



Rhymes from the mines, (Famous Australian poetry classics)

Edward George Dyson

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TO THE MEN OF THE MINES

We specked as boys o'er worked-out
ground

THE OLD WHIM HORSE

He's an old grey horse, with his head
bowed sadly,

CLEANING UP

When the horse has been unharnessed
and we've flushed the old machine,

THE RESCUE

There's a sudden, fierce clang of the
knocker, then the sound of a voice in the
shaft,

BASHFUL GLEESON

From her home beyond the river in the
parting of the hills,

THE WORKED-OUT MINE

On summer nights when moonbeams flow

GERMAN JOE

Skirting the swamp and the tangled scrub,

WAITING FOR WATER

'Twas old Flynn, the identity, told us,

WHEN BROTHER PEETREE PRAYED

'Twas a sleepy little chapel by a wattled
hill erected,

THE OLD CAMP-OVEN

We don't keep a grand piano in our hut
beside the creek,

WHEN THE BELL BLEW UP

'That's the boiler at the Bell, mates!
Tumble out, Ned, neck and crop--

THE TRUCKER

If you want a game to tame you and to
take your measure in,

'STOP-AND-SEE'

I'm stewing in a brick-built town;

IN 'THE BENEVOLENT'

I'm off on the wallaby,' cries old Ben,

JONAH'S LUCK

Out of luck, mate? Have a liquor.
Hang it, where's the use complaining?

NIGHT SHIFT

'Hello! that's the whistle, be moving

A FRIENDLY GAME OF FOOTBALL

We were challenged by the Dingoes--
they're the pride of Squatter's Gap--.

THE TALE OF STEVEN

'Tis the tale of Simon Steven, braceman
at the Odd-and-Even,

THE FOSSICKER

A straight old fossicker was Lanky Mann,

THE TIN-POT MILL

Quite a proud and happy man is Finn
the packer

A POOR JOKE

'No, you can't count me in, boys; I'm off it--

'BREAKING IT GENTLY'

All was up with Richard Tanner--

STRUCK IT AT LAST

He was almost blind, and wasted

THE PROSPECTORS

When the white sun scorches the fair,
green land in the rage of his fierce
desires,

PETER SIMSON'S FARM

Simson settled in the timber when his
arm was strong and true

SINCE NELLIE CAME TO LIVE ALONG THE CREEK My hut is built of stringy-bark, the
window's calico,

THE FREAK

Just beyond All Alone, going back

IN TOWN

Out of work and out of money-out of
friends that means, you bet

THE DESERTED HOMESTEAD

Past a dull, grey plain where a world-
old grief seems to brood o'er the silent
land,

A NEW GIRL UP AT WHITE'S

There's a fresh track down the paddock

WHOSE WIFE

'Harry! What, that yourself, back to old
Vic., man,

BATTERED BOB

He was working on a station in the
Western when I knew him,

THE SPLITTER

In the morn when the keen blade bites
the tree,

TO THE THEORETICAL SELECTOR

Would you be the King, the strong man,
first in council and in toil,

BULLOCKY BILL

From a river siding, the railway town,

THE DROVERS IN REPLY

We are wondering why those fellows
who are writing cheerful ditties

THE SHANTY

There are tracks through the scrub, there's
a track down the hill,

AH LING, THE LEPER

Up a dark and fetid alley, where the offal
and the slime

THE EMU OF WHROO

We've a tale to tell you of a spavined
emu

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