

## The Bully Boat

*A capstan shanty collected by Cecil Sharp in 1914 from John Short at age 75 and following a life at sea he was one of the last shantymen (see The Rosabella). It has obvious southern USA origins – probably from the black cotton port workers to work the jack-screws; that compressed cotton bales into the holds of ships. Roud 327.*

*The nonsense cargo verses are a more recent invention/addition.*

Oh, the bully boat's a-comin' don't ye hear the paddles rollin'

*Ranzo, Ranzo, hoo-ray, hoo-ray!*

Oh, the bully boat's a-comin' down the river she's a-bowlin'

*Ranzo, Ranzo Ray!*

Ooh, the bully boat's a-comin' down the Mississippi floatin'

Ooh, the bully boat's a-comin' an' the gals is all a-waitin'

As I walked out one morning to hear the steamboat rolling

It's there I met a maiden and with basket she was laden

Ooh, I'm bound away ter leave yer, but I never will deceive yer

I'm bound away ter leave yer my half-pay I'm gonna leave yer

Ooh, we're bound for Yokohammer with a load o'grand pianners

Ooh, we're bound for Valparaiser with a load o'rusty razors

Oh, we're bound for Boney's Aires with a bunch o' green canaries

Oh, we're bound for old Gibraltar with a load of bricks and mortar

{Ooh, I'm bound away ter leave yer but I never will deceive yer  
When I come again to meet you it's with kisses I will greet you}

Ooh the bully boat's a-comin' don't ye hear the paddles rollin'

Oh the bully boat's a-comin' down the river she's a-bowlin'