

# The Island

Aselin Debison

Over an ocean and over a sea  
Beyond these great waters, oh what do I see?  
I see the great mountains  
Climb from the coastline  
The hills of Cape Breton, this new home of mine  
Oh they come from the countries all over the world  
To hack at the forest, to plow the land down  
Fishermen, farmers and sailors all come  
To clear for the future this pioneer ground  
[CHORUS]We are an island, a rock in a stream  
We are a people as proud as there's been  
In soft summer breeze or in wild winter winds  
The home of our hearts, Cape Breton  
Over the rooftops and over the trees  
Within these new townships, oh what do I see?  
I see the black pitheads, the coal-wheels are turning

The smokestacks are belching and the blast furnace burning  
Oh the sweat on the back is no joy to behold  
In the heat of the steel plant or mining the coal  
And the foreign-owned companies  
Force us to fight  
For our survival and for our rights  
[CHORUS]Over the highways and over the roads  
Over the causeway, stories are told  
They tell of the coming and the going away  
The cities of America draw me away  
Ah the companies come, the companies go  
And the ways of the world we may never know  
We'll follow the footsteps of those on their way  
And we'll ask for the right to leave or to stay  
[CHORUS]

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