

A SURVEY OF CANADIAN ENGLISH SLANG

by

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to determine if there is such an entity as Canadian English slang, by using the resources of the Lexicographical Centre for Canadian English, University of Victoria. In the view of several academics, like Eric Partridge, H. L. Mencken, Mark Orkin, the bulk of Canadian English slang is composed of American English slang. Through logical reasoning, one must believe that Canadian English has within its bounds a Canadian English slang. To assume that part of it is of Canadian origin is no more astonishing than to assume that part of American English slang is of American origin, and part of British English slang is of British origin.

What is slang? It is a part of our language, but a part some lexicographers would rather not think about. Why? Because it is usually ephemeral, it is composed of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, abbreviations, metaphors and similes; because it is often picturesque or striking, earthy, humorous, (too) exact in definition, and euphemistic. It is highly informal, often impolite, and it is not normally in use by speakers of proper Standard English, and these people are for whom most lexicographers compile dictionaries.

The words dealt with, in this thesis, to prove the existence of Canadian slang have proved to be categorized as words not listed anywhere; words listed as American or British, but antedated by Canadian quotations in the files from the Lexicographical Centre; words which may be either Canadian or American in origin, words listed in dictionaries but without a date of origin; and words known to be, and

listed as, of US origin and use. These words were supplemented by extensive listings in the Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English.

Are the claims true that Canadian English slang is eighty percent, or nine-tenths American? Are there many Canadian English slang terms of Canadian origin, or are they mostly borrowed Americanisms? Is there a substantial percentage of British English slang in that of Canadian English, or do we, indeed, think and speak in American? Should further attempts be made to claim a separate Canadian English and American English, or should there be a type of English classified as North American English? The results of this thesis will deliver some sorts of solutions to these problems.

The problem solved most immediately is whether or not there is a Canadian English slang. Of 4306 lexical items examined, 2540, or fifty-nine percent of the total, proved to be Canadian in origin or in exclusive Canadian use, and 2128 items, or forty-nine percent of the total, proved to be Canadian in origin.

As further evidence of the existence of Canadian slang, although the evidence is slight indeed, one can turn to the Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles which labels as slang a small proportion of its entries. Such entries, which are also in the unpublished files as duplicate entries, are marked with an asterisk in List (6).

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List of Abbreviations and SymbolsABBREVIATIONS

angl.	anglicized
attrib.	attributive
Aust.	Australian
C	Century (as in: C 19 = nineteenth century)
c	circa
Cdn.	Canadian
coll.	Colloquial
comm.	commercial
cp	catch phrase
DA	Dictionary of Americanisms
DAS	Dictionary of American Slang
def(s).	definition(s)
derog.	derogatory
dial.	dialect, dialectal
Eng.	England, English
esp.	especially
euph.	euphemism
ex	from
fig.	figuratively
joc.	jocular
lit.	literally
n.	noun
NB.	note, of importance
nd	no date given
Nfld.	Newfoundland
NZ	New Zealand
obs.	obsolete, obsolescent
occ.	occasionally
OED	Oxford English Dictionary
orig.	originally
Part. 'Und.'	A Dictionary of the Underworld, by Eric Partridge
pl.	plural
prob.	probably
RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force
RCN	Royal Canadian Navy
RR	railroad
S.E.	Standard English
sol.	solecism
SUE	Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English
US	United States, American
usu.	usually
var.	variant
v.	verb
Webster's 3rd	Webster's Third New International Dictionary
WWI	World War One
WW2	World War Two

SYMBOLS

- When used before a date, as '-1931', it indicates that the lexeme in the entry was in use by at least this date; "-1931" reads as "from before 1931".
- (?) this symbol questions the validity of the information either preceding or following it, according to its position
- = equivalent in meaning to, means
- / or, as in "plan (/decision)"

1.0 Slang is a topic of language study frequently neglected or only lightly treated by lexicographers. With an apparent trend toward a more relaxed, informal type of speech and writing, slang and colloquialisms are becoming prominent in everyday use, and their study should be intensified. Slang can be defined for the purposes of this thesis as a variety of non-standard speech, for example, biffy = "bathroom", drag = "influence (n.)", hustler = "prostitute"; composed of coinages such as, java = "coffee", rubby-dub = "drunkard", cheechako = "newcomer"; arbitrarily changed words as, cagnas from "caserne" (French), dlinkie from "drink", hummerskew from "humoresque"; abbreviations such as, muskie from "muskellunge", natch from "naturally", Squibbley from "Esquimalt", figures of speech such as metaphors, backhouse flush = "a poor poker hand", man-killer = "a piece of man-operated machinery geared to run at a fast speed", marble orchard = "cemetery", and similes, have a hand like a foot = "to be dealt a poor hand of cards", all dolled up like a barber's cat = "dressed up", dark as the inside of a cow = "pitch black"; striking or picturesque words such as, bald-headed prairie = "the Canadian Prairies", C.P.R. strawberries = "prunes", come-to-Jesus collar = "a full-dress collar", honey cart = "a (human) refuse wagon"; earthy speech, such as, she's built like a brick shit-house = "she's got a nice figure", honey thighs = "an endearment said of an attractive girl", the north end of a horse going south = "an ass"(fig.); words (too) exact in definition such as, the big noise = "the boss", boarding-house reach = "a long reach at a dinner table", idiot's lantern = "a television"; humorous items as, take (one's) last drink = "to drown", Massey-Harris = "cheese", whale(-)belly = "a type of coal-car--because it's cavernous"; initials, such as, S.O.L. = "short of luck", A.K. = "arse over kettle",

G.O.K. = "God only knows"; euphemisms such as, shoot! = "shit!", my land! = "my Lord!", glory be (to Pete)! = "glory be to God!". Slang is also composed of the other non-standard varieties of speech such as, colloquialisms, moose = "a huge, powerful man"; cant, have a monkey on (one's) back = "be a drug addict"; jargon, plant = "to insert an incident into a story that, although unnoticed at first, will eventually influence the outcome of the story"; dialect, stag (off) = "to cut something"; argot, jake = "satisfactory"; and it is noted for its usual ephemeral nature.

A brief discussion of the non-standard varieties of speech is needed to understand the proper position of slang in the language 'chain'. This 'chain' begins with Standard English (S.E.), which is language encompassing those words and expressions which are used, understood and accepted by the majority of the speakers of English, no matter what the level of formality is when it is spoken or written. It is a 'link' of the language chain which is very ordered, that is, the definitions of the words used in it are stated emphatically for all to use and understand, and the spellings and pronunciations of its words are precisely given.

Colloquial speech is the next 'link' of the 'chain', and its vocabulary consists of informal words, those that could be used in a familiar conversational or friendly written manner. They are words and expressions which could be understood by almost anyone. This aspect associates it with the S.E. 'link' and dissociates it from the lower 'links' of the 'chain', namely dialects, cant, jargon, argot, and slang.

The third 'link' of the language 'chain' is dialect items. These are regionalisms, that is, words and their pronunciation, and idioms, which are peculiar to a particular group of speakers and the geographical area they may occupy.

The fourth and next to last 'link' can be described as embracing cant, jargon and argot. Cant is the peculiar brand of language which enables members of certain occupations, classes, age groups, or other sub-groups to communicate with each other without those outside the sub-group being able to fathom their meanings--it is, as such, a secret language. Jargon is the specific language of one of the sub-groups, its technical language and hence, to outsiders, its secret language. Argot, the last member of this 'link', covers both cant and jargon while adding a new ingredient, that being the criminal sub-group. This group as a whole, then, can be described as the language of individual sub-groups, that is, their secret language.

The last 'link' draws from each of the previous ones some points which when moulded together make up the class of words and expressions known as slang. From S.E. it takes a word and slightly changes its meaning to refer to some novel event which doesn't have a current word to describe it. This process also enables taboo words and expressions to have their shock value, that is, of a double meaning. Its relation to colloquial speech is through its informality, but unlike the common understanding associated with colloquialisms, slang when used by someone, identifies him as a member of a certain sub-group--one whose language, although known by large numbers of people, defies just plain informality and familiarity by its declaration of brashness and "in the know" superiority. The conversion of cant, jargon and argot words to something else is what relates them to slang. These converted words become slang because of their clarity of definition, their colourfulness, or even their vagueness of definition for some situations. When the sub-group loses its word to the outsiders, it then no longer can be thought of as being cant, jargon or argot and another word must be introduced to

replace it or the secretiveness of the sub-group disappears. The converted word might stay in the secret language with a change in definition. This semantic trickery is similar to that mentioned earlier with S.E. and slang words, and once again the secret barrier is replaced and the outsider is left with his new word, and still no understanding of the secret languages.

Some of the previously mentioned sub-groups contributing to slang are narcotics, drinking, gambling, the armed forces, railroad workers, musicians and underworld members. Examples of these are:

narcotics	<u>the back-end</u> , <u>mainliner</u> , <u>percs</u>
drinking	<u>alchy</u> , <u>joy-juice</u> , <u>bug-juice</u> , <u>lush</u> , <u>rubby-dub</u> , <u>snootful</u> , <u>wino</u>
gambling	<u>split</u> , <u>skin-game</u> , <u>no dice</u> , <u>pass in</u> <u>one's checks</u>
armed forces	<u>goon suit</u> , <u>honey wagon</u> , <u>Slackers</u> , <u>Squibbley</u> , <u>whirlybird</u> , <u>zombie</u>
railroad workers	<u>brakey</u> , <u>gandy-dancer</u> , <u>hoghead</u> , <u>hit the ties</u> , <u>yard goose</u> , <u>hogger</u>
musicians	<u>tin-horn</u> , <u>brass</u> , <u>double in brass</u> , <u>git-box</u> , <u>gob-stick</u> , <u>wood-pile</u>
underworld	<u>gang up on</u> , <u>deader</u> , <u>drifter</u> , <u>roller</u> , <u>kiss-off</u> , <u>phoney-man</u>

Slang by its very nature of being colourful and humorously descriptive is subject to change when a new idea or description appears. The usual ephemeral nature of slang is one of its major points. A large number of slang words and expressions are nonce words. These words, although apt enough for a particular situation, don't always become popular enough to remain in the language. The same holds true for idiosyncracies, although they might conform to the rules defining slang, they do not achieve the popularity necessary to become permanent additions to the vocabulary of slang. To speak of the ephemeral nature

of slang is not to deny its lasting qualities. Some slang has been in use for many years--it has escaped both the usual ephemeral nature of slang, and the rise to the next level of speech. When an item becomes slang, one of three things happen to it: 1) it will remain as a slang term, 2) because of its usual ephemeral nature, it will disappear quickly, 3) it will proceed to a higher level of speech use, namely, colloquial or S.E.. What is dealt with in this thesis is the constant slang term (no. 1).

Lexicographers concede that there is a variety of English spoken in Canada that is substantially different from either American English (AE) or British English (BE) and is referred to as Canadian English (CE).² It is an accepted fact that English in general has within it a body of words known as slang. American English has such a body, as does British English, but lexicographers hesitate to say that any such thing exists in Canadian English. Apparently the proximity of Canada to the United States precludes any existence of CE slang, but why just slang? It is admitted that there are dialect areas, such as the Ottawa Valley, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia, in Canada that differ from American ones; it is also admitted that Canadians use lexical items that brand them as Canadians, such as chesterfield = "sofa", impaired = "drunk", holidays = "vacation", and which are incomprehensible to speakers of American English. Canadians though, apparently do not use slang terms that differ from the American English or British English inventories. CE slang is composed of "eighty percent American, with the remainder rather more English than native-Canadian"³ terms, so says Eric Partridge. He also says that "in another fifty years (from 1933) (CE slang) will be almost as American as the slang of the United States, an Americanization that

will affect the general speech almost as much as it does the slang.⁴" H. L. Mencken is quoted by Partridge as writing, "the impact of this flood (of common-speech, non-fashionable Americanisms) is naturally most apparent in Canada, whose geographical proximity and common interests completely obliterate the effects of English political and social dominance...and American slang is everywhere used; turn to any essay on Canadianisms, and you will find that nine tenths are simply Americanisms."⁵ And Partridge adds, "(Canada's) people may think as Britons but they must perforce think in American....A full glossary of Canadian soldiers' slang would yield valuable material for linguistic generalizers, but it would not, I believe, rebut the general American-ization of Canadian slang."⁶ To believe the above comments without so much as a second thought is to sadly underestimate the creativity of the Canadian people. Canadians, from an historical standpoint, have much to favour their own creation of slang--Canada's immigration history, her industrial endeavours, her sports, her politics--all lend themselves to the development of a Canadian English slang. This is not to say that Canadians are wholly creative in their language nor that they need to be. Mark Orkin, when writing about Yorkville, Ontario slang in his work on Canadian English, states that it "partakes of the characteristics of Canadian slang in general: its idiom is largely American, and much of it is far from new."⁷ He bears out my previously stated remarks by writing, "Given the dearth of Canadian English studies, one should not be surprised to find that Canadian slang has shared in the general neglect. The fact seems to be, however, that Canada has made a small but genuine contribution to this field of linguistics...."⁸

This thesis is prepared to refute the claims against CE slang if

indeed, they do appear refutable. Because of the size of the corpus in use for this paper, it is difficult to state anything definitive about CE slang as a whole, other than a well-qualified opinion. To be noted though, is the attempt by Partridge to say something definitive about CE slang by examining only what he thinks is the prime source of it, that being soldiers' slang. CE slang, as mentioned earlier, derives its material from many sources, the military being only one. That CE slang is eighty percent American or nine-tenths American is another claim that this thesis will attempt to render null and void. A flag-waving pride in Canada and things Canadian is something that will have to be subdued when analyzing the terms for this dictionary of CE slang. One has to "give a little", and admit that AE does play an important role in the formation of Canadian English slang, but not to such an extent that it overwhelms native Canadian English.

The thesis deals with a body of material collected, but not used, for "A Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles", published in 1967. This body of material makes up the slang files in the Lexicographical Centre for Canadian English, University of Victoria, and is hereinafter referred to as "the files". The material is mostly slang in composition, but there are some colloquial and S.E. items present. The total number of words and expressions in the files is roughly 3300. The choice of dictionaries for analysing the material was influenced by the wish for a balanced analytical approach to CE. To achieve this balance, a dictionary of British English was chosen, and two of American English. The dictionary of BE included items from all parts of the British Commonwealth including, naturally, Canada. The two AE dictionaries were chosen to cover items found over a wide span of years--the one dictionary admirably serving this purpose, while the

other dictionary filled in missing material from the former dictionary and updated the entries because of its later date of publication. The size of the corpus and the dictionaries selected for use in this thesis, outline the scope of the project as I have dealt with it, and no pretence to greater work is made.

2.0 All material used as a basis for conclusions in the thesis exists in published works in a written form, with no verbal quotes included. Accurate documentation is the reason for this choice of material, because verbal accounts are so difficult to authenticate. "In no instance can it be assumed the (earliest instance in print as claimed by a dictionary) was its first appearance in print. Indeed, nearly all words are used orally, sometimes for years, before they appear in a published source."¹⁰

Because of the attitudes taken about CE slang, there is a noticeable lack of writing dealing with it. There was no CE slang dictionary that I could find, so I had to find any CE slang by a laborious process of elimination. The way chosen for the attack on the masses of words and expressions was one of finding which items were American English and British English, and assuming that the remainder was Canadian English. The task was made much more bearable by the inclusion in the BE dictionary of a great amount of CE slang which enlarged the body of CE material already at hand.

The dictionaries used in the preparation of this thesis are as follows:

- 1) British English A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, Eric Partridge (SUE) 1937 (1961, 1967)
- 2) American English A Dictionary of Americanisms, Mitford M. Mathews (DA) 1951 (1956)

- 3) American English "Dictionary of American Slang",
H. Wentworth & S. Flexner, Eds. (DAS) 1960

These three works are substantial enough to cover the field in question for this thesis. All three are good dictionaries but each has its downfalls. For the purpose of undertaking a writing of a dictionary based on historical principles, these dictionaries help, but only to a certain extent. SUE fails in this respect because of its inability to provide exact dates for its entries, that is, for example, they are often labelled only as belonging to the nineteenth century or the late nineteenth century, with no year given for authenticating their origin. DAS also fails here by listing a number of its entries with no date given at all for their origin. DA fails by its exclusion of all taboo words and phrases, which are included in both DAS and SUE. And as all dictionaries do, they fail because of their date of publication, by missing reams of data being produced after publication--only a minor point. I chose DAS to supplement DA in this regard, and SUE was of recent enough publication not to need a supplement. Both SUE and DA are remarkable for their detailed authentication of a word by historical evidence, and all three provide explicit definitions. It was often the case that no improvement could be made in the definition of a word as given in a dictionary and in this case, the definition is reproduced, usually in total, in the thesis. An attempt will be made in this work to provide an exact date for every entry, and to include a list of taboo words and expressions.

On the basis of information gleaned from these dictionaries, I was able to devise separate lists of words dealing with different aspects of dictionary compilation. These lists are as follows,

- List of 1) words found in SUE and labelled as Canadian, which

also exist in the files

- 2) words not found in the files but which exist as labelled Canadianisms in SUE
- 3) words whose file date antedates its dictionary listing date
- 4) words which emerged in Canada and the United States at approximately the same time
- 5) words, mainly from DAS, which do not have a date listed, and which could perhaps be Canadian in origin
- 6) words not found listed in any of the three dictionaries consulted
- 7) taboo words

The subject matter of each of these files will be discussed fully when the lists are presented later in the thesis, but for the sake of clarity at the moment, let us examine several examples from each of the lists.

From list (1), there is bindle stiff, defined as "any poor, homeless, jobless, unskilled tramp, beggar or wanderer". The files list its first observed occurrence as 1961, while SUE states that it is Canadian from c1910, originally of American use; DAS lists it as from c1900, and DA notes its origin as 1925. This word, then, is an example of a borrowed Americanism, occurring in Canada roughly ten years after its entrance into AE. Here, also, are examples of missing an early use of a word and having to rely on a later date as a date of origin. Both the files and DA are guilty in this case. Another example from this list is gimmick, defined as "any device or plan or trick calculated to ensure success". The files have it as 1958, SUE as from the mid-1930's, presumably of Canadian derivation; while DAS lists a 1947 date, and DA 1949. Here, the Canadian date clearly antedates the American ones

which gives rise to the existence of a Canadian item spreading to AE. A third example is goon suit, meaning "a flak apron, as worn by members of the RCN when firing the ship's guns in a battle". SUE lists it as Canadian from the Second World War (1939-45), while the files list it as 1945. There are no AE entries listed for this item and only the SUE reference to it as used by the RCN; therefore, we can quite definitely call it Canadian.

From list (2), we have apple-polishing, defined as "toadying-- before giving an apple to his teacher, a pupil often polishes it to curry favour with the teacher". SUE lists this as Canadian with a C 20 date (a general-type date, meaning the item arose sometime from 1900 to the present), while the item does not exist in the files, and there are no AE listings for it. Another word is sticker, meaning "an awkward or difficult question asked of a librarian by a member of the public (presumably also an awkward question asked of anyone)". This is not listed in the files but SUE lists it as Canadian from c1920, and there are no AE listings. Presumably these may be called Canadian English slang words in both origin and use.

