

The Broken-Down Squatter

Words: Charles & Horace Fowler
Tune: We'll All Go A-Hunting Today

D
Come, Stumpy, old man, we must shift while we can

G D
All your mates in the paddock are dead

Bm Em
Let us bid our farewells to Glen Eva's fair dells

A D
And the place where your master was bred

D
Together we'll roam from our drought-stricken home

G D
It seems hard that such things have to be

Bm Em
And it's hard on a horse when he's nought for a boss

A D
But a broken-down squatter like me

G D
CHORUS: For the banks are all broken, they say
Bm Em A

And the merchants are all up a tree

D
When the big-wigs are brought to the bankruptcy court

A D
What chance for a squatter like me?

D
No more shall we muster the river for fats

G D
Or spiel on the Fifteen Mile Plain

Bm Em
Or rip through the scrub by the light of the moon

A D
Or see the old stockyard again

D
Leave the slip-panels down, it don't matter much now

G D
There are none but the crows left to see

Bm Em
Perching gaunt on yon pine, as though longing to dine

A D
On a broken-down squatter like me

CHORUS

D
When the country was cursed with the drought at its worst

G D
And the cattle were dying in scores

Bm Em
Although down on my luck, I kept up my pluck

A D
Thinking justice might temper the laws

D
But the farce has been played, and the government aid
G D
Ain't extended to squatters, old son
Bm Em
When my money was spent, they doubled the rent
A D
And resumed the best half of the run

CHORUS

D
'Twas done without reason, for leaving the season
G D
No squatter could stand such a rub
Bm Em
For it's useless to squat when the rents are so hot
A D
That you can't save the price of your grub

D
And there's not much to choose 'twixt the banks and the screws
G D
Once a fellow gets put up a tree
Bm Em
No odds what I feel, there's no court of appeal
A D
For a broken-down squatter like me

CHORUS: **G D** For the banks are all broken, they say
Bm Em A And the merchants are all up a tree
D
When the big-wigs are brought to the bankruptcy court
A D
What chance for a squatter like me?

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(Tune: We'll All Go A-Hunting Today)

VERSE

Musical notation for the first verse, including chords (D, G, Bm, Em, A) and lyrics:

1. Come Stump - y, old man, we must shift while we can All your
 geth - er we'll roam from our drough - strick - en home It seems
 mates in the pad - dock are dead Let us
 hard that such things have to be And it's
 bid our fare - wells to Glen E - va's fair dells and the
 hard on a horse when he's nought for a boss but a
 place where your mast - er was bred To - me
 brok - en down squat - ter like

CHORUS

Musical notation for the chorus, including chords (G, D, Bm, Em, A) and lyrics:

For the banks are all brok - en, they say And the
 merch - ants are all up a tree When the
 big - wigs are brought to the bank - rupt - cy court, what
 chance for a squat - ter like me?

arr. Peter McLaren

2. No more shall we muster the river for fats or speiel on the Fifteen Mile Plain
 Or rip through the scrub by the light of the moon, or see the old stockyard again
 Leave the slip panels down – it won't matter much now – there are none but the crows left to see
 Perching gaunt on young pine as though longing to dine on a broken-down squatter like me.

Repeat CHORUS (after each verse)

3. When the country was cursed with the drought at its worst, and the cattle were dying in scores
 Thought down on my luck I still kept up my pluck thinking justice might temper the laws.
 But the farce had been played, and the government aid ain't extended to squatters, old son!
 When my money was spent they just doubled the rent and resumed the best part of my land.

4. It was done without reason, for leaving the season, no squatter could stand such a rub
 For it's useless to squat when the rents are so hot that you can't save the price of your grub.
 And there's not much to choose 'twixt the banks and the screws once a fellow gets put up a tree
 No odds what I feel, there's no court of appeal for a broken-down squatter like me.