

# MUSIC

## *Cape Breton's Diversity in Unity*

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### *The Honest Working Man*

Collected by Ron MacEachern from the singing of Charlie MacKinnon  
Tune: "The Hills of Mullabawn"  
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#### *Chorus:*

'Way down in east Cape Breton, where they knit the socks and mittens,  
Highlanders represented by the dusty, black and tan.  
May they never be rejected, and home rule be protected  
And always be connected with the honest working man.

1. I think I will meander with my friend the Newfoundlander;  
He is the finest fellow that ever graced this land.  
His name it is Dan Alex, and he can talk the Gaelic  
We work down in the coal mine with the honest working men.

2. When the leaves fall in the autumn and fish freeze to the bottom,  
They take a ten-ton schooner and go 'round the western shore.  
They load her with provisions, hard tack and codfish mizzens,  
The likes you've never heard of since the downfall of Bras d'Or.

3. We cross the Bay of Fundy, we arrive there on a Monday:  
Have you seen my brother Angus? Oh please tell me if you can.  
He was a CNR box greaseman, but now he's a policeman,  
And he now earns his living like an honest working man.

4. The man who mixes mortar gets a dollar and a quarter,  
The sugar factory worker, he gets a dollar ten,  
While there's my next-door neighbour who lives on just his labour,  
And in the winter doesn't earn enough to feed a sickly hen.

#### *Repeat Chorus*

*Recording:*

[The Honest Working Man](#), 1978. Charlie MacKinnon. T-1067. Beaton Institute, Cape Breton University.