List (3) has to have (someone) over a barrel, meaning "to have the better of one, to have an advantage over someone". This item exists in the files with a date of 1910, while DAS, the only dictionary listing it, has it with a date of origin of 1939. The files' date clearly shows that the term had currency in Canadian English many years before it entered American English. To horse (something) up is defined as "to refuse to do something seriously, to do something in a joking manner". This exists in the files with a date of 1952, while it exists in DAS with a date of 1954. This is not a wide margin of difference, but it

does show that the expression was found to exist in Canadian literature two years before its earliest American appearance. Both these examples are demonstrative of antedating--a process used by lexicographers to try to more precisely determine the date of origin for a word. It involves looking for an instance of the word being used in some publication older than the one cited in a dictionary claiming to have the word's date of origin. This procedure gradually pushes the earliest recorded date further back through the years until a definitive date of origin is found.

From list (4), there is to beat (one's) gums, defined as "to be loquacious". The file has this as from 1945, SUE as Canadian, c1945, from AE, while DAS shows it to be from 1945. This uniformity in dates leads one to believe that this is the earliest date of origin. It also causes one to wonder in which country the phrase arose, Canada or the United States. A second example from the list is two-spot, meaning "a two dollar bill". The dates for this are, files: 1905, DA: 1904, DAS: no date given in the listing. In this case, the files' entry only post-dates the AE one by one year. It is therefore likely, that the word could have occurred simultaneously in Canada and the United States; or it is just as likely that the place of origin, that is, Canada or the United States, is not known and it could be from either. When dealing with items which could be classified under this category it is difficult to establish a time period that is critical for determining where a word originated. Whether the time differential should be six months, one year, or two years, it is hard to imagine setting an arbitrary time limit on language movement, and therefore next to impossible to say, in some instances, whether a word first appeared here or there.

List (5) contains miscellaneous file items and is a list of "possible-Canadianisms". I say "possible" because the only date listed anywhere for these words is the date found in the files. This is because their dictionary listing contains no date, just a definition and usage category (hobo, railroad, youth, etc.) and possibly an etymology.

List (6) gives us answer back, defined as "to sass, to speak flippantly in reply to someone". This phrase exists in the files as found in the year 1902, however, it doesn't exist anywhere else in the works consulted. This situation leads to one of two conclusions: it is CE slang, and by coincidence does not appear in any dictionary of slang; or it is an item from some other level of language, or it is a nonce word which has not the appeal to become popular. The question arises that if it is a nonce word, should it rightly be called slang, or is it to be dismissed as someone's idiosyncratic expression? The solution appears to be, if it falls within the bounds set by the definition of slang, then it should be treated as such, and because of the usual ephemeral nature of slang, an idiosyncratic expression need not be said to last any less time than a slang word which has become popular.

From list (7), we find beachcomber, defined as "a white man living with an Eskimo woman". It is found listed in SUE and is said to be used primarily in the Canadian Arctic; its date of origin is 1913, and by 1960, it is becoming obsolete. Another example is black as Toby's arse, meaning "pitch-black, and usually said of the darkness of a night", and this expression arises c1910. While these words and expressions may seem perfectly proper and natural for some people, it is by my own judgement that they are classified as taboo. I was somewhat guided in my decision by a book by E. Sagarin which deals with how taboo words

are formed, their relations with standard or colloquial speech, and their meanings; and also by a dictionary dealing with terms relevant to the young generation of our society. E. Partridge writes in an entry of a taboo word, "In C 20, to be classified as (familiar) S.E. even though the expression is completely ignored by the standard dictionaries. One of the most remarkable lacunae of lexicography is exhibited by the failure of the accredited dictionaries to include such terms. One readily admits that the reason for these admissions is excellent and that a very difficult problem has thereby been posed. The result is that students of Standard English (British and American) are obliged to seek the definitions of Standard words either in dictionaries of slang ...or in encyclopedias and specialist glossaries of sex--where, probably they won't find many of the words they seek." This list of taboo items was included after much wrangling over morals and academic ethics, and the like, with a final decision in favour of their presence, with academic ethics in mind. Since this thesis is being prepared for academic circulation and not for general consumption, the words were entered; if, however, it were the other way around, the taboo list would probably be deleted or at least, edited.

3.0 Is there a Canadian English slang? Yes, of 4306 lexical entries examined, 2540 (59%) of them proved to be exclusively Canadian in use. This leaves 41 percent of Canadian English slang of American use or origin. British English, comprising for this thesis, British, Australian and New Zealand English, played an insignificant role, as compared with that of American English, in the build-up of Canadian English slang, and British English is therefore included in the totals

of American English contributions.

Of the 4306 items examined, 2128 (49%) are of Canadian origin. This figure and that of the 59 percent exclusively Canadian in use, do much to rebut the claims of 75-90 percent American English of Mencken, Partridge and Orkin. It also defies the claim by Partridge that "the remainder (20%) is rather more English than Canadian (in origin)". These items also compose 84 percent of the previously mentioned 2540 items in exclusive Canadian use. This leaves 2178 items (51%) of the total slang examined (4306 items) as of American English origin, and only 16 percent of the items of exclusive Canadian use as of American origin.

Should the type of English spoken in North America be referred to as "North American English"; or should there be further attempts made to prove the existence of at least two types of English spoken in North America, namely, "Canadian English" and "American English"? It is a well known fact that American English exists as an entity apart from British English, for example, but is there enough evidence to prove the existence of Canadian English as an entity apart from American English? If the results of this thesis had borne out the claims made by Partridge and Mencken, then there would have been little in the way of lexicographic evidence that could have been presented to prove a case for the existence of Canadian English. It is a fact, however, that almost half the items examined for the thesis proved to be Canadian in origin or use. This result, even when viewed as a microcosm of the whole of Canadian English slang, is significant in the attempt to prove the existence of the slang. It also shows that about every other slang word uttered by a Canadian is of Canadian English origin (on an

average, of course). It also shows that Canada is not a linguistic satellite of the United States, but is a country which is productive of its own language.

Canadian English as a separate entity from American English has had to fight against encroaching Americanism. Canada is tied to the United States in many ways, for example, economically: the exchange rate of the dollar, natural resources treaties; socially: as shown by the standard of living, styles of clothes, music, television, and radio; politically: by Vietnam, N.A.T.O., and legal battles about oil passage from northern Canada to the United States; and, logically enough, linguistically: as shown by the 41 percent of the total lexical items examined, and 53 percent of the files, which are American English in content. So, any attempt to divorce Canadian English from American English as separate entities should be tempered by the recognition of the ties which Canada has with the United States, and these ties should be evaluated in any discussion of the English as spoken in North America. Should there be a 'North American English'? No, the evidence of this thesis supports a claim for at least two types of English as spoken in North America, and further research to more clearly define the isoglosses between the two types of English should be carried out.

Is Canadian English slang worthy of future in-depth research, as separate research from that for American English slang? Yes, because even with the small corpus examined here, as compared with the whole of the Canadian English slang available for study, there has been sufficient enough, and significant enough, proof offered to make future in-depth research valuable as a means of further substantiating the proof of a Canadian English slang.

- 1 For a more complete discussion of this topic, see Dictionary of American Slang, Preface, pp. vi-xv
- 2 Speaking Canadian English, p. 3
- 3 Slang Today and Yesterday, p. 292
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid., p. 293
- 6 Ibid., p. 294
- 7 Speaking Canadian English, p. 223
- 8 Ibid., p. 224
- 9 With reference to the quote footnoted as "4", Partridge writes, "Allowing much for his (Mencken's) very natural and proper pride in America, we must still recognize the authoritativeness of his opinion."
- 10 Dictionary of American Slang, Explanatory Notes, p. xvii
- 11 The Anatomy of Dirty Words
- 12 The Underground Dictionary
- 13 Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (SUE), II, 1025-26
- 14 For a complete statistical evaluation of the results, please refer to the TABLES, pp. 22-24
- 15 As an added source of Canadianisms, an interesting book to which to refer is John Sandilands' Western Canadian Dictionary and Phrase Book, "the first dictionary ever printed in Canada", and it is available at the Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C. (# NW 427 S217 w.2)

TABLE I

4.0 TABLES

Total Number of Lexical Items Examined

4306 → 3342 Lexical Items in the Files
 ↘ 964 Lexical Items in SUE

Total Number of Items Per Letter

A	38	N	55
B	446	O	52
C	286	P	204
D	189	Q	6
E	24	R	165
F	169	S	466
G	257	T	140
H	285	U	14
I	25	V	12
J	116	W	74
K	68	X	--
L	119	Y	20
M	104	Z	8

TABLE II

Total Number of Items in each Lexical List (1-7)

List(1)	160	List(5)	115
List(2)	964	List(6)	997
List(3)	114	List(7)	170
List(4)	20		

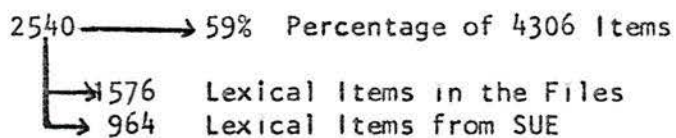
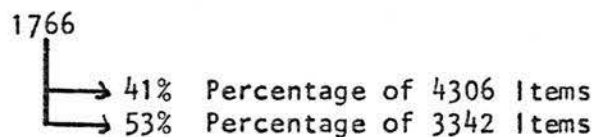
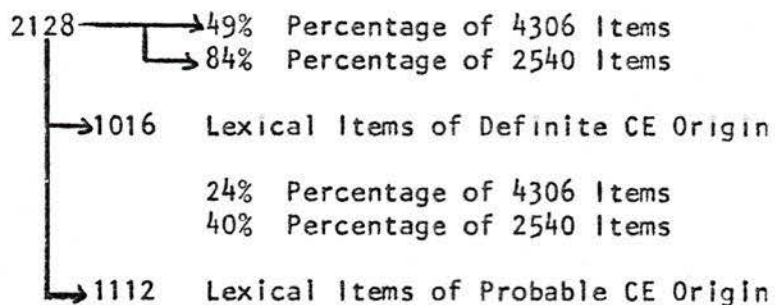
TABLE IIITotal Number of Lexical Items used in CE SlangTotal Number of Lexical Items in the Files that are AETABLE IVTotal Number of Lexical Items of CE Origin

TABLE VSUMMARYTotal Number of Lexical Items Examined

4306

Total Number of Lexical Items in the Files

3342

Total Number of Lexical Items of CE Slang

2540 → 59% Percentage of 4306 Items

Total Number of Lexical Items of AE Slang1766 → 41% Percentage of 4306 Items
→ 53% Percentage of 3342 ItemsTotal Number of Lexical Items of CE Slang in the Files

1576 → 47% Percentage of 3342 Items

Total Number of Lexical Items of CE Origin2128 → 49% Percentage of 4306 Items
→ 84% Percentage of 2540 Items

5.0 What follows are the seven alphabetical lists which comprise the dictionary. It was decided to use separate lists rather than one long alphabetized dictionary, because too much important information would have been lost.

Preceding each list is an explanation of its contents. These lists are also described earlier, 10-14.

LIST (1)LABELLED CANADIANISMS

This list contains lexical items labelled as "Canadian" in the Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (SUE), which also exist in the files.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition; file date, SUE date, any other dates

AS:

buck. A dollar bill; the sum of \$1.00; 1958, SUE late
C 19-20, ex US, DAS c1850, coll., DA 1856

LISTB

beanie. A peakless skull cap, used by university freshmen, and by school children, 1964, SUE c1946, DAS c1945

belly up. To approach something straight on; to move straight ahead, fig., to push one's belly toward or up to something; as in 'belly up to the bar, boys' = crowd up for a drink; 1910, SUE C 20, DAS 1953

biffy. A bathroom, toilet, outhouse; 1958, SUE C 20, DAS nd, 'not common in the US'

big deal! A sarcastic remark, referring to anything or anyone uninteresting or unimportant to the speaker, often used as a belittling exclamation to deflate another's enthusiasm, as in reply to a suggestion or an eager proposal; 1962, SUE 1945, DAS c1940/c1946

bindle stiff. Any poor, homeless, jobless, unskilled tramp, beggar, or wanderer; 1961, SUE c1910, ex US, DAS c1900, DA 1925

bitch. To complain; 1963, SUE c1925, DAS 1941

blind baggage. On a train, it is a baggage car--at each end of the coach is a curtained-off part which is used for passing from one coach to another on a corridor train--this is the Blind, the blind facing the back-end of the engine is unused, and so provides a small space which affords a good foothold and good protection from the wind;

tramps', C 20

- Bluenose. A native or resident of Nova Scotia, a New Englander or Canadian (DA definition), 1955, SUE c1840, anglicized as coll., orig. 1830 (US), DA 1830
- bone up (on). To study; esp. to study or review a specific subject intensively during a short period; 1959, SUE c1910, ex US, DAS nd, DA 1948
- bone-yard. *Attrib.*, A cemetery, 1909, SUE (n.) late C 19-20, DAS (n.) c1870, DA (n.) 1862
- boomer. A migratory, itinerant or transient worker, 1960, SUE c1910, DAS nd, DA 1926
- boothill *Boot Hill*. A graveyard, miners', 1949, SUE C 20, ex US, DA 1901
- brakey brakie. A railroad brakeman, esp. on a freight train, 1906, SUE c1890, ex US, DAS c1885 (hobo), DAS c1910 (RR), DA 1887, coll.
- brass pounder. A telegrapher, 1960, SUE c1925, DAS c1925, obs.
- break. An opportunity, luck, a stroke of fate, either good or bad; 1955, SUE late 1920's, DAS c1925, coll., DA 1911
- breed. A person of mixed racial descent, esp. one of Indian and white blood, 1905, SUE mid C 19-20, coll., DA 1892
- broad. A woman or girl, 1960, SUE c1925, ex US, DAS 1932
- buck. A dollar bill; the sum of \$1.00, 1958, SUE late C 19-20, ex US, DAS c1850, coll., DA 1856
- buff. An enthusiast; a fan, a devotee of some field of interest; 1959, SUE c1940, DAS 1930
- buffalo. To confuse another purposely; to trick, deceive; 1917, SUE c1920, ex US, coll. by 1945, DAS c1870, DA 1903
- bug. A defect, a flaw, 1950, SUE c1945, ex US, DA 1934
- bug. An automobile, esp. a small one; 1958, SUE c1919-39, DAS c1920
- bug. A semi-automatic telegraphic key, operating from side to side instead of up and down, which sends 'dashes' automatically, speeding message sending; 1960, SUE c1910, DAS c1920

- bughouse. *Attrib., insane, crazy, eccentric, nuts*; 1910, SUE early C 20, DAS 1894(1891), DA 1895
- bug juice. *Liquor, esp. whiskey*; 1884, SUE C 20, also US, DAS c1875, DA 1869
- bull. *A policeman, a law enforcement officer of any kind, as a uniformed policeman, detective, plain-clothes man, railroad policeman, prison guard*; 1961, SUE C 20, ex US, DAS c1800, DA 1900
- bull session. *Any discussion, short or long, either serious or for the purpose of passing idle time*; 1956, SUE c1919, DAS c1940, DA 1939
- bunk. *Boloney, exaggeration, lies; a term of disapproval for anything disliked or unwanted*, 1913, SUE c1920, ex US, DAS 1927, DA 1900
- bush. *Attrib., small time, amateurish*; 1958, SUE late C 19-20, DA 1910, coll.
- bushwa(h). *A polite euphemism for 'bull-shit', nonsense*; 1955, SUE c1916, DAS c1920, DA 1924 (see under 'bull', #6)
- buster. *A name for anybody whose real name may or may not be known to the speaker, usu. but not necessarily pejorative*; 1963, SUE c1920, ex US, DAS nd

C

- cabbage. *Paper money*; 1950, SUE C 20, cant; becoming (low) slang, c1950, DAS nd, coll.
- cackle(-)berries (/cackleberry). *An egg, usu. plural*; 1920, SUE late C 19-20, ex US, DAS nd, obs.
- can. *To fire a person from his job*; 1952, SUE 1910 (in B.C.), DAS 1912, DA 1913
- Charley Chaplin's Army Corps. *The Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre at Shorncliffe, England, 1949*, SUE 1914-18, military
- chicken-feed. *Small change*, 1934, SUE C 20(1932), DAS 1836, DA 1836
- clip joint. *A nightclub or restaurant, where the prices are high and the patrons are fleeced or gypped*; 1950, SUE c1930, ex US, DAS 1939
- coke. *Any soft drink; soft drinks in general*; 1961, SUE c1935, DAS nd

corny. Old-fashioned, hackneyed, sentimental, esp. in an outmoded way; 1945, SUE 1930, DAS 1935, becoming obs., DA 1948

cow. Milk, 1924, SUE late C 19-20, DAS c1900

cows come home, till the. An indefinite time; forever; 1918, SUE mid C 19-20, ex US (1824), orig. Eng. (1610); coll.

crow-bait. A lean or bony horse, esp. if old, 1962, SUE c1895 (also South American, among Englishmen there), DAS nd, Western, DA 1860, coll.

cut out. To depart, 1919, SUE 1957, ex US, DAS 1912

D

dead ringer. An exact likeness; the spitting image; 1958, SUE C 20, DAS 1891, DA 1909

dim bulb. A very dull person; 1945, SUE c1918-40

doodad (/do-dad). A thingummy; something for which one cannot remember the name, or for which the name is unimportant; 1958, SUE c1930, ex US, DAS nd, DA 1908, coll.

do-gooder. An inveterate busybody, intent on reforming everybody's soul but his own; 1959, SUE c1946, coll., DAS 1949

drag. Influence; pull, an 'in' with important and influential people; 1917, SUE c1910, DAS c1890, common c1920, obs., DA 1896

drag. A train, esp. a heavy freight train, 1961, SUE -1931 (RR), DAS c1920

dry run. An experimental rehearsal; 1959, SUE c1925, coll., DAS nd

E

eager beaver. One who pitches right in, sometimes to the dismay of less highly geared colleagues, and sometimes none too intelligently; 1958, SUE c1940, ex US, DAS c1940, DA 'beaver', 1850

F

- fink. An unpleasant, esp. if felt to be untrustworthy, person; 1958, SUE c1965, ex US, DAS c1925, DA 1935/1948
- flannel-mouth. A person who speaks ill of others, 1919, SUE = a well-spoken person, C 20, DA 1912 (first meaning)
- flop. A bed; a cheap night's lodging; 1961, SUE -1931, ex US (RR), DAS 1949, DA 1916
- flunk out. To fail in a task, esp. an examination; 1963, SUE 'flunk' late C 19-20, ex US, DA 1823
- forty-rod forty rod Forty Rod. A type of illicit whiskey, invariably of over-proof strength, so that it might be doctored by the retail vendors--in most cases it was little other than coloured alcohol; 1873, SUE c1885, DAS 1929, DA 1863 (see also 'redeye')
- frosty Friday, a. A phrase indicating the low probability of something occurring ever again; perhaps never; 1963, SUE c1940
- fuzz, the. Policemen, 1963, SUE c1956, DAS 1931

