

**The Hard Times Of Old England**  
**Steeleye Span**

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Steeleye Span - The Hard Times of Old England  
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This is a traditional song that has been recorded by many Folk artists over the years. This has been tabbed from the Steeleye Span version from the album All Around My Hat.

Capo on 5th if you want to accompany the recording.

**E** **B**  
Come all brother tradesmen that travel alone,  
**A** **B** **A** **E**  
O, pray come and tell me where the trade is all gone,  
**E** **A** **E**  
Long time I have travelled and cannot find none,  
**B** **E**  
And it s O, the hard times of old England,  
**A** **B** **E**  
In old England very hard times.

**E** **B**  
Provisions you buy at the shop it is true,  
**A** **B** **A** **E**  
But if you ve no money there s none there for you.  
**E** **A** **E**  
So what s a poor man and his family to do?  
**B** **E**  
And it s O, the hard times of old England,  
**A** **B** **E**  
In old England very hard times.

**E** **B**  
If you go to a shop and you ask for a job  
**A** **B** **A** **B**  
They will answer you there with a shake and a nod.  
**E** **A** **E**  
That s enough to make a poor man to turn out and rob,  
**B** **E**  
And it s O, the hard times of old England,  
**A** **B** **E**  
In old England very hard times.

**E** **B**  
You will see the poor tradesmen a-walking the street  
**A** **B** **A** **E**  
From morning till night for employment to seek.  
**E** **A** **E**

And scarcely they have any shoes to their feet,

**B**

**E**

And it s O, the hard times of old England,

**A**

**B**

**E**

In old England very hard times.

**E**

**B**

Our soldiers and sailors have just come from war,

**A**

**B**

**A**

**E**

Been fighting for King and their country this year,

**E**

**A**

**E**

Come home to be starved better have stayed where they were,

**B**

**E**

And it s O, the hard times of old England,

**A**

**B**

**E**

In old England very hard times.

**E**

**B**

So now to conclude and to finish my song

**A**

**B**

**A**

**E**

Let us hope that these hard times they will not last long.

**E**

**A**

**E**

And I may soon have occasion to alter my song,

**B**

**E**

And sing O, the good times of old England,

**A**

**B**

**E**

In old England jolly times.

**B**

**E**

And sing O, the good times of old England,

**A**

**B**

**E**

In old England jolly times.