

## Bank Line

When this endless voyage is over no more tramp ships will I see  
I will swear upon the Bible Bank Line have seen the last of me.  
No more trips around to Auckland, from Auckland round to Baltimore  
Then round to world to San Francisco, Fiji, Guam and Singapore.

The clerk down there in the 'pool' office said "there's a berth with  
Andrew Weirs  
A nice run out to Kiwi" didn't say would last two years  
Two years since we left the Humber, two years since I saw my wife  
My brother wrote 'some bloke keeps calling and rumours 'bout the two  
are rife'.

Two years stuck down in the stokehold shov'ling the rubbish the Chief  
bought  
Half the coal brass he will pocket I hope one day that he is caught.  
Likewise the thieving old Chief Steward, though 4 and 3s our feeding rate  
He feeds us rice and old dead donkeys so his profit he can take.

Half the crew have gone 'doo-lally' though the sparks was like that when  
we sailed  
Two stewards swear that they are married, the cook thinks he's the Prince  
of Wales  
But now we've got the 'channel fever' we've got it hot and that's because  
Tomorrow we pay off in the Mersey, so stick the Bank Line up your arse!

Ross sings this to 'What a friend we have in Jesus.'

Andrew Weirs Bank Line were [are?] tramp ships, and notorious for long trips, two years was not uncommon. The 'pool' was the Shipping Office where seamen went to 'get a ship', they only had three chances, if they refused all 3 ships offered they were suspended. Like many companies the Chief Engineer was given a 'coal allowance' to buy best steam coal, so if he could get cheap coal he'd pocket the difference. The 4 and 3 [4shillings and threepence] refers to the 'rate' per man that the Chief Steward was allowed for feeding purposes.