G

- gandy-dancer. A section hand on the railway; a labourer who lays the ties for the rails; 1954, SUE 1908 (RR), also US, ex US cant, DAS c1915 (RR, hobo, lumbermen)
- Gatt gat. A revolver; 1919, SUE -1914, ex US, DAS c1910, becoming obs.
- gay cat. A tramp that hangs about for women; 1961, SUE C 20, DAS 1907, DA 1897
- get the lead out. To get moving; to work with more vigour, to stop being lazy; 1964, SUE c1940, DAS cW42 (1948)
- gimmick. Any device or plan or trick calculated to ensure success; 1958, SUE mid 1930's, DAS 1947, DA 1949
- gimpy. Attrib., lame, (of a leg); 1959, SUE c1930, ex US
- goo. Any semi-liquid or viscous matter; 1936, SUE c1912, ex US, DAS c1900, DA 1911
- goof ball(s). (Rare in singular), drugs that, in pill or tablet form and whether taken alone or in a drink, produce exhilaration; some are dangerous; barbituates or tranquilizers which, in certain liquids, produce effects opposite to the normal result of the drugs-- 'the first step toward drug addiction'; 1958, SUE c1945,

ex US, DAS nd (addicts')

goon suit. A flak apron, 1945, SUE 1939-45 (RCN)

greasy spoon. *Attrib.*, and *n.*, any small, dirty restaurant, ex the state of the cutlery, 1960, SUE *n.*, -1931, DAS 1951

H

ham it up. To act a part extravagantly; to wreck something by ill-advised conduct; 1959, SUE c1930, ex US, DAS nd

handout. A meal handed out to the indigent, 1908, SUE late C 19, ex US, DAS c1880, DA 1882

hangup. Frustration, delay, problem; 1968, SUE c1956

harness bull. A uniformed policeman; 1958, SUE 1930's, low, ex US, DAS c1915, DA 1903

hassle. A fuss, a disagreement, a row, a ruckus; 1957, SUE c1860, ex US, DAS 1949

hen fruit. Eggs; 1910, SUE C 20, DAS c1850, DA 1854

hep. In the know, having good taste; 1958, SUE c1925, SUE = 'shrewd', late C 19-20, rural dial., also US, DAS c1915, becoming common c1935, replaced by 'hip', c1945, DA 1908

high-tail it. To leave speedily; 1944, SUE C 20, by 1950, coll., DAS nd, DA 1927

hit the hay. To go to bed; 1942, SUE c1900, ex US, DAS c1910, DA 1924

hit the ties. To 'tramp the ties' or walk along the railway track; 1955, SUE c1905, ex US, somewhat obs. by 1959, DAS 1907, DA 1907

hoghead. A locomotive engineer; 1955, SUE -1931 (RR), ex US, DAS c1910, orig. Western RR, hobo

honey bucket. A latrine receptacle for excreta; 1931, SUE 1914 military

honey wagon. A night-cart (only in outback towns); in the Canadian Army, 1914-18, the corresponding truck was called the 'honey-cart', 1959, SUE C 20, DAS = farm use, c1915, DAS = Army use, WW 2

hood. A gangster, hoodlum; 1950, SUE -1949, ex US, DAS 1930

hook, off the. Out of a difficult or embarrassing situation, 1955, SUE c1945, DAS 1950

horse-and-buggy. *Attrib.*, old-fashioned, antiquated, 1963, SUE c1925, coll., ex US(?); by 1955, S.E.

horse around. To play practical jokes, 1959, SUE 'horsing around', 1939, Servicemen, DAS 'horse', 1954

Husky husky. An Eskimo or his language; esp. an Eskimo dog; 1962, SUE 1864, coll. till C 20, then S.E.

hustler. A prostitute, 1950, SUE c1925, ex US, DAS 1952

J

jack up. To reprimand for slackness, 1903, SUE c1920, DAS c1895, coll., obs., DA 1896

jag. (A bout of) intoxication, 1897, SUE late C 19, orig. C 17-20 (Eng. dial., obs.), becoming Eng. and US slang in late C 19-20, DAS 1893, coll.

jane. A woman, a girl; 1927, SUE c1918, ex US, ex Aust.(?), DAS c1915 (sometimes capitalized)

java (/java). Coffee; 1955, SUE C 20, DAS c1850, coll., DA 1947, coll.

jawbone jaw-bone. Credit, 1866, SUE c1860, becoming military c1880, DAS nd, DA 1900

Joe-job. An unpleasant job; 1955, SUE c1940, soldiers'

L

Limey. An Englishman; esp. a Canadian name for a British seaman; 1945, SUE c1925, DAS 1938, DA 1940

loco. *Attrib.*, insane, crazy; 1936, SUE c1930, ex US, DAS 1887, DA 1887

long-handled underwear. Men's extra-warm winter woollen underclothes, with long legs and sleeves, 1959, SUE c1950, DAS 'long-handle underwear', 1945

lush. A drunkard; 1950, SUE (Eng. date c1890, low, obs.),

or SUE nd, 'still common in Canada and owes something of its currency to the wide spread use of the term in C 20 US', DAS c1920

M

make (it). To cope with anything, 1961, SUE c1942, ex US, DA 1912/1949

mazuma. Money, 1953, SUE -1914, ex US, ex Yiddish, DAS c1915, DA 1907

mickey. A pint (13 ounces) of liquor; also US; 1950, SUE c1920

miffed. Offended, annoyed, 1910, SUE late C 19- 20, DAS c1935, coll.

moose milk. Any of various home brews concocted in the Yukon, one consisting of condensed milk laced liberally with rum; 1963, SUE c1920

muskie. A maskinonge or muskellunge (a large pike--a type of fish); 1947, SUE mid C 19-20, DA 1894

N

natch! natch. Of course!, naturally!; 1959, SUE c1945, ex US, DAS c1940, obs.

no dice. The deal's off; because of adverse conditions, what had been planned is no longer possible to accomplish; 1958, SUE c1940, DAS 1952

O

one(-)horse. Insignificant, very small, trivial; 1898 (1960), SUE c1885, in the 'Colonies', orig. (1854) US, coll., DAS c1850, DA 1853

P

pard. A partner, a chum, ex 'pardner'; 1878, SUE c1885, in the 'Colonies' orig. (-1872) US, coll., DAS c1850, coll., DA 1850

pass in (one's) checks. To die; 1878, SUE c1890, orig. (-1872) US, DAS c1870, DA 'hand in (one's checks)' 1857

pass the buck. To evade responsibility, usually by passing

the job on to someone else, but often by simply ignoring it; to evade a difficult question in an argument, 1919, SUE nd, ex US, DAS c1910, coll., DA 1912

Peasoup pea-soup. A French-Canadian; 1930, SUE late C 19-20, DAS nd, 'not common'

pile, make (one's). To make a fortune; 1859, SUE c1850, 'mostly Colonial and US', coll., DA 1850

pill. A cigarette; 1931, SUE C 20, DAS c1915-c1930, 'never common'

pimp stick. A cigarette; 1927, SUE C 20, low, DAS c1925

plug. An inferior horse, 1903(1913), SUE nd, 'Colonial', slang becoming coll. c1920, probably ex US (1872), DAS c1870, DA 1860, coll.

plug. An obnoxious, objectionable fellow; 1926, SUE late C 19-20, ex US

pooch. A small or mongrel dog, any dog; 1944, SUE = small or mongrel dog, late C 19-20, SUE = any dog, c1920, DAS = any dog, 1951, DA = both defs., 1927

punk. Bread; 1942, SUE c1900, DAS c1880, DA 1891

put (her, it) there! Shake hands!; 1912, SUE late C 19-20, 'Colonial', coll., DA 1903

R

ral. A disorderly fellow, a rowdy; 1954, SUE C 20, (Nfld.)

ratty. Wretched, miserable, mean; 1909, SUE -1885, also US, DAS 1952

redeye. Whiskey; invariably of over-proof strength, so that it might be doctored by the retail vendors-- in most cases it was little other than coloured alcohol; (see also 'forty rod'); 1889, SUE c1885, (in 1914-18, the Army applied 'redeye' to rum), DAS c1820, DA 1819

ribbing. The n. corresponding to the v. 'rib', meaning to make fun of, to pull someone's leg; 1960, SUE nd, but v., c1925, also Cockney

rubby-dub rubby-dubby. A drinker of cheap spirits or wine; orig. and properly, a drunkard that drinks

rubbing alcohol, 1957, SUE c1920, low

rush the growler. To take a bucket or pail (growler) to a beer parlour, have it filled with beer, and carry it home, to buy a bucket of beer; 1905, SUE C 20, DAS 1914, DA 1888

S

screwball. An eccentric, a nut, also adjective; 1942, SUE 1930's, ex US, DAS c1935

scrub. An inferior bull or cow; 1962, SUE c1920, rural, DA 1823

seat-of-the-pants. *Attrib.*, Reference to a bush-pilot's instincts, knowledge of the country over which he is flying, and lack of dependence on instruments for navigation; 1967, SUE 'seat-of-the-pants flier', c1925, coll., mostly historical after c1950, DAS 'by the seat of (one's) pants', nd

seat-of-the-pants flyer. A bush pilot, one who flies as described in the preceding entry, 1967, SUE c1925, coll., mostly historical after c1950

shebang. A thing, matter, business, esp. in 'the whole shebang' = everything; 1959, SUE C 20, ex US (-1895), 'not unknown in the British Empire', DAS c1870, slang, now coll., DA 1895, coll.

shoot off (one's) mouth. To talk, esp. to talk boastfully or indiscreetly; to tell all one knows; 1919, SUE 1925, ex US (1887), DAS 1880, DA 1864

shucks! Darn it!; 1911, SUE c1910, ex US, DA 1847, coll.

shy. Short, lacking, shy of, 1959, SUE late C 19-20, DA 1887, coll.

side-kick sidekick. A close companion, a mate; occ. an assistant, on a job, 1927, SUE 1914, (also Aust.), ex US, DAS c1910, DA 1922

sit-down. A meal, offered to a tramp, to be eaten sitting down, as contrasted with a 'hand-out'; 1927, SUE late C 19-20, ex US hoboies' coll., DAS c1850, DA 1926

Siwash. A mean and/or miserable seaman (nautical meaning); a general term of derogation said to a disliked, wretched, miserable person, esp. a white man and not an Indian, 1921, SUE c1840, Nova Scotia and US, DAS c1930, DA 1902

- Slackers. Halifax, Nova Scotia, esp. the naval base located there, 1945, SUE 1939-45, RCN
- smacker. A dollar bill, the sum of \$1.00; 1955, SUE c1925, ex US, DAS 1921, DA 1920
- smooch. To caress amorously, to kiss; 1958, SUE C 20, DAS 1937
- snootful. A consumption of liquor, esp. in 'get/have a snootful'; 1959, SUE 'have a shootful', c1940, ex US, DAS 'get/have a snootful', c1920
- sod buster. An agricultural (not a pastoral) farmer; a person from the Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba); 1958, SUE C 20, also US, DAS c1890, DA 1927
- squawk. A complaint; 1944, SUE c1935, ex US, DAS nd
- squawkbox squawk-box. An office intercommunication system; an intercom; a two-way radio in a taxi; 1960, SUE c1945
- Squibbley. Esquimalt, British Columbia, esp. the naval base there, 1945, SUE c1930 RCN
- stick-up. A hold-up robbery; 1955, SUE c1941, coll., ex US, DAS 1929, DA 1945
- strapped. Penniless, broke; 1862, SUE late C 19-20, also English, DAS c1860, coll., DA 1851

T

- talk turkey. To talk business, to talk sense; 1959, SUE c1890, coll., ex US, DAS c1920, coll., DA 1830
- thirty 30. The end, conclusion; 1955, SUE c1910, DAS 1949, 'well known', DA 1889
- tie one on. To get (very) drunk; 1963, SUE c1935, ex US, DAS nd, 'very common'
- tinhorn gambler tin-horn gambler. A petty gambler; 1912, SUE c1912, ex US, DA 1885
- tough it out. To endure, to bear, face up to (esp. a difficulty, hardship); 1911, SUE 'tough', c1905, prob. ex US 'tough it' = to rough it, DA 1830, coll.
- turn down. To reject (an application); curtly say no to (a request, suggestion, invitation); refuse to accept (a suitor for one's hand); 1910, SUE c1900, 'in the Dominions', ex US (c1890), DA 1891, or DA 1897

U

under the weather. Unwell, 1936, SUE late C 19-20, coll.

V

vag. To charge someone under the Vagrancy Act; now historical, since abolition of the Vagrancy Act and the resulting abolition of vagrancy charges, 1911, SUE late C 19-20, ex US, DAS nd, DA 1876, or DA 1891

W

well(-)heeled. Wealthy; 1910, SUE c1910, ex US, DAS 1951, DA 1897

whirlybird whirly-bird. A helicopter; 1958, SUE c1950, RCAF and comm. airlines, DAS 1957

wino. A drunkard on (cheap) wine; 1961, SUE c1925, ex US, DAS c1920

Y

yard goose. (usu. pl.), a (train) yard switchman, 1949, SUE -1931, ex US, (RR), DAS nd (RR)

Z

zombie. A conscript in the Second World War, esp. a French-Canadian; 1953, SUE 1939-45

Zombie. A Canadian 'Home Guard' not allowed to serve outside North America, usu. a French-Canadian conscript; 1953, SUE c1940-45

LIST (II)SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF CANADIANISMS
NOT FOUND IN THE C.E. FILES

This list contains items found in the Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (SUE), which are not to be found in the files. All these words are labelled as Canadian in SUE, or are labelled as Colonial--these are included if there is an accompanying US date, which may indicate that they are Canadian as well.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition; SUE date

AS.

bald-headed prairie. The great treeless and shrubless plains; c1880, coll.

LISTA

- A.K. Arse over kettle, said of how someone falls; WWI
- act bored, superior, etc. To behave as if bored, superior, etc.; c1920, orig. a solecism, but by 1955, coll.
- Adam and Eve on a raft. Two poached eggs on toast; C 20
- African harp. A banjo; ex US (c1925); 1930's
- aft. Afternoon, as in 'this aft'; c1910
- after you, my dear Alphonse--no, after you, Gaston. A meaningless cp, orig. 'after you, Claude--no, after you, Cecil; 1940's obs. by 1959
- all dolled up like a barber's cat. Dressed resplendently; C 20
- all the traffic will bear, (that's). A cp relating to fares for public transportation being raised; ex US, c1948
- all wet. Attrib., very foolish, very stupid, dull, in

- error; also Aust. and Eng.; c1920
- alligator. A fan of 'swing' music, popular in the late 1930's and 1940's; 1946, obs. by 1959
- Ameche. A telephone; 1946, obs. by 1959
- amp. An amputee; medical and hospital use; c1946
- apple-polishing. Toadying,--before giving an apple to his teacher, a pupil--sometimes ostentatiously--polishes it; C 20
- arena rat. A fan or an idler who spends much time at a hockey arena; sporting; 1957
- B
- backhouse. An outdoor toilet, an outhouse; nd
- backhouse flush. A very poor poker hand,--one that is fit only for the backhouse (outdoor toilet); poker players'; c1955
- bag of bones. An airplane used by a bush pilot; c1942
- bald-headed prairie. The great treeless and shrubless plains which stretch across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba; c1880, coll.
- ball, have a. To have a thoroughly good time; ex US; c1935
- ball of fire. A notably energetic and effectual person (usu. male); often this cp is used sarcastically and in the negative, as in 'he's no ball of fire'; ex US c1930
- bang water. Gasoline; c1920
- barber-shop harmony. A derisive cp said of male quartettes (?), 1909, coll. by 1962, S.E.
- barn-stormer. A person who did acrobatics, wing-walking, etc. on airplanes while in the air; also any pilot who put on a show for the small-town people of the country; c1919-22
- bawl out. To reprimand; ex US, c1910, coll.
- Bays. Shares in the Hudson's Bay Company; Stock Exchange use; -1895, coll.
- be a good girl and have a good time. A cp addressed to someone leaving for a party, usu. followed up with

- 'Well, make up your mind!', c1930
- beat, the. The musical rhythms of jazz; ex US, c1950, coll.
- beat it!, put an egg in your hat and. Supposedly an elaboration of 'beat it' = (of criminals) to run away (??). More probably it is an elaboration of 'beat it' = go away, don't bother me anymore; late 1950's
- beautiful but dumb. A cp and an opinion said of 'dizzy blondes', many of whom are beautiful and far from dumb; ex US; c1943
- bed springs. A guitar; ex US (c1925); late 1930's
- beef. A complaint, early C 20
- beef to the heels. A derisive cp describing a girl's thick ankles, which run from calf to heel in 'one sad, straight line', c1910
- behind the eight-ball. In an extremely difficult position, at a grave disadvantage, ex US; c1945
- belly up to the bar, boys! The drinks are on the house; C 20, see also 'belly up'
- big cheese, the. The boss, one's employer; C 20, by 1959, becoming obs.
- big front. (A fellow with) new or good clothes, carnivals'; c1910
- big noise, the. The boss; -1910
- Big O, the. The Canadian cruiser, H.M.C.S. Ontario, scrapped in 1959; naval; c1939
- bindle. A blanket roll, one's belongings wrapped in a blanket and carried over one's shoulder as one travels about; a swag; ex US, mainly hobo; c1890
- birthday suit. Naked, unclothed; 'in Canada, (this expression) has remained far more general than 'in the altogether'; C 20, orig. 1771, in England
- blabber-mouth blabbermouth. A person who cannot keep a secret, one who talks too much; ex US; -1944, coll.
- Black Troops. Dominions Air Forces personnel--self-named; ironic; 1940-45

- blitz-buggy. An automobile; 1946, obs. by 1959
- blow. To play any instrument, as in 'He blows nice piano.'; ex US (c1925); musicians'; late 1930's
- blow up blowing up. A scolding, a reprimand, 1820-21
- blunderbuss. A punning cp, meaning a baby carriage, c1925(?)
- board's against me, the. The (RR) signal is 'no'; RR; C 20, coll.
- boarding-house reach. A cp used in referring to a particularly long reach in reaching for food at a table; joc.; C 20, coll.
- Bohunk bohunk. A Polish or Slavic labourer; C 20, 1910 in B.C., DA 1903
- boiler-plate. News stories already set, on stereotyped plates, for filling up pages of a newspaper; printers', C 20
- boing! This imitation of the noise made by a suddenly released spring, became a Cdn. cp used on any occasion, no matter how inappropriate(?); c1955
- Boley Boly. A Bolingbroke aircraft--a Cdn. version of the Blenheim; RCAF; 1940-45
- bone-box. A person's mouth; 1946, obs. by 1959
- booby hatch. A lunatic asylum; ex US, C 20
- book. An issue (of a magazine); printers' and publishers'; c1920, coll.
- boom or bust. A cp applied to western towns, mines, and other such enterprises as are subject to varying fortunes; late C 19-20
- boots to, put the. To jump on a person with one's spiked boots; lumbermen's; C 20
- borax. Cheap furniture, salesmen's; c1920
- born in a barn?, were you. A cp directed at someone who leaves the door open, late C 19-20
- Bossy. A common Cdn. name for a cow; late C 19-20
- bottle-arsed. An expression referring to printing type so long used that the base is no longer a solid rectangle, and so the type will not stand in a galley without being tied; printers'; C 20

