

MUSIC

Cape Breton's Diversity in Unity

New Aberdeen Government Store

Collected by Ron MacEachern from the singing of Amby Thomas
Tune: "Cod Liver Oil"
From the collection of Ron MacEachern.

1. Come all jolly miners of New Aberdeen,
Who boozers are now and who boozers have been,
And I'll make your hearts glad tho' they're now sick and sore,
When I sing you a song of the government store.

2. Now for a long time as you very well know
To the town of Glace Bay you have all had to go,
Though the snow it fell fast and the rain it did pour,
To purchase your booze at the government store.

3. Now near the Hub crossing at New Aberdeen
A nice little building erected has been
Where all kinds of drinks you can buy in galore,
They call it New Aberdeen Government Store.

4. Though your children be hungry with nothing to eat,
No clothes for their bodies, no shoes on their feet;
If you have a dollar perhaps you'll have more
Then spend it in booze at the government store.

5. And there by example you quickly can teach,
Your own boys to drink it you don't need to ?
And when you are gone from this life evermore
They'll take their dad's place at the government store.

6. And when you are old and too feeble and blind
To work for a living down in the coal mine,
A pension you'll get till life's journey is o'er
From the profits they make at the government store.

7. Success to the beer and the whiskey so fine,
The rum and the gin and also the wine.
Drink as much as would fill the big lakes of Bras d'Or,
Singing hip hip hurray for the government store.

Recording:

[New Aberdeen Government Store](#), 1978. Amby Thomas. T-1066. Beaton Institute, Cape Breton University.