

A Dog's Life

Chorus:

*"Oh, a sailor's life's a dog's life, an' that's the truth," says Bill;
"A sailor's life's a dog's life, look it like you will;
You break your back a-workin' for half a coolie's pay,
And a sailor's life's a dog's life, look it like you may.*

There's mates to kick an' haze you (an' you dares not hit 'em back);
There's cold to freeze your innards an' there's heat to burn you black;
There's junk as tough as green heart an' weevils in the bread,
An' you're fistin' frozen canvas till you're wishin' you was dead.

But you bet I'm gonna leave it, nex' time I jump ashore;
When I see old 'Frisco, you won't see me anymore;
I'll set me course southwestward to an island that I know,
As we lay there loadin' copra - maybe twenty years ago.

*"And, a sailor's life's a dog's life, an' that's the truth," says Bill;
"A sailor's life's a dog's life, look it like you will;
You break your back a-workin' for half a coolie's pay,
And a sailor's life's a dog's life, look it like you may.*

I'll lay out on the beach there, where the sun is good an' hot,
And I won't need no trousers, when I wore out what I got;
With a gunny round me middle, and a soul to call me own
I wouldn't trade me fortune to be King upon a throne."

But when we finish loading and the sailing time comes round,
With the pilot boat alongside and the mudhook off the ground,
And the towboat cast the hawser off and leaves us with a cheer,
Why, there be Bill a-growling as he's done for twenty years.

*"And, a sailor's life's a dog's life, an' that's the truth," says Bill;
"A sailor's life's a dog's life, look it like you will;
You break your back a-workin' for half a coolie's pay,
And a sailor's life's a dog's life, look it like you may.*

A sailor's life's a dog's life, look it how you may!