- bow wave. A novice sailor, RCN, c1920
- brain, the. The boss; c1935
- brains, the. The boss, c1905-40
- brass, top. The officers in the armed forces, a variant of 'Brass'; ex US, 1939
- bread barge. A wooden keg fitted with brass bands and a circular wooden lid, in which the mess ration of bread was kept, RCN, c1900-25
- break it up! Disperse, or, get moving and keep moving!, ex US; a Cdn. official cp (?); c1930
- bright eyes (/bright-eyed) and bushy-tailed. Attrib., a cp meaning alert and active, and ready for anything; c1955
- bring anything with you?, (did you). A cp meaning, have you any narcotics with you?; c1950-60
- broomstick. A rifle or shotgun; -1909, obs.
- brownie. A cake or other confection, ex US; C 20, coll.
- brownie. A bad mark on one's achievement record; RR; c1908
- brownie box. A superintendent's carriage--so called because that's where 'brownies' (see above, 'brownie' c1908) are issued; RR, C 20
- buck private. An ordinary private with no stripes at all; Army, WWI
- buff. A person who, protesting that he has been swindled, threatens to go to the police; carnival; C 20
- buffalo. A robe made of a buffalo hide; also US; 1856 (OED), DA 1922
- bugger. A person (usu. male) who is very energetic or very skilful, as in 'he's a bugger to work' - he works very hard; c1925
- buggy. A caboose, passenger or box car, RR; also US; C 20 (-1931)
- bugle. A person's nose; C 20
- bull-dogging. See 'steer-decorating'; c1910-45
- bull fiddle. A bass viol; C 20
- bull of the woods. The foreman, RR and lumbermen's; c1910

- bull-peddler. See 'bull, peddle the'
- bull, peddle the. hence: bull-peddler. To talk nonsense; and one who does this; c1945
- bull, shoot the. To talk nonsense, to talk idly; c1919
- bull it through. To accomplish something--esp. an outdoor task--by sheer strength rather than by skill and planning; C 20, coll.
- bully. *Attrib.*, splendid, good, ex US, c1860
- bum steer, give (someone) a. To give bad advice, information or directions; c1925
- bunch. To abandon (a job, esp.), c1910
- bunk in with. To share a bivvy or a funk hole with another soldier; Army, 1914, coll. (See also 'dosh')
- bunker-cat. A low-class fireman, nautical; late C 19-20
- bus-boy. One whose duty it is to clear the tables in a restaurant; ex US; c1935
- bush(-)league. *Attrib.*, second-rate, amateurish; ex US, and minor baseball leagues, c1930
- bushed. *Attrib.*, suffering from mild or serious mental derangement caused by long solitude in the bush (/forest, outback); late C 19-20, coll.
- Butch. A nickname given to boys by father proud of their own muscles and virility, and desirous of the same qualities in their offspring; ex US, ex S.E.; c1920
- button (up) your lip! Stop talking (right now)! say nothing (later)! ex US; c1935
- Byng boys, the. The Canadian troops fighting in WWI, from Lord Byng, who commanded them in 1917; military; 1917-1918

C

- C.P.R. strawberries. Prunes; RR; c1918-40
- Cadborosaurus (/Caddy). A mythical(?) sea monster often reported near Victoria, B.C., and named after Cadboro Bay, where it was first reported; C 20
- cage. A caboose; RR; C 20

- cagnas. Barracks, from the French Army via French Canadian; military; WWI
- Cajun. A person of French Canadian descent living in the south-eastern US, esp. Louisiana; nd, coll.
- can, the. An outdoor toilet with a can or other receptacle under the seat; now mainly meaning a bathroom, a toilet (usu. indoor), C 20
- can(s). Earphones used by technicians in radio and television, c1950
- can. Usu. 'be canned', (of a piece of equipment) to be taken out of service; RR; -1931
- canader. A Cdn. canoe, from the Oxford '-er'; -1909
- Canady. A solecism meaning 'Canada'; C 19-20
- canagger. A Cdn. canoe, from the Oxford '-er'; 1880's, rare after 1940
- canary. A girl singer with an orchestra; also US; c1945
- C(/c)anpacs. Shares in the Canadian Pacific Railway (C. P. R.), Stock Exchange, -1895, coll.
- Canuck occ. Canack K(a)nuck. A (French-) Canadian; also US; 1855
- Canuck. A Cdn. horse or pony from the preceding, ex US (1860); c1920, coll.
- car knock (/car toad, /car tank, /car whack(er)). A (RR) car repairman, RR; -1931
- careen. To career, to go wildly and rapidly, to travel out of control, esp. said of an automobile; also US; c1935
- carney. A carnival show, hence, a man employed there; ex US; c1930
- carni guy. Any person connected with a carnival (a ticket-taker, ride-operator, huckster, and the like), ex US; C 20
- carry the torch for (somebody, /a cause). To be enamoured of someone; to be devoted to a cause; ex US; c1945
- cat-skinner. A driver of a caterpillar tractor; lumbermen's; c1930
- catch on the fly. To board a train while it is moving; orig. hobo'es'; C 20

- Cats, the. The Canadian Auxiliary Territorial Service, 'mostly Cdn.', WW2
- caulk off. To sleep, esp. if surreptitiously, a variant of 'caulk' = the same meaning; nautical, 'mostly Cdn.'; C 20
- caulk up. (Pronounced as 'cork') to stomp, with ones spiked boots, on a man, lumberman's, C 20
- cement. A solecism for concrete, as in 'cement sidewalks, cement piers', also US; c1920(?)
- century. A \$100 bill; RR, ex US cant; -1931
- chariot. A derisive word meaning caboose, occ. a passenger car; RR, -1931
- chaser. A man who thinks of himself as a lady's man, and who chases women to prove his virility; ex US; c1935, coll.
- chasing the red. (Of a RR flagman) going back with a red flag or a red langern to protect a train, RR; -1931
- cheaters. Eye glasses; orig. underworld; C 20
- cheechako. A tenderfoot, a newcomer, ex Chinook jargon, '-chee' = new, 'chako' = to come, Yukon and Northwest use; late C 19-20, obs. by 1949
- chew (someone) out. To reprimand someone severely; C 20
- chicken! A derisive cry hurled at one who shows signs of cowardice, or even of commendable prudence; coward! teenagers', c1950
- chicken. Attrib., petty, insignificant, pettily cheating; c1910-40
- chicken. Attrib., cowardly, c1910-40(?)
- Chinese landing. (Of an aircraft) a landing made with one wing lower than it should be; a pun on 'Wun Wing Low', a description couched in Chinese-style words; airmen's; c1940
- chip on (one's) shoulder, have a. To bear a grudge against everyone, to appear cocky; ex US; c1890, coll.
- chippy. A semi-professional prostitute; ex US, also Aust.; c1942
- chippy. Attrib., cheap; -1949

- chips, cash (/throw in) (one's). To die; ex US; c1880
- choppers, (China). False teeth; -1949
- Christian pon(e)y. A handcart man; esp. in the East (of Canada); c1860-1905
- Christmas tree. A complex arrangement of pipes and valves at the head of an oil well to control the flow of oil; oilmen's, c1950
- Chuck. Charles; also US; mid-C 19-20
- chuck-wag(g)on. The cowboys' cook-wagon; Cdn. western Prairies use; c1910
- chucklehead. A stupid fellow, Nfld. use, ex US; c1920
- cigar box. A violin; ex US (c1925); late 1930's
- cinder cruncher. A RR switchman, RR; -1931
- Clear Grit. A member of the Liberal Party of Canada; 1884-87
- club-winder. A RR switchman, brakeman; RR; ex a club used to 'wind' the brake; -1931 (c1880-1910)
- clunk. An ill-bred or ill-mannered person, late 1950's
- clunky. Attrib., ill-bred or ill-mannered; late 1950's
- coal, pour on the. To increase speed, a Cdn. variant of 'put the coals on'; adopted by all vehicle drivers; c1950
- Coast, the. British Columbia, and its coast; C 20, coll., (except, naturally, in the Eastern maritime provinces)
- cocky. A term of endearment, 'except among Canadians and Cockneys'; c1680 (British date), coll.
- cod-hauler. A ship or a person from Newfoundland; nautical, mid-C 19-20
- cod-whanger Cod Whanger. A man engaged in fish-curing in Nfld.; nautical; late C 19-20
- cold turkey. Door to door selling; travelling salesmen's; c1930
- column of lumps. A Cdn. variant of 'column of muck-up (euph. for fuck-up) = column of route (reference to a type of marching?); Army; 1915

- come. To become, esp. in 'I don't know what will come of him' = I don't know what will happen to him, non-cultured use; late C 19-20, coll.
- come-to-Jesus collar. A full-dress collar (because it was affected by revivalist preachers); C 20
- con, the. Confidence-trickery, as in 'I ain't a shark trying to throw the con into you fellows' = I am no swindler trying to trick or cheat you people; C 20
- cool. (Of jazz) attrib., good and modern; ex US; c1935-40
- cool. (Of a singer) attrib., slow and husky-voiced; ex US; c1938-43
- cool. Attrib., very pleasing, attractive, satisfactory; teenagers'; ex US; c1955
- copasetic. Attrib., all safe, all clear, excellent, most attractive; a Cdn. variant of AE 'copesettic' (/copacetic, /copesetic, /kopasetic, /kopesetic, /kopasetee, /kopesetee) (US 1926); c1925
- cornfield meet. A head-on meeting of two trains trying to use the same main line; RR; -1931
- corral. To get hold of, acquire, esp. mid-west Canada; c1920
- cosy! A catch-word meaning, that's very pleasant, that promises some very pleasant opportunities, c1950
- could eat a horse, if you took his shoes off, (one). A cp meaning one is very hungry, a variant of 'could eat the hind leg off a donkey'; C 20, coll.
- couldn't hit the inside of a barn. A cp directed at a bad marksman; a polite variant of 'couldn't hit a bull in the arse with a scoop shovel'; C 20
- Count No-Account. A facetious title for one who, lacking funds, claims an aristocratic background; c1895-1914
- Cousin Jack. A Cornishman, miners'; late C 19-20, coll.
- cow cage. A RR car or van for livestock; RR; -1931
- Coxey's army. An ill-prepared, or ill-equipped army; military; ex US, WWI
- crab the act. To frustrate (a plan, etc.), by one's actions to cause something to not happen as planned; a Cdn. variant of 'cruel the pitch'; ex US theatre; c1930

- crawfords. Steel 'U'-shaped supports used as legs to hold up the end of a mess table, RCN, c1910-25, coll.
- crazy. *Attrib.*, extraordinarily interesting, fascinating; 1957
- creep. A girl not voted into a sorority; universities', c1945-60
- creep. A 'square', a person who does not follow the styles, morals, and the like of modern society, a social outcast; 1957
- crew-cut. A man's hair style, cut short and en brosse, popular among athletes and the would-be manly types; ex US; c1951
- crib. A caboose; RR; -1931
- cripple. A defective RR car, RR, -1931
- Criq. Brandy; ex French-Cdn., C 20
- crowd. To be near, to verge on, as in 'he must be crowding forty (years of age)' = he must be 38 or 39 years old, c1935, coll.
- crowning him. Coupling a caboose to a train already made up; RR, -1931
- crud. An expression of contempt for another person, as in 'what a silly little crud he is'; ex Cdn. and US dial.; also Aust., c1930
- cruiser. A taxi that cruises the streets in search of fares, c1935, coll., S.E. by 1960
- crumb-hunting. House work; 1946, obs. by 1959
- crummy. A caboose; RR; -1931
- crust. Insolence; c1910
- cry (/say) Uncle. To admit defeat, to cry for mercy; c1925
- cufuffle. A row, brawl, disturbance; c1930
- cuke. A cucumber, grocers', c1910
- Curly Navy, the. The RCN, during wartime; naval--variant of 'wavy-navy'; c1939
- cut! Stop!, desist in whatever one is doing; orig. cinematic slang, c1945
- cut out. To detach (an animal) from the herd, late C 19-20

D

- dancing on the carpet. Summoned to the superintendent's office for investigation or reprimand, RR, -1931
- dark as the inside of a cow (tail down and eyes shut). (Of a night) pitch-black, C 20
- daylight in the swamp! It's time to get out of bed, C 20
- dazzle dust. Face powder (cosmetic); 1946, obs. by 1959
- deadhead. A RR brakeman, RR, -1931
- dead-head. A locomotive that, not under power, is being hauled back to the yards in another train; RR; C 20
- dead-head. RR personnel riding back to the yards without working; in use as both n. and v.; RR, c1910
- dead low. A very low barometer reading; c1910, coll.
- dead matter. Type that has been run and could now be distributed; printers'; C 20, coll.
- dead matter. Anything that, used or finished, can be returned to its place, or discarded; c1920, coll.
- decorate. To ride on top of a freight car; RR, -1931
- decorate the mahogany. To put down, on the bar, money for drinks, c1905, but chiefly between c1890-1914, obs. by 1959
- diamond-cracker. A RR fireman; with a pun on black diamonds and coal, RR; -1931
- dig. To become aware of, to look at and enjoy something; ex US; c1938
- dig the drape. To buy a new dress; 1946, obs. by 1959
- Digby chicken. Smoked herring; 1880's
- Digby duck(s). Usu. pl., dried herring; Nova Scotia and nautical; late C 19-20 NB., both this entry and the one immediately preceding are references to Digby, Nova Scotia.
- dingbat. A thingamajig; c1920
- dish it out. To hand out punishment, information or indeed, anything else, with ease and rapidity; c1926

- ditched, be. To get into trouble, to be abandoned; ex US, C 20, cant
- dizzy blonde. A highly conspicuous blonde, both in appearance and behaviour, ex US, c1935
- dlinkie. A facetious and pseudo-juvenile and pidgin word for 'drink', c1920
- do a fade. See 'fade, do a'
- do-more. A small raft, made of two logs, so called because a riverman can do more on two logs than on one; lumbermen's; late C 19-20
- do-re-mi. Money, from 'dough' ; ex US, late 1930's
- do tell! Really?, 'you don't mean it', often ironic or sarcastic, ex US (c1920), c1950
- dodger. A leaflet; printers', journalists'; C 20
- dog along. To fare passably, tolerably; C 20, coll.
- dog-house. A caboose, RR; -1931
- dog-house. A bass viol; ex US (c1925); late 1930's
- dogan. The predominant Cdn. form of 'dogun', meaning a Roman Catholic; 1920
- dogun Dogun. A Roman Catholic; late C 19-20
- doll. An attractive person of either sex; ex US; c1935
- Dominion, the. Canada, C 20, coll.
- don't be funny! A cp meaning, 'don't be ridiculous, I'd never do such a thing', c1930
- don't take any wooden nickels! A cp meaning, don't allow yourself to be cheated, c1909
- doo flicker. Any mechanical tool, gadget or instrument; military, 1915
- doohickey. Any mechanical device a person can't remember the name for, Services, esp. Navy; ex US; c1930
- dosh. A bivvy, a temporary shelter; military; 1914
- dosh. A funk-hole, any place of refuge, esp. a dugout; military, 1915
- dot, on the. At exactly the right time, or place; also

- Eng., c1920
- dough. Money; ex US (-1851), c1870
- drag. A harrow, late C 19-20, coll.
- drag. A dance or ball; c1925-30
- drag. Anything boring or tedious, also a person who is a bore; c1950
- drag. A particular kind of dance, as in the number entitled 'Doin' the Varsity Drag'; c1930
- dragger. A fishing boat using the otter trawl; nautical; C 20, coll.
- droolin with schoolin. A 'grind' = anything boring or tedious; 1946, obs. by 1959
- drop dead! A cp meaning, 'go away!', said to someone not liked, ex US, c1946, 'in general use'
- drug-store cowboy. Any lout that loiters around a corner drug-store, talks tough, and gives the girls 'the eye', ex US; c1935, coll.
- drummer. A RR yard conductor, RR, -1931
- duck bumps. See 'goose bumps'
- dust of the Burma Road. Bread; RCN, 1942-45
- Dutch, in. (of a person) in trouble, under suspicion, in disfavour; c1925
- dynamiter. A RR car with a defective air-mechanism that inopportunately applies the brakes; RR, -1931
- dyspepsy. Dyspepsia (indigestion); rural; late C 19-20, coll.

E

- eagle-eye. A locomotive engineer; RR; -1931
- easy. Attrib., easily imposed upon; C 20, coll.
- easy as taking candy from a kid, (as). Referring to some task very easy to do, very easy; also US; late C 19-20, coll.
- eat (someone) out. To reprimand severely; c1930
- edge on (someone), have the. To have a slight advantage over

someone, ex US; C 20, coll.

egg-head. A scholar, an erudite person, one interested in intellectual matters, ex US, c1953

'88, the. See 'ivories, the'

english. The spin on a ball, whether, as orig. and usu., in billiards, or in baseball; c1918

even Stephen (/Steven). (of the division of something) divided evenly; share and share alike; also Aust., ex US; C 20

ever. An intensifier--a usage adopted by non-cultured Canadians, as in, 'did he ever tie one on', also the Cdn. teenagers' cp 'was it ever!', as in 'Was it a good dance? Was it ever!', c1940, coll.

(E(/e-)xcitement, the. The gold rushes which took place before the Yukon strike of 1896, as in 'He stayed on after the excitement', c1859, coll.

F

fade, do a. To disappear without paying one's rent; carnival, C 20

faded, have got (someone). To have someone at a disadvantage, esp. in relation to the game of craps, and perhaps from it; c1940

fag hag. A girl who smokes cigarettes; 1946, obs. by 1959

fake. (Of music and musician) to improvise, to play by ear; now used by anybody and with the same meaning; c1920-36

fancy pants. Any male, esp. a boy dressed in his good clothes, or in new clothes, c1925

Farmer's Bible, the. A mail-order catalogue of the 'T. Eaton Co.'; c1918

Fatso. A common nickname for any fat person, esp. a fat youth; ex US, c1945

feaze. To harm, trouble, C 20

feel no pain. To be (very) drunk; c1945

feel of. To feel, to touch, as in 'He felt of his teeth to ascertain whether any had been dislodged', ex US,

- solecism, c1945
- file on to. To grab, to take, -1932
- fine as frog's hair. Fine, whether of dimension or physical well-being; c1910
- fireboy. A locomotive fireman, RR, -1931
- first reader. A train conductor's train book, RR; -1931
- fish. One who plays a game where he has no chance of winning, ex US cant, carnival, c1920
- fish, clean (/feed) the. To lead on, or 'skin' the victim (of a fixed game), carnival; c1920
- fish-horn. A soprano saxophone; ex US (c1925); musicians'; late 1930's
- fit to be tied. Attrib., very angry and frustrated; ex US; c1908
- fit to go foreign. Attrib., ready for any and every undertaking; RCN, c1940
- five by five (/Mr. Five by Five). A very short, fat man (five feet tall and five feet wide--figuratively); c1930
- fix. To prepare, plan, arrange, as in 'he's fixing to shoot me'; ex US; c1910
- fix (someone's) clock. To settle a dispute with someone, usu. by fighting, clock = face (?), c1940
- flag. To work under an assumed name; from 'sail under a false flag'; ex US; RR, -1931
- flake (out). To go to bed, or merely to take a nap; c1940
- flanneller flannelling. Agential and verbal nouns for 'flannel-mouth'; C 20
- flannel-mouth. A well-spoken person, one who does not speak ill of others; NB. The US meaning is directly opposite the Cdn. one, it is 'one who speaks ill of others' and dates from 1912 (DA); C 20 (See also 'flannel-mouth' in LABELLED CANADIANISMS FILE)
- flip. To approve wildly of something, to become deliriously elated; ex US, orig. 'flip (one's) wig'; 1957

- flip. To literally, go mad, 1956-57
- flip. Attrib., flippant; c1918
- float (one's) hat. To get soaked, to lose one's hat in the water; lumbermen's, C 20
- floater. An employee always on the move, also known as a 'boomer'; RR, -1931, but DA 1858
- fluff. A spoonerism or other vocal error on the radio, c1945
- flush. A fellow with plenty of money, esp. if he is a free spender; carnival, c1910
- fog. Steam, RR, -1931
- fog-dog. The lower part of a rainbow; Nfld., nautical; mid-C 19-20
- frangine. Brother; ex French-Canadian; C 20
- Franklin teeth. Projecting teeth--projecting, hence 'air-cooled', ex the Franklin automobile with an air-cooled engine, ex US, c1920, obs. by 1935 with the disappearance of the car in the Depression
- freeloader. One who crashes in on cocktail parties, luncheons, and other such affairs that are part of a publicity campaign, or otherwise accessible; what he does is called 'freeloading' and the v. is 'freeload'; ex US; c1955
- fresh out of. To be short of some supplies, to have none; storekeepers' and general use; ex US; c1910, coll.
- fridge. A refrigerator; also Eng., Aust., and elsewhere, c1938
- friz(z). A female member of a show or carnival; ex their frizzed hair; carnival; c1920
- from there on in. From this, or that, point forward, as in 'I'll get the thing set up for you, and you can play it from there on in.' = 'I'll start it and you finish it from there on in.' = 'I'll start it and you finish it; 'perhaps mostly Cdn., but not unknown elsewhere', c1925
- front. A large diamond tie-pin or ring, usu. genuine, worn by vaudevillians to indicate prosperity, c1930
- front. To be the leader of a band (of musicians), esp. in

the big-band era of the 30's, late 1920's

funnies. A comic section (of a magazine or newspaper);
c1920

fussy, not. Not particularly keen, as in 'I'm not fussy
about getting all dressed up'; c1920

G

G. O. K. An abbreviated euph. for 'Cod only knows', said
for a doubtful diagnosis; Army doctors', WWI

gaff. The brake with which the man (the operator of the
gambling wheel) stops the wheel in a gambling game;
carnival; C 20

gaff joint. A game of chance where there is no chance of
winning; carnival; C 20

gaffer. The man who runs a gambling game or device;
carnival; C 20

gaffer. The brake which stops the wheel of the gambling
device at any desired number, carnival; C 20

galloping irons. Spurs, for riding, joc.; c1930

garden. A RR freight yard; ironic, RR; -1931

gas boat. Any small craft powered by gasoline; c1920,
coll.

gas round. To chat idly with anyone available; C 20

gasser. Something wonderful, wery successful, or
exceptional, ex US; -1955

gate. A RR switch; RR; -1931

gee, lookit! A children's cp meaning, a display of
astonishment or great interest; ex US, c1950

General, the. The RR yard master; RR; -1931

George. A common vocative to a Negro whose name is
unknown; c1920, by 1960, becoming obs.

