

Bullgine Run

'Bullgine' was derisive shipboard slang for a steam engine on the quayside. Sailors didn't like them much. This is a rollicking halliard shanty. The Margaret Evans was a London packet ship one of the first to guarantee delivery of its mail packets across the Atlantic in a specified amount of time. She was 899 tons, built 1846 in New York. She continued sailing into the 1860s.

Oh, the smartest clipper that you can find
Ah-hey, ah-ho, are you most done?
Is the Marg'ret Evans of the Black Cross-line
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.

Chorus

*To my hey rig jig in a low back car,
Ah-hey, ah-ho are you most done?
With Liza Lee all on my knee,
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.*

Oh the Mary Evans of the blue Star Line
Ah-hey, ah-ho, are you most done?
She's never a day behind her time
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.

Oh the times are hard and the wages low
Ah-hey, ah-ho, are you most done?
Oh it can't get worse, so we're bound to go
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.

Oh the winds were foul and the work was hard
Ah-hey, ah-ho, are you most done?
From the Liverpool docks to the Brooklyn yard
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.

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Oh we're outward bound for New York town
Ah-hey, ah-ho, are you most done?
Them bowry girls we'll waltz around
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.

When we get back to Liverpool town
Ah-hey, ah-ho, are you most done?
I'll stand you whiskies all around
Clear away the track and let the bullgine run.