

Picking on Tops

air: Mon Dévidoir (Quebec trad.)

arr. Lynn Noel from oral histories of the Belknap Mill

1



Grand - mère é - tait fille du mou - lin Pick - in' on tops at the

5



Bel - knap Mill De tri - co - ter elle sa - vait bien How to

9



knit the heel, how to loop the toe Pick - ing on tops twelve

12



cents a do - zen Pick - ing on tops at the Bel - knap Mill.

Depuis Maman était jeune fille...
Elle tricotait de laine aussi...

J'avais douze ans, chuis arrivée...
I learned to work ten-hour days...

Maman, she taught me what to do...
Anglais to work, français chez nous...

We took our pay home to Maman...
With six to feed, 'twould soon be gone...

My friends and me we were sixteen...
In silk stockings, we'd dance like a queen...

(break: La Bastringue)
Mademoiselle, voulez-vous danser,
la Bastringue, la Bastringue?
Mademoiselle, voulez-vous danser,
la Bastringue va commencer.
Ah, oui, monsieur, je veux bien danser,
la Bastringue, la Bastringue
Ah, oui, monsieur, je veux bien danser,
la Bastringue si vous voulez.

(fiddle or mouth music for B part,
then return to M for Revival of the Mill)

At nineteen je suis mariée...
And a married girl at home must stay...

No more the knitting room for me...
They sent my looper home with me...

I taught my daughters all I knew...
Some day you wil be mill girls too...

My girls are grown, and not a one is...
They've gone to Boston, every one...

No one remembers Grandmaman...
Personne souvient les jours d'antan...

This stocking here brings back the years...
J'ai tricoté mes souvenirs...

REFRAIN:
Picking on tops, twelve cents a dozen
Picking on tops at the Belknap Mill. (repeat)
(slowly) I re-mem-ber
Picking on tops, twelve cents a dozen
Picking on tops at the Belknap Mill. (repeat)

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