Georges man. A vessel fishing on the Georges Bank (off
the coast of Nfld.?); fisheries'; late C 19-20

(get a) load (on). (To become) tipsy; also Aust.; late
C 19

get a pick on (someone). To quarrel with someone, to pick

- on, or ill-temperedly mark out; C 20
- get your ears dropped! A cp meaning, have one's hair cut; c1955
- giant. Dynamite, because of the tremendous power a stick of it has; miners', esp. Cdn.; C 20
- gilderoy. A proud person; as in '(as) proud as Gilderoy (/Guilderoy)'; Nfld; C 20
- gimmick. A synonym of 'gaff' (see above); ex US; carnival; c1920
- git-box. A guitar, ex US (c1925); musicians'; late 1930's
- give beans. To reprimand, scold someone; C 20
- give (someone) fits. To scold thoroughly; C 20
- give (someone) the brush-off. To dismiss, to snub someone; ex US; c1925
- give (someone) the business. To inflict punishment, either physical or mental, upon someone; ex US; c1945
- give (someone) the road. To avoid (meeting or seeing) someone; c1910
- give with the gas. To explain something in detail; 1946, obs. by 1959
- glimmer. A switchman's lantern; RR; -1931
- glory. Death by accident, or, a string of empty RR cars; RR; -1931
- glory be! A cp expressing astonishment, a euph. abbreviation for 'glory be to God!'; ex US; c1910
- glory be to Pete! A cp expressing mild astonishment; a euph.; Cdn. Prairies' use; c1925
- glossies. Magazines printed on paper with a smooth, shiny finish, ex US; c1945, by 1950, coll.
- go. To digest, as in 'your poor pa, he couldn't even go pork an' onions', late C 19-20
- go bush. To retire to the bushes in order to relieve oneself (to urinate); RR; -1909
- go, man go! A jazz cp meaning, get with it, swing;-- 'gone' is what happens when you 'go, man go!'; ex US; also Eng.; c1948

- go to the top of the class! A cp said to one who has made a quick and accurate answer, also Eng., c1948
- goalie. A player who plays the position of defending the goal; a goal-keeper, hockey, c1910
- goat. A RR yard engine, from all the 'butting' (of RR cars) it has to do, RR; -1931
- gob. An American sailor; 'adopted (by Eng.?) from Canadians (who got it from the US?)', 1940
- gob(-)stick. A wooden spoon; ex US; mid-C 19-20 (?)
- gob-stick. A clarinet, musicians', ex US (c1925); late 1930's
- good goods! A cp said to one who has donned a new suit, and said with Jewish intonation and an industrious feeling of the quality of the cloth, c1950
- goose bumps. Goose pimples, a shiver running through the skin and the accompanying bumpiness of the skin; 'mostly Cdn.', C 20, joc.
- grab leather. (of a cowboy) to take hold of the saddle horn while riding a bucking horse in a competition; ex US, c1925
- grabber. A train conductor; RR; -1931
- graveyard watch. A period of work lasting from midnight to eight a.m.; RR; -1931, NB. Not necessarily RR use, more in general use now
- Grays (/Greys), the. The officers of the old Northwest Fur Company; so called because the colour of their uniforms was grey, as opposed to the sky-blue of the H.B.C. men; c1815-1900, coll.
- greasy spoon. A railroad eating-house; ex US; -1931
- green-back. A dollar bill; c1905
- green-back. A frog (?) used for re-railing rolling stock; RR; -1931
- Grid (/grid), the. An American-football field; short for 'gridiron'; ex US (c1915); c1925
- grub-stake. To provide a gold-pro prospector with food, and if necessary, equipment, western Canada, and S.W. United States; DA 1863 (1849 in California (?); c1851

grunt-horn. A tuba, ex US (c1925); musicians'; late 1930's, coll.

gun. An injector on a locomotive which forces water from the tank to the boiler (on a steam engine); also US, RR, -1931

gunk. Chemical compounds, esp. those which provide solid fuel for space rockets--NB., now has a much wider application; 1958

H

half a, a. A solecism for 'half a (pint, mile, hour, etc.)'; C 20, by 1955, uneducated coll.

half-arsed. (Of things) imperfect; (of persons) ineffective, indecisive, late C 19-20

hallelujah hell-sniffle of a (something). A cp said of something that is really awful, something bad; -1932

halvers. An equal division of something, as in 'We'll go halvers on the loot--\$100 for me and \$100 for you.'; late C 19-20, coll.

ham. A(n) (inferior) telegraph operator; RR, -1931

hand like a foot, have a. To have a very bad hand of cards; C 20

hang (/tie) one on. To get (very) drunk; ex US; c1935

harness. A passenger-train conductor's uniform; RR, -1931

Hat, the. Medicine Hat, Alberta; c1920

hawk. To pull (v. intransitive); C 20

head pin. The chief brakeman; RR; -1931

heap. An old car, esp. if owned by youths; c1939

heavy-handed. Attrib., said of one who makes his drinks, and those of others, too strong (with too much liquor); c1955, coll.

heifer(-)dust. Meaningless or informal talk, euph. for 'bull-shit'; ex US(?), c1930(?)

Heine Heinie Hiney. A soldiers' name for a German soldier (later also adopted by US), ex German name 'Heinrich'; WWI

- hell-bending. Preaching, esp. if fervent; c1910
- hell-box. A galley stove in a ship; nautical (most freq. used in Cdn. and US ships), late C 19-20
- hell of a note!, that's a. A serious situation, ex US; c1950
- hep cat. An enthusiast for jazz (or swing)music; later replaced by 'hipster'; ex US; c1925, obs. by 1950
- herder. A RR employee that, at a station, couples and uncouples rolling-stock (RR cars); RR; -1931
- Here-Before-Christ Company, the. The Hudson's Bay Company, from the company's initials (H.B.C.) and its long presence in Canada; c1910, becoming obs. by 1960
- here's hair on your chest! A fairly common drinking toast; c1920
- he's a prince. A cp meaning, someone is a fine person; c1930
- hickey. A long, hard 'suction'-type kiss that raises a welt or blister, hence, the welt or blister so caused; c1930(?)
- high. Attrib., under the influence of a barbituate or other exhilarating drug, c1925
- high-ball. The railwayman's signal to proceed; RR; c1910
- high-balling. (n. and attrib.) travelling fast; succeeding; c1925
- high-grading. The process of stealing, or dealing in, stolen, processed gold ore, illegal trading in gold from a mine; miners'; c1918
- high-line, the. A method of logging with high-boom transport; lumbermen's; c1920, by 1950, S.E.
- high spots, hit the. To do something superficially; c1925
- high-tailing. The act of running away without looking behind, bolting away, C 20, coll.
- hip. Attrib., equipped with enough wisdom, philosophy and courage to be self-sufficient and independent of society, able to feel comfortable in any situation; ex US-an alteration of 'hep'; musicians, 1956, obs. by 1961

- hire it done. To hire someone to do something, as in 'I never mow my own lawn. I hire it done.', c1930, coll.
- hitch. A term of enlistment for armed forces personnel; 'Services'; ex US; c1935
- hog. A locomotive, RR; ex US; -1931
- hogger. A locomotive engineer; RR; ex US; -1931
- hold 'er Newt! She's a-rarin'! A cp that is pseudo-rural, with a twinge of contempt for the rustics; ex US; Prairie use, c1948
- holding the nose bag, be. To be left in a ridiculous position after someone has stolen the proverbial horse, an elaborated version of 'be left holding the bag' = to be in an embarrassing position as a result of someone's unexpected conduct; c1950
- holt. A specialty (?), -1932
- honey. Anything choice or excellent, as in 'it's a honey' = it's nice, c1945
- honey cart. A cart, or wagon used for the hauling away of the refuse from 'honey buckets'; army; WWI, see also 'honey wagon'
- hooper. A dancer; c1925
- hook up with. To join forces with; to encounter someone; c1910
- hooked. Attrib., hopelessly addicted to drugs; also US; c1925
- hooky. A name given a cow who is prone to using her horns for defence; rural; mid-C 19-20, coll.
- hoosh. Corned beef prepared as a hash with potatoes, RCN; c1900-25
- hooshgoo. A cook;--possibly ex 'hoosh' = corned beef... etc., or 'hoosh' = a thick soup with plenty of body (SUE 1905, Eng.), C 20
- hop and hang all summer on the white spruce. A meaningless (?) cp; lumbermen's, c1890
- hop the twig. (Of planes and fliers) to crash fatally, RCAF, 'esp. Cdn.', WW2

- hopped up. *Attrib.*, under the influence of an exhilarating drug; ex US; c1935, cant, becoming slang by 1945
- horn. A saxophone, trumpet, cornet, ex US (c1925), musicians'; late 1930's coll.
- horse. A practical joke; probably ex S.E. 'horse-play'; University of Alberta use, c1930
- horse and horse. When shaking dice, in best two out of three, if the first two throws result in a tie, the players have 'a horse apiece' or are said to be 'horse and horse'; perhaps ex 'neck and neck' = tied (in points, score); dice-players'; C 20
- horse on (one), have a. When rolling the best of three in dice (two out of three), to be one down (in the score), dice-players'; c1925
- hospital bum. A young doctor who, having completed his medical training, can't persuade himself to leave the hospital and enter general practice, medical use, late 1950's
- hostile. *Attrib.*, inimical, esp. towards hoboes; tramps'; late C 19-20
- hot-box. An overheated axle-bearing on a railway car, RR; C 20
- hot rod. A very fast motor-car; ex US; motorists', 1948
- how's about? A solecism for 'how about' or 'how would you like to...'; as in, 'how's about a drink?'; ex US; c1953
- hummerskew. A jocular solecism for 'humoresque' = a musical composition typically whimsical or fanciful in composition; c1950
- hung up. *Attrib.*, (foolishly) involved or entangled; stalled or frustrated; c1956
- hungry rock. A rock with little or no mineral content; miners'; late C 19-20, coll.
- hurry-up wagon. A police prisoner-van; a 'black Maria', c1945
- hustler. A pedlar of peanuts, soft drinks, hot dogs, and the like, at a fair, carnival; C 20
- hut. A caboose, cab of a locomotive; RR, -1931

I

- I (/s)he) wouldn't know. A cp meaning, 'don't ask me, I couldn't be expected to know.', 'I'm ignorant of the whole affair, and intend to stay so.', c1940
- ice-cream suit. Men's summer clothing, light in weight, and cream or white in colour; also US; C 20 (?)
- idiot's lantern. A television set; 'mostly Cdn.'; c1955
- if you're going to buy, buy; if not, would you kindly take the baby's bottom off the counter! A cp said by butchers to customers and vice versa, c1920
- I'll be a monkey's uncle! A cp expressing astonishment; c1945
- I'll buy that. A cp meaning, 'I'll agree to that (plan, /decision, /explanation)'; c1930
- in a gazelle. A cp meaning, 'I'm feeling good', 1946, obs. by 1959
- inboard. A motor permanently installed inside the hull of a boat, c1935, coll.
- Indian, he's a regular. A cp applied to habitual drunkards, esp. to one to whom it is illegal to sell liquor (it is illegal to sell liquor to Indians coming from any of the reserves); c1925, also Sandiland 1912
- Indian list, he's on the. See "Indian, he's a regular" above (See also 'siwash')
- inland navy (/waterborne). Terms applied by the Army to British and Cdn. troops using Ducks and Buffaloes (amphibious vehicles ?) for fighting in the flooded areas between Nijmegen and Cleve (where?); 1944-45
- interrupter. A joc. mispronunciation of 'interpreter'; Civil Service, c1910
- Irish harp. A long-handled shovel; RR; c1905
- iron skull. A boilermaker, RR; -1931
- is all. A shortened form of 'that is all', as in 'I'm tired, is all'; ex US, c1947, coll.
- it didn't fizz on me. A cp meaning, 'this affair (/action) had no effect on me', c1945
- it's your ball. A cp meaning, 'the initiative lies with you', 'you get it (= the plan, affair) going, and then we'll help you', c1946

ivories, the. A piano; ex US (c1925); musicians'; late 1930's, (see also '88, the')

J

jack. A locomotive; RR; -1931

jackeen. A rascally boy, Nfld.; late C 19-20, coll.

jail-bait. A girl under the legal age, from the point of view of her as a sexual partner--(prosecution and conviction of the offence of having sexual relations with an underage girl means a prison sentence); ex US; c1940

jake. Adverb, well, profitably, honestly, genuinely; ex 'jake' = attrib.; c1905

jake with the lever up. Excellent, extremely satisfactory or pleasant; an elaboration of 'jake' = attrib.; c1920

jam-buster. An assistant yardmaster, --he disentangles the snarled-up rolling-stock in a station yard; RR; -1939

Jeep. A member of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (the R.C.N.V.R.), c1938

jeep. A utility Service van or small truck; --from 'G.P.' = general purpose vehicle; ex US, 1939

jet job. An extremely fast racing car; 1948

jib show. A show featuring only girls; carnival; c1920

jig is up, the. A cp saying, 'the last line of print has been set, and the form can be locked and put on the press'; printers'; C 20

jinker. A (person/thing) bringing bad luck; from 'jinx' (jinks); Nfld.; c1920

jitterbuggery. A style of dancing known as 'jitterbug'; teenagers'; c1952

jo. A banjo, C 20

Joe boy. One who is singled out for doing the unpleasant jobs ('Joe jobs') nobody else wants; Army, c1940

Joe Erk. A combination of 'Joe' (Cdn. abbreviation of 'Joe Soap' = an unintelligent fellow who is 'over-willing' and therefore made a 'willing-horse') and 'erk' (Eng.) and 'jerk' (US) = a dull-witted fellow;

an unintelligent fellow who is willing to help anybody and who therefore is made the 'patsy' for anyone wanting to shirk a job, RCAF, 1939

John. A policeman, perhaps from 'John Darm' (gendarme'); c1910

juggler. A RR employee that has to find and remove part of the contents of a freight car; RR; -1931

juice joint. A stand where refreshments are sold, carnival; C 20

jump-down. The last place one sees in the course of construction on the outskirts of civilized life; c1880-1910

jump on the binders. To apply the brakes in a car, Services'; also US; 1939

jump-rope. (n. and v.) A skipping rope; to use a skipping rope; ex US; c1950, coll.

jumper. A light, horse-drawn buggy, from the buggy's motion, a crude, horse-drawn sled, c1830 or 1840, but DA 1823

junior wolf. A younger brother, a 'kid brother'; 1946, obs. by 1959

junk. Opium; drug-addicts'; ex US; c1925

K

kebrock. A cap; ex French-Cdn.; military; WWI

keeley. A water-can for cooling heated bearings; RR; -1931

keen. Attrib., excellent, highly desirable, as in 'John got a new bike, is it ever keen'; ex US; teenagers' c1955

keep tabs on (someone). To observe someone for a long time very closely, in order to see what he has been doing, or to see how he's getting on (= his physical well-being); ex US; c1909, coll.

kettle. A locomotive (steam); RR; -1931

kicker. An auxiliary motor fitted into a sailing ship; so called because of its action on the slow progress of the ship; nautical; c1890, coll.

kicker. A triple valve that functions eccentrically; RR; -1931

killling a snake? A cp said to golfers taking many strokes in a sand trap; joc., c1930

King. Occ. means a yardmaster, but usu. a freight-train conductor; RR, -1931

king-size. Very large, ex Aust., c1930, coll. by 1950

King's ex! Time out, pax, times, a call for a stoppage in play; a Cdn. var. of Eng. 'fainits' = a call for a truce, a statement of opposition; schoolboys', c1918-40

kissing bug. A young man intent on kissing (as many girls as many times as possible); C 20, obs. by 1940

kissing cousins. Cousins sufficiently close or familiar to allow mutual kissing, hence, loosely, friends unrelated by either blood or marriage who are on a familiar basis; late C 19-20, coll., by 1940, S.E.

klootch. An Indian woman of the Cdn. Pacific coast, an abbreviation of the synonymous 'klootchman' (a Chinook jargon word), C 20

knee-high to a grasshopper. (of a person) very small or very young, ex US (1824); late C 19-20, coll.

knowledge box. The yardmaster's office, RR; -1931

knuckle down to (something). To settle down to a task, esp. if arduous, tedious or disagreeable, C 20, coll.

L

lam, on the. Attrib., on the run (from justice), wanted by the police for having committed a crime; ex US; c1935

land! my. A mild oath, euph. for 'my Lord!'; ex Eng. dial.; also US, mid-C 19-20

last drink, take (one's). To die by drowning; lumbermen's, late C 19-20, coll.

