

Australian Folksong

"The Ballad Of 1891"

Visit "[The Ballad Of 1891](#)" on MotoLyrics.com

The Ballad Of 1891

The price of wool was falling in 1891
The men who owned the acres saw something must be
done
""We will break the Shearers' Union, and show we're
masters still
And they'll take the terms we give them, or we'll find
the ones who will""

From Claremont to Barcaldine, the shearers' camps
were full
Ten thousand blades were ready to strip the greasy
wool
When through the west like thunder, rang out the
Union's call
""The sheds'll be shore Union or they won't be shorn at
all""

Oh, Billy Lane was with them, his words were like a
flame
The flag of blue above them, they spoke Eureka's
name
""Tomorrow,"" said the squatters, ""they'll find it does
not pay
We're bringing up free labourers to get the clip away""

""Tomorrow,"" said the shearers, ""they may not be so
keen
We can mount three thousand horses, to show them
what we mean""
""Then we'll pack the west with troopers, from Bourke
to Charters Towers
You can have your fill of speeches but the final
strength is ours""

""Be damned to your six-shooters, your troopers and
police
The sheep are growing heavy, the burr is in the
fleece""
""Then if Nordenfeldt and Gatling won't bring you to

your knees

We'll find a law,"" the squatters said, ""that's made for
times like these""

To trial at Rockhampton the fourteen men were brought
The judge had got his orders, the squatters owned the
court

But for every one that's sentenced, ten thousand won't
forget

Where they jail someone for striking, it's a rich man's
country yet

Visit [Australian Folksong](#) page on MotoLyrics.com, to get more lyrics and videos.

[MotoLyrics.com](#) | Lyrics, music videos, artist biographies, releases and more.