

“Hard Time Blues”

written by Waring Cuney, sung by Josh White

The sun was a-shining fourteen days and no rain
Hoing and planting was all in vain
Hard, hard times, Lord, all around
Meal barrels empty, crops burned to the ground.

[chorus]

Great God A-Mighty, folks feeling bad
Lost everything they ever had
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Lost everything they ever had

Skinny-looking children, bellies poking out
That old pellagra without a doubt
Old folk hanging 'round the cabin door
Ain't seen times this hard before

[chorus]

I went to the boss at the commissary store
Folks all starving, please don't close your door
Want more food, a little more time to pay
Boss man laughed and walked away.

[chorus]

Landlord coming 'round when the rent is due
You ain't got the money, take your home from you;
Take your mule and horse, even take your cow
Says, "Get off of my land, you're not good nohow.