Lauras. Chocolates, made by 'Laura Secord Candies'; the name 'Laura Secord' is of a heroine of the War of 1812, commemorated by the candies; c1930

lay an egg. To put on a performance that fails to please the audience,--this applies to a single performer or to the show as a whole; also US; show business use; c1910

- lay into its collar. (Of a horse) to pull hard, to work to its maximum effort; late C 19-20, coll.
- lead in (one's) arse. A cp meaning, laziness, torpor, as in 'shake the lead out of your arse' or 'he's not sick, he's just got lead in his arse', labourers' use esp.; c1945
- lead-pipe cinch. An absolute certainty, from the effectiveness of a lead pipe as a weapon, c1945
- leather-head. A swindler; c1870, obs.
- legal beagle. A lawyer more keen than average, with a sharp nose for errors and omissions in legal proceedings; ex US 'legal eagle' = lawyer, mostly journalistic, c1950
- legit joint. A game of chance where the genuine player (not a shill) has a chance of winning; a game of chance that is not 'fixed'; carnival; C 20
- lemon. A car that has many defects, discovered one after another; motorists'; c1945
- 'less less. An abbreviated form of 'unless'; also US; mid-C 19-20, coll.
- let down (one's) hair let(one's) hair down. To enjoy oneself thoroughly, to let oneself go, to be very friendly or intimate, to be at one's ease; also Aust., US, Eng.; c1925
- let her fizzle. To keep on all possible sail in a strong wind; nautical; also US; c1870
- let her roll. A cp meaning, 'let's have it!', 'on with the show', 'let's get the proceedings under way'; lumbermen's; C 20
- letters. Certificates of merit received while one has been in the employ of the railroad; RR, -1931
- level. To speak or act honestly and frankly, to tell someone the truth, as in 'level with me about the accident, don't worry about the consequences', ex US; c1950, coll.
- liberty boat (/ - bus). A boat taking leave-personnel ashore, free vehicular transportation for men on leave, ex US Navy and Army; also Eng.; 1940, joc., 'not coll.--much less slang'
- light stags. Shoes, esp. lumbermen's; a quote from SUE:

- 'Loggers and raftsmen used to 'stag' their trousers, by cutting off a few inches from the bottom, so they came about half-way down the calves, clear of the boot-tops'; c1905 (= shoes), DA (= trousers) 1902
- lightning slinger. A telegraph operator; a Cdn. variant of 'lightning jerker (/squirter)'; RR, c1910(?)
- like the man who fell out of the balloon (/lifeboat, /'plane)--he wasn't in it. A cp said to a man who is out of touch with current styles and trends; said to someone who is 'not with it'; ex Eng. (c1890); 'common throughout the British Dominions'; C 20
- lime-juicer. An English sailing-vessel; ex US, c1860, obs.
- little boy in the boat. A person's navel (with a pun on 'naval'); a Cdn. variant of 'little man in the boat'; c1908
- little green men. A cp meaning, mysterious beings alleged to have been seen emerging from (mythical?) flying saucers; 1957
- little monster. A child, esp. if objectionable; c1950
- Liveyer(e) Livyere. A permanent inhabitant of the Labrador coast; perhaps from 'live here', -1901, coll.
- living end, the. A cp meaning, someone or something who (/that) is perfection, the ultimate, the ideal; c1955
- logger's small-pox. The markings on a (lumber-) man's face which are caused by a man's stomping on it with his spiked boots--an activity known as 'putting the caulks (pronounced as 'corks') to a man'; lumbermen's; C 20
- lolly. Soft ice beginning to form in harbours in extremely cold winter temperatures; Nfld.; C 20
- Long Johns. See 'long-handled underwear'
- lookit (something/someone)! Look at something; from a slur in pronunciation; c1880
- lop. A wave that, in a choppy sea, is big enough to break inboard in a rowboat or dory; Nfld.; late C 19-20, coll.
- loss(-)leader. A superior article offered at a very low price, a Cdn. variant of 'draw-boy'; C 20, coll.
- louse cage. A caboose, RR, -1931

lulu. A very good show-place, where much money is made in profits; carnival; ex US, c1925

lunch. Any meal other than breakfast, a large dinner, a supper, a meal at any time of the day, esp. if it is, in some way, out of the usual run of events, -1932, coll.

lung. A drawbar; RR, -1931

M

Mac. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, C 20, coll.

Mac. A non-cultured form of address to a man of unknown surname, as in 'hey Mac, could you lend me a cigarette?'; ex US(?); c1930

mad money. Money that a girl carries as a precaution against any such quarrel with her boyfriend as might leave her monetarily stranded; money that can be used to provide her transportation home if ditched by her boyfriend; also Aust.; c1918

mad on, have a. To be in an angry, feisty mood; c1870, coll.

main iron (/stem, /pin). The primary or main RR track (RR line); or an official, an executive, RR; -1931

make like a boid. A cp meaning, 'go away!', from 'boid' = bird, and its resultant flying away; 1946, obs. by 1959

make strange. (Of a child) to behave shyly, as in 'See the nice lady? Don't make strange now.' = Don't be shy with strangers, C 20, coll.

man-killer. A piece of machinery geared to run so fast as to tire the men who operate it, for example, a cement-mixer; c1925

man who brings home the bacon, the. The family wage-earner, the 'bread-winner', also US; C 20, coll.

marbles, have lost some of (one's). To be not quite sane, mentally disturbed; ex US; c1930

marble orchard. A cemetery, c1920

mash-note. A love letter, c1920

mashed (the) potatoes for the Last Supper, he (/she).
A cp describing someone who has been known to someone else for years, someone who has been around for a long time, c1940

Massey-Harris. Cheese; from the 'Massey-Harris self-binder'
and the costiveness of cheese, C 20

master, the. The conductor of a train, RR; -1931

master maniac (/mind). A master mechanic, a trainmaster,
yardmaster, conductor, or train-dispatcher; RR, C 20

mean. Attrib., so good as to be unfair, as in 'he swings
a mean bat' = he is a good (baseball) hitter; ex US,
c1910, coll.

milk in the coconut, that accounts for the. A cp meaning,
'Ah! that explains everything', said of an explanation
which solves a dilemma; ex US, late C 19-20

milk the bushes. To haul a small boat upstream by the
boat's occupant(s) pulling on the bushes growing along
the banks of the river to move himself and the boat
along against the current; northwest Cdn., esp. Yukon
use, c1910

mill. A locomotive; or a typewriter, RR; -1931

mill kettle. A locomotive, RR; -1931

mill-pond. The Atlantic ocean, esp. the part traversed by
ships going from England to Canada and the US; 1885,
S.E. but almost coll.

miss (one's) guess. To be mistaken; ex US; C 20, coll.

miss not having (something). A solecism for 'to miss
having', as in 'I miss not having a car' = I once
had a car and now, in its absence, I miss it; c1920

mitching. The act of playing truant; ex Eng. dial.; mid-C
19-20, coll.

mocassin (/moccasin) telegraph, the. The spreading of an
unfounded report or rumour, usu. by one person telling
another, and he telling still another, and so on; a Cdn.
variant of 'bush telegraph' and 'grapevine'; c1910

moldy. A Cdn. spelling of 'mouldy' = a torpedo; naval,
1915(?)

monkey(-)bite. A mark left, often on the shoulder, by
amorous biting, c1930

monkey house. A caboose, RR; -1931

monkey on (one's) back, have a. To be ridden by the drug
habit; ex US; c1945, cant, becoming low slang by 1950,
and also police use

- monkey see, monkey do! A cp said to one who imitates the actions of another, or as a warning not to do such and such because someone, usu. a child, might imitate it; c1925
- monkey suit. A uniform provided for employees by carnival proprietors; carnival, C 20
- moonlighter. A person who holds two paid jobs at the same time, he usu. finishes his first job then starts his second job (usu. a night-time one, hence, done by moonlight, as opposed to his other job done during the daytime); c1930
- moonlighting. The practice of a moonlighter, c1930
- moose. A huge, powerful man; C 20, coll.
- more beef! A cp yelled out when a heavy load or a hard task demands the help of one or two more men; c1910
- most, the. Something that is the best, very good, extremely attractive, as in 'He's the most' = I really like him, he's very nice; c1955
- Mount, the. Montreal, Quebec, tramps'; C 20, cant becoming low slang
- Mountie Mounties, the. A member of the R.C.M.P.; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.), established in 1873, whose duty it now is, to enforce federal laws throughout Canada, and provincial laws in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec, c1890, slang, becoming coll. c1930
- mud chicken. A surveyor,--because he has a muddy job; RR; -1931
- mud(-)hop (/mudhop). A yard clerk; RR -1931
- mudder. A horse that races well on a wet track; sporting; c1925, coll.
- mug. To garotte someone, to rob and beat up a person; also US; c1860(?), low
- mug-up. A lunch, snack; far northern Canada use, esp. fur-traders' and trappers'; -1934
- mush-rat. A solecism for 'muskrat'; late C 19-20
- my arse is dragging. A cp said by someone who is utterly exhausted, and who feels he cannot walk another step, c1916

N

neat. *Attrib.*, very pleasing or attractive, c1956

Nitchie. A name for a Prairies Indian, derog.(?); c1910

'initiated 'initiation. A clipped pronunciation of 'initiated' and 'initiation'; lower classes', lumbermen's; c1920

no kidding! A cp meaning, 'truly, honestly, you're not fooling!'; ex US, c1910

non-air (/no-bill). A non-union RR employee; RR; -1931

noomony. A sol. for 'pneumonia'; lower classes'; C 20 (1932?), verging on coll.

not much you wouldn't! A cp meaning, 'you certainly would (do, say something)', as in 'I wouldn't hit you in the nose....Not much you wouldn't! (said while fully expecting to be hit in the nose)'; 'a notably Cdn. cp', late 1930's

not today, baker! A cp refusing an offer or a suggestion, connoting 'Oh, no! you don't catch me like that!'; c1945

Nova Scotian pump. A bucket with a line attached, to draw water from over the side of the boat,--referring to the hard work in Nova Scotia ships, nautical, late C 19-20

Nova Scotian soda. A combination of sand and canvas supplied, instead of soda, for cleaning paint-work on a boat; nautical; late C 19-20

Nova Scotian (sun)light. The moon(light),--a moonlit night being, in a hard working N.S. boat, considered as opportune for doing some job deemed unnecessary by the men, nautical; late C 19-20

Nova Scotian towing. The towing of a boat with the dories out forward, to save the expense of a tug, Grand Banks fishermen's; late C 19-20

now Mrs. Rowbottom, if you please! (With the 'if' stressed) a cp meaning, 'I'm ready when you are.', c1930

number dummy (/number grabber). A yard clerk, RR, -1931

nut. The rent for a stall or side-show, or stand at a fair; ex US; carnival; C 20

nut(-)splitter. A machinist, RR; -1931

nuts! Nonsense!, partly a euph. for 'balls!' ex US, c1940

nutty as a fruitcake. Insane, mentally unwell, ex US(?);
1930's

0

of. A sol. for 'have', as in 'I should of done it' =
I should have done it, spoken use only(?), common
among both literate and illiterate, but not in cultured
speakers' use, C 19-20

Ogopogo. A (mythical?) lake-dwelling monster believed to
inhabit Okanagan Lake in the southern interior of
British Columbia, 'Ogopogo' the word is from an English
music hall song and was first given to the monster in
1912, folklore, late C 19-20

Oh, mummy! buy me one of those! A meaningless fad cp; c1920

okay (/O.K.) by me, it's. A cp meaning, 'as far as I'm
concerned, everything is fine for you to do (something)';
ex US; c1938, coll.

O.K. by you? A cp meaning, 'Is it all right with you if I
do (something)?', ex US; c1938, coll.

old battle-axe. An old, or elderly woman that is resentful
and vociferous, thoroughly unpleasant, usu. arrogant,
and no beauty; 'Canada and other places in the
British Commonwealth', c1910 or early 1920's

old socks. A term of address to a person; C 20 (1934)

old unspeakables, the. Silent motion pictures; 'cultural,
not at all in general use, mostly, or at least, orig.
Cdn.', c1945, becoming obs. by 1960

on. To the disadvantage of (someone), as in 'It got away
on me', 'He did it on me', 'esp. common in Canada', C 20

one for the book, (that's). A cp remarking upon a joke so
funny, or an event so extraordinary, that it deserves
inclusion in 'the book' (= joke book of the best jokes);
ex US; c1950

one for the record, (that's). A variant of 'one for the
book, (that's)'; late 1950's

one o'clock, (it's). A warning cp meaning, 'one of your
fly-buttons is undone', also Aust., c1910, now obs.
(with the advent of zippers)

one of the bones. An employee who is a member of a reduced
work force, known as a 'skeleton staff', Civil Services,
c1930

oof. Money; late C 19-20, low

open a can of worms. To introduce an unsavoury subject into conversation; to introduce a controversial topic into conversation, c1955

operate. To operate on (someone), 'at first it was a solecism, but by 1909 it was coll., almost joc., but still to be deprecated; used as in 'they operated her twice', medical, c1930(?), should be -1909(?)

ornament. A station master, perhaps because he just sits there and does nothing (one viewpoint); RR; derisive; -1931

outdoor plumbing. An outside toilet, an outhouse; ironic, since there is no plumbing, also US; C 20

outfit. A military group, such as a batallion, battery, an airplane squadron, and the like; also Aust., US; military, WWI, coll.

outlawed. Attrib., said of a work crew that has worked sixteen hours, the statutory limit (of consecutive working hours) (it may now be less), RR; -1931

outside. Attrib., in/into civilized life, as opposed to backwoods life; 1827

over-'omer. An English immigrant to Canada who talks constantly of how much better things are done 'over-'ome', --he is naturally disliked and told how much better we would like it if that's where he was (over-'ome), C 20

P

pad. A person's living quarters, often a bare room with a mattress on or near the floor; c1956

paddle. A semaphore signal device, --because of its shape; RR; -1931

palace. A caboose; ironic, RR; -1931

pan. Bread, ex French 'pain'; naval; C 20

para. A paraplegic (a spinal cord paralytic patient), medical; c1946

pardon me for living! A cp expressing an elaborate mock apology, used by someone chastized for some minor error; c1945

- parish-rig. A poorly found ship, or an ill-clothed man;
ex S.E. 'parish-rigged' = cheaply rigged, also US,
nautical; late C 19-20
- parlor. A caboose; ironic; RR, -1931
- parlor man. A rear brakeman or flagman on a freight train;
RR, -1931
- pash. *Attrib.*, passionate, as in 'pash pants' = non-
regulation trousers affected by some officers; Army; 1914
- pay off. (Of plans, ventures, attempts) to prove successful;
c1940
- pea-soup, talk. To speak French-Canadian, or loosely, to
speak French; C 20
- peavy. A cant-hook designed for lumber-work on the river;
lumbermen's, C 20
- peep. The car belonging to a Command Headquarters; perhaps
from 'jeep'; Army
- Peg, the (/ 'Peg, the). Winnipeg, Manitoba; C 20 (1932)
- pen and ink. A prisoner-of-war cage, Army, 1941-45(?)
- pen bait. An under-age girl that flirts with boys working
in a carnival; --from 'pen' = 'penitentiary, the
destination of men taking advantage of under-age girls,
C 20
- pernicated dude. A swaggering dandy, a foppish person;
c1885-1910
- peted. *Attrib.*, (very) weary, physically exhausted, from
'peter out'; c1860
- pick on. To find fault with; also Eng., c1910, coll.
- pie in the sky when you die. Good things, or good times
that, though promised, never come about; ex US; often
derisive; -1943
- pig. A locomotive, RR, -1931
- pig. A prostitute; c1930, low
- pig mauler. A locomotive engineer; RR; -1931
- pig(-)pen. A locomotive roundhouse; RR; -1931
- pig's eye. in a. A cp used to convey negative feelings in
an emphatic way, as in 'I can hit the ball over the fence

-In a pig's eye, you can!'; ex US, c1945
- pig's eye, the. The correct thing, excellent, splendid;
-1932
- pike, hit the. To take to the road, to start travelling;
ex US(?); c1910
- piker. A person who ventures timidly into a novel venture;
ex US; c1930
- pile, have a. To have a difficult task, or a hard time,
as in 'a pile of trouble', late C 19-20, coll.
- pilgrim. A newcomer, whether human or animal; Western Cdn.
and US; late C 19-20
- pin for home. To go home, RR; -1931
- pin (/pinhead). A brakeman; RR, -1931
- pink tea. A more than usual formal tea party; derisive;
c1925
- pipe. To look at; ex US, c1930
- pitch. A plan, trick, late 1940's
- pitch in. To set vigorously to work at something;
'chiefly US and Colonial'; 1847, coll.
- pitch it (mild(!)). (usu. in the imperative), 'don't
exaggerate!'; late C 19-20, coll.
- plant. To insert such an incident, etc., into a story as,
although unnoticed at first reading, will eventually
prove to influence the outcome; authors', free-lance
journalists', c1945
- plaster. A mortgage, c1920
- play hard to get. (Usu. of girls) to resist amorous
advances, all the while intending to acquiesce
eventually, also US; c1925, coll.
- play it close to (one's) chest. To hold one's cards close
to one's chest so that nobody can see them, card players';
also US; c1910, coll.
- play it close to (one's) chest. To be secretive or cagey,
prob. from the preceding lexical item; also US; c1925
- plug. A small jam of logs (in a river); lumbermen's, C 20,
coll.

- plug. A small unimportant passenger train, RR; -1931
- plugger plugging. An impersonator, an impersonation (both terms have to do with elections---presumably one who attempts to vote more than once, and hence, the action of voting more than once); 1897, coll.
- plunder. One's equipment and personal belongings; c1905
- pod. A marijuana cigarette, marijuana; c1956
- pool(-)shark. One who is, or believes himself to be, exceptionally adept in the game of pool; ex US, c1925
- poor man's piano. A meal of (dried) beans, --because of the amount of gas in the bowels which it produces; c1885
- poorboy. Something substantial and inexpensive, such as a big bottle of cheap wine; c1956
- possible sack. A bag containing such articles sufficiently valuable to be deposited, as a pledge, with a pawn broker; ex US, where it means, 'a bag for provisions and personal belongings', c1895, coll.
- pot. Marijuana; ex US; c1945
- premie. (Pronounced as 'premt'), a prematurely born child; medical; also Aust.; c1925
- Princess Pats, the. The Princess Patricia's Regiment; military; WWI
- public, (the). One who avails himself of the personal facilities of a public library, --'He not only is a member of the general public, but also he makes a public convenience of the place (the library). He is also one who, although not a reader, applies to a library for assistance in a problem involving knowledge.'; librarians'; c1920
- pucker paint. Lipstick; 1946, obs. by 1959
- pull (something) on (someone). To cite something as an excuse for not doing, or not having done some task; also US; C 20
- pull (one's) load. (Esp. as 'pulling (one's) load'), to do everything one possibly can (in a job, in a difficult situation); to do one's fair share of the work, 'mostly Cdn.', late C 19-20, coll.
- pull the pin. To resign, to quit a job, from a pin-type method of coupling RR cars in the early days of the

RR--such a coupling was apt to come apart; RR, -1931

punch the breeze. See 'take it in the neck'

punk. A young fellow that, having just started to work for a carnival, thinks he knows everything, carnival, ex US, c1910

pusser's dirk. A Service clasp-knife; Naval, nd

put down. To reject, to belittle something; ex US; 1956

put the bite on. To ask someone for a loan of money; c1910

putty. Steam, --from its colour, RR, -1931

Q

queer as a three-dollar bill. (Something) very odd, or strange; from the fact there are no three-dollar bills in existence; late C 19-20

Quins, the. The Dionne quintuplets of Canada, born May 28, 1934, journalists' use mainly; 1934, coll. (British use)

Quints, the. The Cdn. variant of 'the Quins', see the preceding item; 1934, coll. (?)

