard, Rogersville (trained voice); piano accompaniment
- 9 Maid of Sweet Garcine; sung by the Estey brothers, Newcastle; words more interesting than tune; English folk song
- 10 The Pride of Sweet Glencoe; sung by Mr. Geo. Duplessis, Newcastle; 7 vs. Scottish folk song well sung
- 11 Sarah's Young Man; sung by Mr. Jas. Brown, South Branch; probably music hall; 12 vs., amusing and quite well sung

It's now I will take up my pen these verses for to write,  
Concerning of this river I mean for to recite,  
For all through nature's splendours there's none that I can see  
Like the rolling tide that rolls alongside the banks of the Miramichi.

2

For all through nature's splendours there's none that I can see  
Like the rolling tide that flows 'longside the banks of the Miramichi,  
And sportsmen there do gather and all delight to see  
Where the rolling tide it flows alongside the banks of the Miramichi.

3

If I had gold and silver brought from some foreign place,  
And royal robes put on me and a crown set o'er my face  
I would yield it all with pleasure, for sooner would I be  
Where the rolling tide it flows alongside the banks of the Miramichi.

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Sung by Mr. Art Matchett, Peel Head, and recorded at Miramichi  
Folk Song Festival, by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1958



1. La Fille à Jean Pierre, also known as Le Viellard, well sung by Allen Kelly; a few vs. missing; amusing; words not transcribed.
2. La Vieux Marie, well sung by Allen Kelly; amusing; Father Give Me a Husband; she marries a man so small he gets lost in bed sheets; he gets smaller and smaller until the cat mistakes him for a mouse. She says next time she will marry a man six feet tall; verses end with "my poor little man" in English; well sung; words not transcribed.
3. The Little Shingle Mill (The Death of Harry Vail), sung by <sup>Samuel</sup> ~~Samsuk~~ Jagoe; 7 vs.; tragic death of lumberman; words clear and well sung; for words see Songs of Miramichi p. 261.
4. The Jolly Roving Tar, sung by James Brown, South Branch, Kent County; 6 vs.; compare with TSNS p. 178 & FSSNB p. 37; all variants are incomplete, but all have good tunes.
5. The Flying Cloud, sung by Paul Kingston, Newcastle; 8 double vs. a bit mixed up, and one line tune repeats throughout; pirate song, and good-night theme.
6. The Escuminac Disaster, composed and sung by Bernadette Keating who was aged 13 when this happened in 1959, ~~and~~ and she composed the song; a moving tribute sung with sympathy; words clear; for words see Songs of Miramichi p. 92

3rd Miramichi Folk Song Festival, August 1960.