
Synopsis

A group of Irishmen out on the spree ironically associate themselves with the temperance movement. They get into a fight with the police and finish up in court.

Text

There's a dashing sort of boy, who is called his mothers joy,
For his rucetion and elements they charm me;
He takes the chief command in a water-drinking band,
Called the Ballyhooly Blue ribbon Army
The ladies all declare he's the the pride of every fair,
And he bears the patriotic name of Dooley;
When the temperance brigade do go out upon the parade,
There's not sober man in Ballyhooly.

CHORUS

Whililoo, hi ho, let us all enlist you know,
For their ructions and their elements they charm me;
We dont care what we ate, if we drink our whisky nate.
In the Ballyhooly Blue Ribbon Army.

When we're out upon patrol, and we're under his control,
We take of course, a most extended radous;
Although its very clear we drink only ginger beer.
We fine the drinking rather tadius.
The police one fine day, faith they chanced to come our way
And they said we were behaving most uuruly;
When the sergant he did state that we were walking strait
Faith we stretched him for a corpse in Ballyhooly.

Then before the magistrate every one of us did state.
That we had taken nothing that could injure;
And as its very clear we drink ouly ginger beer,
There must have been some stringo in the ginger beer.
Some of us did own we were drinking zoedone,
But the police was behaving most unruly,
It was all of no avail, and within the county jail,
Lies the temperence brigade of Ballyhooly.

There's a moral to my song, and it won't detain yez long,
Give up strong drink of every description;
And it's very clear yez may tire of ginger beer,
I'll give yez all a temperence perscription ;
First the sugar yez have got, then water bowling hot,
And the lemon, faith, you'll find I'm speaking truly ;
And the way you'd sprinkele salt, toss a glass or two of malt,
Fath they called it limonade in Ballyhooly.

ENCORE VERSES.

As you've kindly said encore, faith we'll have a trifle more,

One merning patriotic Captain Dooiey,
Oh ! looking gay and nice, with his night cap full of ice,
Appears upon paraide in Ballyhooly.
Says he, boys do not think my headache's caused thro' drink
And to prove to yez that I am spaking truly,
Just so show I'm not afraid, produce the limonade,
Bgeora, we'll have another dose Qf Ballyhooly.

Glossary:

Ballyhooly	A village in North Cork, Republic of Ireland.
Stingo	Strong ale or beer
Zoedone	A patent medicine. A chemical teetotal drink containing phosphates and iron that the manufacturers claimed improved the drinkers brain power. http://chestofbooks.com/food/beverages/Drinks-Of-The-World/Aerated-Drinks-Part-3.html

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Music. No tune given

Source of Music: No tune given

Date: 1881 or soon after. (See Notes on the song and its historical background)

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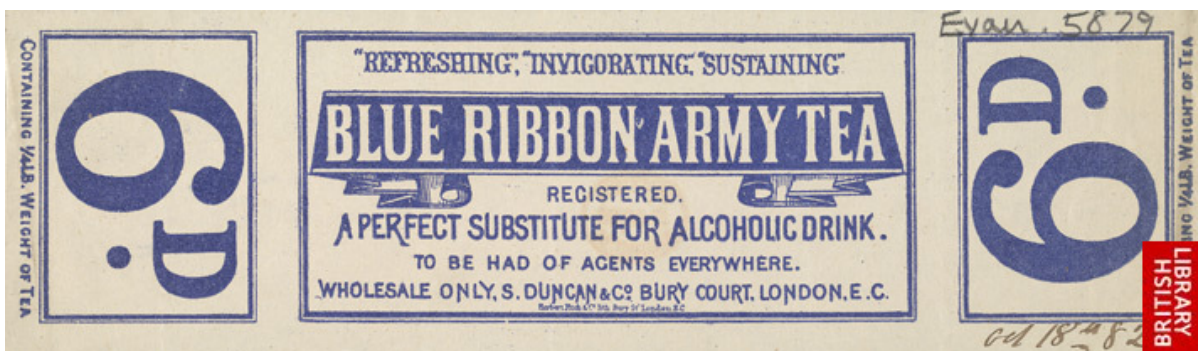
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Notes of the Song and Its Historical Background

The Blue ribbon army was established in the USA and brought into England in 1877 and into Scotland in 1881. <http://blueribbonarmy.com/> Irish labourers returning from England or Scotland after working as harvesters or navvies would have brought news of this organisation with them.

The Poets Box began in 1880 so this song dates from soon after 1881.

Ballyhooly is a village in the north of County Cork



Related Songs: None Found