R

rack, on the. Attrib., a cp said of someone always on the move, --from an abbreviation of 'racket' = snowshoe, c1860, coll.

rail. A RR employee in the transportation service of the RR company, --from abbreviation of 'railroadman'; RR; -1931

raise hell and slip a shingle (/shim) under one corner (/under it). To make a tremendous noise or disturbance; western Cdn., c1908

rat on. To fail someone, to betray; mostly, to inform the police about (someone); ex US, c1925

rawhider. A conductor, driver, who is hard on men or locomotives, RR, ex US, -1931

red, in the. Having failed to make one's expenses in the money taken in during a stay at a poor site, carnival; C 20

- red, in the. In debt, 'general coll. in the British Commonwealth', c1920
- Red Mike. A man who is a woman hater, 1946, obs. by 1959
- red onion. A RR eating house (because it's rough and smelly); RR, -1931
- reefer. A RR refrigerator car, ex US; RR, -1931
- Reemy Reemie. The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; in use despite the C not being there, perhaps it is ex Eng. 'Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' (R.E.M.E.), 1942-43(? Eng. date), coll. becoming joc.
- ride. To jeer, to gibe at, as in 'It is not right to ride the home team when they're losing' = don't boo them, or throw insults at them; C 20
- ride the cushions. To travel illegally, and free, on a train; hobo'es', late C 19-20
- riffs. Music; 1946, obs. by 1959
- righteous. Attrib., applied by musicians to good jazz and to those who recognized it, as in 'A good chorus would be greeted with cries, from other band members, of "Righteous, brother! Righteous!"'; ex US; 1920's-early 1930's
- ringmaster. A yardmaster; RR, humorous; -1931
- ring-tail. A novice, a tenderfoot; ex US; late C 19-20
- rip-track, the. The repair shops for RR carriages; RR, -1920
- river (hog / pig). A lumberman specializing in river work; lumbermen's, C 20
- rocks, on the. (Of a drink made with hard liquor) without water, or other mix, and simply poured over the rocks (lumps of ice in the glass); ex US; c1945
- rough neck. One who, in a carnival, does the hard physical work; carnival; C 20
- round up. See 'corral'
- rouser. A spring tonic, usu. of shot-gun type (?); eastern Canada, -1875
- rubberneck car. The observation car of a train; RR; -1931
- rubber-dubber. An old fellow that follows a carnival for

- what he can pick up, and who spends most of his money on drink; carnival; c1920
- ruckus. A disorder, quarrel, noisy disturbance, or struggle; also US, nd
- rule G. 'thou shalt not drink', --probably from a list of regulations governing behaviour while working for the RR company; RR; -1931
- rumble. A gang fight, often carefully planned, and esp. among teenagers; also Aust.; c1944
- rummy. A term of address to someone; -1932
- rump-sprung. Attrib., said of a woman's dress that, through much wear and a good deal of bending, has taken a permanent bulge over the rump, --knitted dresses are esp. vulnerable to this; c1940, coll.
- runty. A dwarf signal (?), ex US, RR, -1931
- rush the bucket. To send the printer's devil for a bucket of beer; to send anyone to the beer parlour for (a bucket of) beer; esp. printers'; C 20
- rustle. To scrounge, to 'come up' with something; ex US (= to steal cattle); Army, WWI
- rustler. One who scrounges; see 'rustle'; ex US (= a cattle stealer); Army, WWI

S

- S. O. B. A euph. abbreviation of 'son of a bitch'; ex US; also Aust.; c1925 (Aust. date ?)
- S. O. L. Unlucky, a euph. for 'shit (/short) of luck', C 20
- sadogue. A fat, easy-going person; Nfld.; C 20, coll./dial.
- salt chuck, (the). The ocean, salt water, the sea; British Columbia use; C 20
- same difference, it's the. A cp meaning, 'there is no difference, it's the same thing'; c1940
- sand. Sugar, late C 19-20
- sand(-)vein. The notochord (chorda dorsalis) seen as a dark line down the back of a prepared shrimp; late C 19-20, coll./dial.

- Santy. A childish(?) variant of 'Santa Claus'; 'mostly Cdn.'; late C 19-20, coll.
- say when you're mad! A cp said by one workman to another meaning, 'tell me when you're ready to lift (something)'; workmen's; c1930
- scan. To skim, to read something quickly while just noting the important points, as in 'I was too busy to do more than scan the paper'; a sol., also US; C 20
- Scandihoovian. A Scandinavian person; western Cdn. and naut.; C 20
- Scandiwegian. See 'Scandihoovian'
- scene. Something that's happening, or the place where it's happening, c1955
- schnozzle schnozzola. A person's nose; ex US; c1940
- Scowegian. A Scandinavian; western Cdn., and naut.; late C 19-20, (See also 'Scandihoovian' and 'Scandiwegian')
- screwed up. Attrib., (utterly) destroyed, spoiled, wrecked, fouled up; a euph. for 'fucked up'; c1930
- scruff. The lowest stratum of Nfld. society; Nfld., c1860-1900
- scut. A dirty, mean person; Nfld.; C 20
- secret works. The automatic air-brake application; ironic; RR, -1931
- see (someone) over the side. To accompany someone to the door in bidding them 'good-bye'; ex Navy; c1945
- see you later alligator! A cp meaning, 'good-bye!'; the cp response is 'in a while, crocodile!'; 'this sort of rhyming cp was, c1953-57, a vogue--it has left a meagre residue of a very few phrases'; c1948-60
- send. To afford much pleasure, to excite, as in 'His music doesn't send me.'; ex US(?); c1935
- sevens and elevens, everything is (/was,/will be). A cp meaning, 'everything is (etc.) perfect, all is well'; --from dice-shooting, where '7s' and '11s' are desirable scores, c1910
- sewed up. Attrib., (in the game of pool) (to have been) put into such a position of ball placement that it is difficult to play, c1925

- shack. A brakeman; RR; c1900
- shake the lead out of your arse! A cp meaning, 'start working!', get a move on!'; workmen's, c1930
- shanty. A caboose; derisive; RR; -1931
- sharonsed. Attrib., nonplussed, Nfld.; C 20, dial.(?) rather than slang or coll.
- sharp. Attrib., rather too smartly dressed, as in 'a sharp set of drapes' = a too smart-looking suit, c1940
- shaving-mill. An open boat, sixteen oared, of a type used by privateers in the War of 1812; 1812
- skill. One who plays or bets at a game, and who is allowed to win by the game operator, to attract genuine customers to it; carnival; C 20
- shilling. A circular hammer-mark (an indentation in the wood around the head of the nail, which is the sign of a poor carpenter; C 20
- shimmy. To oscillate or to vibrate, esp. said of the front wheels of an automobile; c1924-39
- shin-plaster. A piece of currency (a bank note) valued at 25¢, the production of them ceased in 1923; late C 19-20, mainly historical since c1930
- shining time. The time of the day when one awakens and prepares to start the day's work, starting time of one's job--at the rising of the sun (early); RR; -1931
- shite-poke. A bird known as a bittern, and so-called from the popular belief that it has only one straight gut from gullet to exit, and therefore has to sit down promptly after swallowing anything; and actually called 'shite-poke' because it habitually defecates on taking flight when alarmed; c1880
- shivareen. A Cdn. variant of 'shivaroo' (Aust. 1888), and ex US 'shivaree' (DA 1843), itself ex 'charivari' (French), and all meaning a loud, boisterous party, a noisy disturbance, esp. for a newly-wed couple on their wedding night, c1870
- shoot! A euph. for 'shit!', meaning frustration, or annoyance; it is an expletive; C 20
- shop. To shop at (--the 'at' being omitted) some store, as in 'Shop \$1.49 Day, Woodward's'; advertisers' and radio, c1957, coll.

- shunting. A switch engine, depreciatory; RR, -1931
- shut(-)out (/shutout), have (/got) a. (Of the goalie) to have no goals scored against oneself during the course of a hockey game, (of a team) to play an entire game (and usu. winning it) without allowing the opposing team to score any goals against your team; (ice) hockey; 1936
- sidedoor Pullman. A boxcar; ex US, RR; -1931
- Sifton's pets. Eastern European, esp. Ruthenian and Galician, immigrants, these were immigrants allowed into Canada under the immigration scheme of the Hon., afterwards Sir, Clifford Sifton (1861-1910), at the time Minister of the Interior, esp. Manitoba use; c1900-10
- sin-bin. The penalty box in the game of hockey; hockey players', commentators', and journalists', c1946
- since Caesar was a pup. A cp saying that a person in question has been around for a long time, as in 'I've known him for a long time--he's been around since Caesar was a pup.' -1932
- siwash. To put on the 'Indian List' a person's name to whom intoxicants may not be sold; C 20, obs. by 1959 (see 'Indian list, he's on the')
- skin and whipcord, all. (Of a person) extremely fit, without an extra ounce of fat, in good physical shape; 'US and Colonial', c1880, coll., becoming obs.
- skookum. Attrib., satisfactory, as in 'everything's skookum', strong(?); west coast of Canada use, ex Chinook jargon, late C 19-20
- skookum house. A jail; C 20, slightly obs. by 1952
- skunk. (In cribbage) to defeat by a large score, usu. to defeat one's opponent by winning before he reaches the halfway mark in his scoring, (in other games) to defeat one's opponent by not allowing him to score any points, ex US, late C 19
- Sky-Blues. The officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, so-called because of the colour of their uniform; c1815, obs. by 1940
- sky-hook. A useful, but mythical, piece of apparatus which enables a pilot to hover over one spot, --it can also be used for any difficult job of lifting; esp. loggers', 1909

- slab. A sandwich; 1946, obs. by 1959
- slats. A human's ribs, --from their resemblance to the staves of a barrel; ex US; -1916
- slick. Attrib., neat, smooth, attractive, desirable, as in 'that's a slick chick', ex US; c1946
- slicks. Magazines printed on glazed stock; journalists', printers', publishers', newsvendors'; c1930
- slide your jive. To talk freely; 1946, obs. by 1959
- slieveen. A deceitful person; Nfld.; late C 19-20, coll.
- slinge. To play truant, to stay away from work; Nfld.; C 19-20, coll.
- slip-horn. A trombone; ex US (c1925); musicians'; late 1930's
- slip stick. A slide rule; engineers' and architects'; c1940
- sloo. To get out of the way (of something, /someone); Nfld.; C 20, coll.
- slouch at, no. To be very adept at something, as in 'He was no slouch at the tailor business'; also US and Eng.; late C 19-20
- slum. Cheap prizes, esp. for children; carnival; C 20
- slush-pump. See 'slip-horn'
- smart alec (/Alec). A train conductor, perhaps because he is a 'know-it-all' person; RR; -1931
- smoke. A RR fireman, from the nature of his job; RR; -1931
- smoke 'em. An illicit yet frequent method of getting from one station to another--by moving along slowly and watching for the smoke of an approaching, or overtaking train; RR; -1931
- smoker. A locomotive; RR; -1931
- snake. A switchman; RR; -1931
- snakes, bag of. A girl, esp. a very lively one; c1955

- snapper-rigged. (Of a ship) poorly rigged and found;
(of a man) poorly clothed; eastern Cdn. and US;
nautical; late C 19-20 (see also 'parish-rigged')
- snargasher. A training aircraft, from a corruption of
'tarmac smasher'; airmen's, RCAF(?), 1939
- snazzy. Attrib., nice, 'smooth' & jazzy', good-looking;
1946, obs. by 1959
- snie (/sny). A hole filled with water, a hidden pool (of
any size); ex French-Canadian 'chenal' = a canal-like
water course; C 20, coll.
- snooty. Attrib., unpleasant, cross, irritable, super-
cilious; ex US(?); c1920
- snoozer. A Pullman car, RR; -1931
- snorting pole. A foot brace at the end of a bed,
lumbermen's; C 20
- snow again! (/snow again, I didn't get your drift). A
cp meaning, 'please repeat what you just said, I
didn't understand (/hear) what you meant (/said);
c1930, obs. by 1959
- sober-grudge fight. A fight arising out of a long-standing
quarrel; -1932, coll.
- soft(-)belly. A wooden frame RR car, RR; -1931
- Solomon Isaac. A Jewish person; c1870-1914
- something else. A cp said of something so good, interesting,
(as abreast of contemporary music, for example) it
defies description, also as in 'She was something else'
- she was such an attractive, pleasant girl that she
defied description; c1956
- sooner (dog). A dog that would rather (/sooner) 'do it's
business' indoors than outdoors; c1908
- souped(-)up. (Of a car) supercharged; motorists'; 1945
- sourdough. An experienced old-timer in the northwest; the
term arose during the Yukon gold-rush and refers to
the sourdough carried by the miners for use in
emergencies, late C 19-20, by 1910, coll.
- sow-belly. Any type of pork, salt pork; Navy, military,
c1870, obs.
- spark. To court a girl; ex US; C 20, obs. by 1959

- spit or get off the cuspidor. A euph. cp for 'shit or get off the pot' (see TAB00 listings); c1940
- spodioidi. A mixture of cheap port and bar whiskey, -- affected by the jazz world; c1955
- spook. To render a horse, or other quadruped, nervous, as in 'Don't show him the whip, you'll spook him' or 'You'll never catch him now, he's spooked'; c1930
- spot. To set a box car, or other freight car, in the right place for loading or unloading; RR, c1905, by 1920, coll.
- spotter. An employee assigned to watch the behaviour of other employees; RR; -1931
- spotter. The same meaning as the preceding item, but --in use on trams, -1931(?), obs. by 1959
- spread. Jam, marmalade, or anything else that is spread on bread; late C 19-20, by 1940, coll.
- spring. To get a man released from prison, esp. as a result of a technicality; ex US; c1935
- square. An old-fashioned person, esp. about dancing and music; ex US; c1938
- square. A person who doesn't dance; 1946, obs. by 1959
- square. An honest person, anyone of healthily conventional morals and conduct; ex US, c1955
- Squaresville. The mythical origin of all 'squares' and conventional people with their conventional behaviour; as in 'Him? Oh, he's strictly from Squaresville!'; ex US (orig. jazz slang); c1960-61
- squawk. To complain, ex US; c1935
- stag (off). To cut something; lumbermen's; ex dial. (midland's); -1932 (see also 'light stags')
- stag, go. To attend a party, or other social occasion, without a female companion; ex US; c1925
- staggering Bob. A calf; also Aust.; mid-C 19-20
- stake. A (usu. large) sum of money, as in 'He made a stake in gold-mining'; late C 19-20, coll.

- standby. An optimistic air passenger in the habit of standing by the reservations counter in the hope that a reservation will lapse for another passenger, and he can fly in his place; NB. The meaning has since changed--it is now a common and standard term as in 'to fly standby', 'He's going standby' --less expensive fares are charged to a passenger, usu. a student or a pensioner, willing to fly standby, that is, without reservations and with the hope that there will be a vacant seat available for him; (orig.) air-travel coll. verging on joc.; c1954
- start in. To start, to begin doing something, as in 'Now, don't you start in worrying.'; solecism; C 20, coll.
- stash. To hide something, to put money into a bank account, as in 'He's got thousands stashed away', ex US; c1925
- stay home. A sol. meaning 'stay at home', as in 'I'm awfully tired so why don't we just stay home tonight?' c1920, coll.
- steer-decorating. A rodeo method of throwing a steer by grasping one horn and the muzzle, and twisting the neck; c1945
- stews. Men, when crowded together, or when closely associated; --from 'students', ex US, C 20
- stick in it, with a. (of a drink, esp. tea and coffee) with a dash of brandy, 'Colonial and US'; C 19-20
- sticks (/stuck) out like a sore thumb, he. A cp meaning, to be conspicuous, to be easily noticed; c1920 (see also 'sticks (/stuck) out like the balls on a bulldog, he', TAB00 listings)
- stick-up. To hold up and rob; ex US; c1930
- sticker. An awkward or difficult question asked by a member of the public to a librarian; librarians', c1920
- sticker, (two-, /three-, /four-). A two-, etc. masted ship, esp. a schooner on the Cdn. and US coasts, nautical; late C 19-20, coll.
- stinger. The bowsprit on a sailing ship, perhaps from the bitter, stinging cold weather endured while working on it in winter, also US; nautical, C 20
- stinger. A brakeman, also US, RR; -1931
- stinkeroo. A poor show place with few customers, carnival; c1920, (contrast 'lulu')

- stoop. An improper usage when used to mean a porch or verandah, it should refer to 'an unroofed platform (the steps) in front of a house' (Concise Oxford Dictionary definition), also US, late C 18-20
- Stops-the-Way Company, the. The Hudson's Bay Company; c1840-90, coll.
- storm and strife. A Cdn. variant of 'trouble and strife' = a wife; late C 19-20(?) (NB. this is the 'trouble and strife' date)
- straight. (Of an alcoholic drink) undiluted with a mix, neat, as in 'I'll take mine straight, thanks.', ex US; c1880, coll.
- straight rush. The simplest preparation of a joint of beef, employed when time was short. The meat was placed in a baking dish, some fat spread over it, peeled potatoes placed around it, and the whole affair roasted. The dish got its name from the 'straight rush' from the beef screen to the galley; RCN; c1900-25
- strike. (Of employees) to stop all work for the company as a result of contract differences, such as pay scales, working hours, fringe benefits, or the like, usu.(?) involving union workers; 1959, coll.
- string. The published material that, each week, a writer 'on space rates' gets paid for; he pastes 'clips' of all his published work in one long 'string' and is paid on this evidence, journalists'; C 20
- strings. Telegraph wires, RR, -1931, joc.
- stump. To challenge someone to do something, esp. to fight; -1932
- swamper. A man, often partially incapacitated (as a result of an injury), who keeps the bunkhouses clean ('swamped out') in a logging camp or on a ranch; C 20, coll.
- swank. Attrib., showy, pretentious, grand, 'swanky', as in 'that was a swank pair of cufflinks he was wearing.'; c1917(Eng. date ?)
- sweat pads. Pancakes; c1945
- swell head. A superintendent, alluding to the swelled or swollen head of exhibited self-conceit; RR; -1931
- swiling. A sol. for 'sealing', Nfld.; nautical; late C 19-20, coll.

swing. To get the feel of a situation; to comprehend the truth or beauty of anything worth attention; to impart the same truth or beauty to others; c1956

switchel. Cold tea; ex US, Nfld.; late C 19-20, coll.

