

Sh-ta-ra-dah-dey

Source:

Carl Sandburg

The American Songbag

New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1927

Sh - ta - ra - dah - dey, sh - ta - dey, Times is might - y hard.____

A dol - lar a day is all they pay For work on the boul - e - vard.

(Text is sung 3 times)

Background Information

This little croon is an impromptu, made up in some hour when a man or woman holding a baby, or rocking a cradle, needed hushing words for a hushing time. Of course, the statistical information that a dollar a day is all they pay for work on the boulevard does not interest a sleepy child, but as crooned by Robert E. Lee, of the *Chicago Tribune*, the word "boul-e-ward" has a comforting and soothing quality. Lee heard the song from an Irishman in charge of the railroad station at Wallingford, Iowa. While selling passenger tickets, or making out way-bills, or figuring freight demurrage, or hustling trunks off and on baggage cars, or piling crates of eggs, "the agent" would ease his heart with this lullaby.