

Sugar in the Hold

Traditional work song of United States steamboat river trade. Earliest print reference "Levee Life: Haunts and Pastimes of the Roustabouts" Cincinnati Commercial, 17 March 1876. Our words are significantly different. The J. M. White was launched in 1876. Roud ?

Well I wish I was in Mobile Bay
Screwing cotton all of the day
But I'm stowing sugar in the hold below
Below below below

Chorus

Hey ho below below
Stowing sugar in the hold below <unh>
Hey ho below below
Stowing sugar in the hold below

The J.M. White she is a new boat
Stem to stern she's mighty fine
Beat any boat on the New Orleans line
Stowing sugar in the hold below

The engineer shouts through his trumpet
"Tell the mate we got bad news.
Can't get any steam for the fire in the flue."
Stowing sugar in the hold below

Well here I am, I've got the Delta blues
Stowin' sugar without shoes
I stamp my foot, I've got a boat to tow
Stowin' sugar in the hold below

The captain's on the quarter deck
Scratchin' 'way at his old neck
And he cries out "Heave the larboard lead"
Stowing sugar in the hold below

<Repeat verse 1 starting with "So">
Chorus X2 - both boisterous † <no slow>