T

take! All right!, all correct!, certainly!, perhaps an adaption of 'jake', C 20

take a powder. See 'fade, do a'

take it in the neck. (of hoboes) when 'riding the cushions' if one sits looking back, one is said to 'take it (= the wind) in the neck', conversely, if one sits facing ahead, one is said to be 'punching the breeze', hoboes'; late C 19-20

tallowpot. A locomotive fireman, --from his can of grease; RR; -1931

tank. A locomotive tender, RR, -1931

tanker. A heavy drinker, C 20

tea-kettle. A leaky, old locomotive; RR; -1931

tea squall. A tea party, c1810-1850

Teddy. The law that no member of a train-crew shall work more than sixteen hours at a stretch (may now be less); RR, -1931

tell. To say, as in 'Tell him good-night.', and 'Tell her good-bye.', also US; mid-C 19-20, coll.

tennis, anyone? A cp by way of opening a conversation or, with girls, a flirtation; 'mostly Cdn.?'; c1956

thanks for the buggy ride! A cp expressing thanks for some small service; C 20, obs. by 1960, often ironical

that makes the cheese more binding! A cp meaning, 'that's the stuff!', c1945-55

that's not hay! A cp meaning, a large amount of money, as in 'I sold it for \$40,000, and that's not hay.'; ex US, c1945

them's the jockeys for me! A cp applied to anything delicious or desirable, c1950

- thousand-miler. A starched blue shirt with an attachable blue collar, worn by railroad men, --it's good for a thousand miles before one has to change it, RR, -1931
- through, be. To have finished (a job, or the like); also US, c1910, coll.
- ticks. Moments, as in 'I'll be with you in a few ticks.', 1946, obs. by 1959
- tie 'em down. To set the hand-brakes, RR, C 20, coll.
- tillikum. A friend; ex Chinook jargon; West Coast use; c1930
- toad. A mechanical derailer, from its shape, RR, -1931
- toddle-em-buck. The game of chance called 'Crown and Anchor', C 20
- toe(-)path. The running-board on a train, RR; -1931
- toggy. A heavy overcoat for use in cold regions, 1715-1910
- tolo. A dance at which the girls pay the admission charge, rather than the men; perhaps ex S.E. 'toll' = a tax, or ex Nfld. 'tole' = to entice with bait; c1955
- tootin', you're damn' (/darn'). A cp meaning, 'you're absolutely right.', c1908
- tough(-)gut. A hardy, rough and ready fellow, men's; -1932
- town, on the. A cp applied to one who has gone into town in search of sexual or other entertainment, c1920
- train(-)detainer. A train-dispatcher, RR; -1931, joc.
- tram. See 'slip-horn' and 'slush-pump'
- tramping the ties. Walking on the rails, the ties are the sleepers (the large lengths of wood) on which the rails are laid, late C 19-20
- travelling grunt (/man). The road foreman of engines; or a travelling engineer, or a travelling fireman, also US, RR; -1931
- trick. A tour of duty, a turn at the wheel, RR, and others', -1931
- T(/t)runks. Shares of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada; Stock Exchange, -1895, coll., obs.(?)

universal subject, the. (The subject of) smutty talk;
c1930, coll., verging on S. E.

up against it (with vengeance). In serious difficulty,
confronted by a serious difficulty, ex US (1896),
1910, coll.

V

varnished wagons. Passenger-train cars; RR, -1931

Very Little Water Society, the. A most informal and fluid
group of North American anthropologists, who take their
liquor 'on the rocks', --from a play on the name of a
real secret society of the Iroquois tribe, the 'Little
Water Society', c1950

W

walking-orders (/papers, /ticket). A (notice of) dismissal
from one's job, 'esp. in the Colonies'; ex US (1830's);
C 20, joc.

wannegan. A store, a shop, ex an Indian word, C 20

want down (/in, /off, /out, /up). The omission of the phrase
'to get' in the expression 'want to get down (/in, /etc.)',
as in 'He wanted out of prison, so he escaped.', ex US;
c1954

want-to-was(s)er. (n. and attrib.), an athlete or
pugilist hopeful but past his prime, (of an athlete)
hopeful of good results but past his prime in his sport;
C 20, very rare, obs.

wash out. A signal of cancellation, made by waving flags
in a downward arc, completing a semicircle; at night,
a lamp is swung in a wide low semicircle; RR; -1931, coll.

watch works. (A person's) brains; 1946, obs. by 1959

waterborne. See 'inland navy'

water horse. Salt fish, just washed from a vat, Nfld.; C 20

ways. A (great) distance, as in 'We've got a long ways to
go.', ex US, late C 19

wear. To perfume oneself, as in 'women wear perfume', to
use something as an accessory, as in 'cripples wear a
cane'; to carry something on oneself, as in 'strikers
wear placards', ex US, 1930's, coll., virtually S.E. by
1960

- weeno. Wine, --from 'vino'; carnival; C 20
- were you born in a barn? A cp said to one who leaves a door open, also Eng., Aust., NZ, mid-C 19-20
- wet, all. See 'all wet'
- whale(-)belly. A type of coal car, --because it is cavernous, RR; -1931
- W(/w)hanger. A man engaged in fish-curing in Nfld., nautical; -1867, (see also 'cod-whanger')
- what a long tail our cat's got! A cp said to, or at, someone boasting, c1920
- when do you shine? A cp meaning, 'What time have you been called for?', 'When do you get up?', RR, -1931 (See also 'shining time')
- when (/while) you're talking about me, you're giving somebody else a rest. A cp implying slanderous gossip, 'mostly Cdn.', -1949
- whing ding. A head covering, a scarf, hat, cap(?), 1946, obs. by 1959
- whiskey(-)jack (/whisk(e)y john, /whiski(-)jack, /whisky(-) jack, /whisky Jack. (In all two word items, the second word may be capitalized), a popular name for the common green jay of Canada, ex Indian word 'weskuchanis' (OED), in order we have: c1770, nd. C 18, C 19-20, nd; all are coll., verging on S.E.
- whistle-punk. The boy who conveys signals from loggers to the donkey-engineer, lumbermen's, c1920
- whistle-stop. A very small town; ex US; c1925
- white-haired boy. A favourite or darling (person), said by someone jealous of the favoured person(?); also Aust. and NZ, C 20
- whole kit and caboodle, the. The lot, everything; ex US (DA 1888); c1920
- wig. A scene, act, such playing as will render the audience ecstatic, jazzmen's; c1956
- wiggle. A 'wriggle', as in 'get a wiggle on' = move faster, hurry up, C 20
- Wild Indians, the. The Prince of Wale's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians); military; 1870's, obs.

Willie. A waybill; RR, -1931

wing her. To set the brakes on a moving train, perhaps from sportsmen's S.E. 'to wing a bird' = to shoot it in order to stop it (?), RR, -1931

wise up. To get wise, as in 'you've got a little way to hike alone, and you're not wised up in everything, so listen to me!' 1905

with it, be. To be one of the carnival or fair-ground crew, carnival; also US; C 20

wobbie (/wobby). A member of the International Workers of the World, workers', NB. In the US the variant is 'wobbly' or 'wabbly', c1920

wood-pile. A xylophone; ex US (c1925), musicians', late 1930's

woozy. Attrib., dizzy, C 20

worried as a pregnant fox in a forest fire, as. An elaborate cp meaning 'worried', c1920

wrath of God, like the. Terrible, 'still common in Canada at least as late as May, 1959', c1936

Y

yard. To corral, to round up, to get hold of someone, as in 'We yarded Ted and Alice (into the car) and tooled off to the dance.'; late 1950's

yellow-jacket. A wasp, mid-C 19-20, coll.

you can't fly on one wing. A cp invitation to one more drink before leaving a party to go home; c1945

you can't win. A cp expressing the impossibility of coming out on top, and the futility of fighting against those who are seemingly against your success; usu. said after something one has done (which one thought would be successful) has failed miserably; c1950

you shred it, Wheat. A punning, rhyming cp meaning, 'you said it'; 1946, obs. by 1959

you're the doctor! A cp meaning, 'I'll agree with whatever you say, (for) you're the one doing it.', 'you're the authority, or the expert, or the man in charge--and the responsibility for the outcome is yours.'; also Eng., c1945

you've got a smile like a can of worms. A cp expressing
dislike for someone; c1925

Z

zoon bat. *Attrib.*, funny-looking; 1946, obs. by 1959

Zulu. An emigrant outfit, esp. a train for either
emigrants or immigrants; RR, ex US; -1931

LIST (3)ANTEDATINGS LIST

This list contains lexical items that antedate the earliest date of origin in any of the dictionaries consulted.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition, file date, antedated dictionaries and their dates

AS:

bee's knees, the. Anything or anyone that is remarkable, note-worthy, excellent, or the like, 1924, DAS nd, SUE c1930

LISTA

a-lay for (one), to. Wait for someone in order to pounce upon him; to waylay one, 1896, DAS 1947

B

Barrel, have (one) over a. To have the better of one; to have an advantage, 1910, DAS 1939, SUE -1950

bee's knees, the. Anything or anyone that is remarkable, noteworthy, excellent, or the like, 1924, DAS nd, obs., SUE c1930

belt, under (one's). Successfully accomplished; to one's credit, 1910, DAS nd, coll., SUE c1930, Australian

bend. A spree of drinking; 1862, DAS 1887, DA 1887, SUE 1887(US)

bite the dust. To die, 1844, DAS c1870

blankety-blank. A euphemism for any taboo word or expression, 1945, DAS 1953

blast. A criticism, a bawling out; 1945, DAS 1950, SUE C 20, naval

- blind pig. A speakeasy, an establishment where liquor is illegally sold, a bootlegging operation, ex US, 1908 c1920, cant until c1929, then slang
- blooey. Not operating properly, fallen apart, 1920, DAS 1931, DA 1929, SUE 1942, ex US
- blow. To fail, to lose one's chances of success; 1919, DAS c1920
- bohunc bohunk Bohunk. A rough looking character; 1913, DAS nd, DA 1927
- booster. A gambler's or pitchman's assistant who pretends to buy or win in order to start the real buying or gambling, 1898, DAS nd, DA 1906, SUE 1909(US), coll., almost S.E.
- bootleg-bottle. Home-brew liquor; illegal and potent liquor, 1918, DA 1920
- bootlegger. A dealer in, or seller of, illicit liquors; 1912, DAS nd, coll., DA 1948, SUE 1919(US), now S.E.
- bug. An obsession, an interest, 1911, DAS 1932
- bugs. Crazy, 1909, DAS 1922, SUE C 20, ex US, Cdn.
- bug sharp. An entomologist, a naturalist, 1870, DAS c1875, DA 1877
- bull-pen. A lounge, a company-maintained dressing or sleeping room, 1907 (1908), DAS c1935(?), DA 1944
- bullpen. A bunkhouse, dressing or sleeping room, 1913 (1958), DAS c1930, or DAS c1935
- bun. A drinking fit, a jag or spree; 1913, DAS c1920, DA 1915

C

- caper. A prank, any spree, 1920, DAS nd, or DAS c1945, SUE c1920, or SUE -1851, coll.
- Chink. Attrib., Chinese, 1910, DAS 1938
- Chippy, the. The ship's carpenter; 1945, DAS 1948, SUE = a nickname given to a man named 'Carpenter' late C 19-20, military
- chuck it. To discard an idea, or plan; to stop doing something, 1936, DAS 1951, SUE C 20

cold turkey. Extreme matter-of-fact plainness, 1910, DA 1916
 counter-jumper. Store clerk, 1829, DAS c1835, SUE 1831, coll.,
 (US?)
 cow's breakfast. A straw slouch hat; 1900, SUE C 20, Cdn.
 cut loose. To act or speak without restraint; 1910, DA 1931,
 coll.

D

dippy-. Attrib., crazy; 1910, DAS 1933, SUE nd
 down and out. Broke; penniless; 1910, DAS 1949, DA 1917,
 or DA 1948

F

fade. To leave, go away, 1936, DAS 1949
 fakery. The practice or product of faking, false or
 pretended manners, ideas, or the like; 1912, DA 1925, coll.
 fantabulous. Attrib., fantastic, exciting, good,--from
 'fantastic' + 'fabulous', 1958, SUE c1961-64
 first base. To be at least moderately successful, usu.
 used in negative contexts; 1907, DA 1931
 floozie fluzie. An undisciplined, promiscuous, flirtatious,
 irresponsible girl or woman, esp. one out for a good
 time and concerned about living off the generosity of
 men; 1935, DAS 1942, SUE c1940, ex US

G

gate, be given the. To be dismissed from one's employment,
 to be fired; 1919, DAS 1951, DA 1921
 Gesundheit Gesund act. An ejaculatory good wish addressed
 to one who has just sneezed; 1866(1962), DA 1909
 get it off (one's) chest. To tell someone what is bothering
 one, to tell what one is thinking; 1919, SUE C 20
 Australian, coll. by 1930
 get it on (someone). To have an advantage over someone, to
 be successful at someone's expense, 1916, DA 1926
 get next to (someone). To become a confidant of someone, in
 order to secure information; 1911, DAS 1950

- go Dutch. Each person in the company pays his own way for treats or entertainment, 1913, DAS 1914
- good, be careful,--if you can't be. A parting catchphrase exhorting one to good behaviour, 1910, SUE c1912
- good head. A nice guy, an agreeable person, 1945, DAS c1950
- go snacks with you. To be partners with; 1828, SUE 1891
- grit Grit(s). A member of the Liberal Party; the Liberal Party, 1882, SUE 1887, Cdn.
- gungel. A tough guy; a gunman, a thug, hoodlum; 1950, DAS 1951

H

- handout(s). Government funds, grants, 1904, DA 1949, DAS nd
- handout. To give, 1915, DA 1929
- hasher. Waitress, 1927, DAS 1930
- head. A hangover; 1909, DAS c1920
- hell-hole. Any unpleasant place, 1909, DAS 1947
- high ball. Approval; sanction, 1915, DA 1920(?), SUE c1925, Cdn.
- high, wide and handsome. Very successfully, going all out, 1934, DAS nd, DA 1949, SUE C 20, coll., Cdn.
- hit the ball. To work long and well; go at a lively rate; 1925, DA 1939
- holdup. A request for a raise in pay, usu. supported by implying an offer of a better-paying job elsewhere, 1903, DAS 1916, DA 1910
- horse (something) up. To refuse to do something seriously; do something in a joking manner; 1952, DAS 1954
- hot. Stolen; dangerous because of its being stolen; 1912, DAS 1932, SUE c1925, ex US, Cdn.
- hush-hush. Secret, confidential; 1940, DAS 1950
- hustle. Hurry; work hard; Aug 8, 1889, DAS nd, DA Dec 31, 1889, SUE nd, coll., but S.E. for more than a century (-1861?)

J

jake. *Attrib.*, satisfactory; all right, approved of; 1915, DAS 1924, DA 1921, SUE C 20 (Colonial 1910(?) & US)--NB. Part. 'Und.' 1914

jaw, call (one's). To live on credit, 1885, SUE c1890, Cdn.

jolt. A drink, esp. of liquor, 1897, DAS 1920, SUE c1900, Cdn.

Joneses, keep up with the. To spend money to keep up a front; to strive to not be outdone socially or financially by one's neighbours, or others regarded as one's social equals, 1923, DAS 1926, SUE c1950, coll.

K

kick. To complain; 1845, DAS 1914

L

leather, the. A kick; 1910, DAS 1946, SUE C 20, cant

like a million dollars. Extremely fine, well, 1920, DA 1945, coll.

Lobster-jig. The spell of duty overlapping the day shift (= jig) and the night shift, commencing in the afternoon and finishing about midnight, 1913, DA 'lobster' -attrib. 1930

locoed. *Attrib.*, crazy, crazed; 1910, DA 1912, DAS nd, obs.

lone-wolf. *Attrib.*, (of a person) to live without social contacts, and without revealing one's activities; with no close friends, 1954, DAS 'as n.' 1957

look crosseyed at (something/someone). To commit the smallest fault; to do any trivial thing out of the ordinary, regardless of its wrongness or rightness; 1918, DAS 1951

M

mark. A sucker; an easy victim, 1835, DAS 1941, DA 1889, SUE 1885, cant

M(/m)ickey Mickies mick mike. An Irishman, the Irish people, 1854, DAS nd, derog., SUE 1869(US), angl. c1890, more

general in Canada, Australia, NZ

milestone. A huge wave on the ocean; 1945, SUE C 20(1946),
naval

muffin. A girlfriend; 1854, DAS nd, not common, SUE 1856,
obs., Cdn.

N

no-good. A worthless person, 1919, DAS 1951, coll.,
DA 1924

noodle. A person's head, 1910, DAS 1929-30, NB. 'noddle'
DAS 1905

nut. An enthusiast about a particular activity, 1945,
DAS 1951

O

one-and-only. A person's sweetheart; 1926, DAS 1947

on the house. Free of charge; 1919, DAS 1951, DA 1949,
coll., SUE C 20, coll.

on the up and up. Honest; fair; legitimate, on the level;
c1862(1958), DAS 1930, DA 1863, coll., SUE c1919, ex US,
cant

P

pin (something) on (someone). To accuse; to impute a
wrong-doing to someone, 1936, DAS 1939

plunderbund. A group engaged in exploiting the public;
1906, DA 1914

plunk down. To pay money, hand over in payment; 1919, DAS
1934

primed, to be. Drunk; 1903, DAS c1920 'more common in Eng.
than in US'

push. The person in charge; a leader; head man; 1904,
DAS 1930 = 'foreman' (lumbercamp), SUE -1932 = 'foreman'
(lumbercamp)

R

raw deal. Very unfair or harsh, malicious, or discriminating,

treatment of a person or persons, 1910, DAS 1952,
SUE c1930 US

real, for. As genuine, authentic, possible, 1912, DAS
c1950

real cheese. Any important object, (or person); 1910,
DAS 1924

real McCoy. The genuine article, or person; anything
superior, dependable, or greatly liked; 1916/1922 (?),
DAS 1951, DA 1922, SUE 'McCoy' nd (US), ex 'Real
McKay' -1900, orig. a Scotch phrase

run a sandy on. To play a trick on; to dupe, swindle, 1906,
DAS 1939

rush the can. To drink freely at a bar or in a saloon;
1905, DA 1930

S

shellacking. A defeat, a complete failure, usu. used in
sports to mean a rout or utter defeat, 1942, DAS 1952

shot. A glass of liquor, usu. whiskey; 1901, DAS 1938,
SUE nd, US, coll.

skin. To gyp, to swindle, 1910, DAS 1953, coll.

skin game. A swindle, 1912, DA 1947, SUE C 20

snowball in hell, as much chance as. Not much chance at
all; 1904, DAS 'snowball chance' nd, SUE 'as much chance
as a snowflake in hell' c1910, Australian coll.

sock it to (someone). To give it to a person, 1866(1962),
SUE 'sock it (to)' 1890

soup to nuts, from. Everything; 1931(1957), DA 1938

sporting joint. A brothel; 1912, DAS 'sporting house' 1939,
DA 'sporting house' 1946, SUE 'joint' = brothel, 1932, NZ
cant

square. A meal; 1871, DAS 1894, DA 1882

square head. A dull-witted, slow-thinking person, 1913,
DAS c1915

stand-in. One who takes the place of another; a substitute;
1910, DAS nd, DA 1949, SUE c1925, services' coll.

stone-jug. A bank, 1815, SUE C 19

string with. To stay with, to follow someone as a leader, to agree with; to trust; to accept another's decision, opinion, or advice, 1910, DAS 'string along with' 1937, SUE 'string along with' c1930, ex US, coll.

stud. Attrib., male; 1912, DAS nd, SUE c1925

sunny side up. An egg fried on one side only, so that the yolk remains soft; 1910, DAS nd, SUE c1920, Cdn.

T

tar out of, knock the. To defeat soundly; to thrash, 1890, DAS 1930(?) DA 1923, SUE c1920

tie a can on (someone). To dismiss someone from a job, to fire a person, 1942, DAS 1952

tin-horn. A gambler, esp. a small-time gambler, 1910, DAS 1945, DA 1950, but NB. DA 'tin-horn' = a pretentious person who spends little, 1885

trots. Harness racing, 1954, DAS 1956, SUE C 20, Australian coll.

U

umpty umpth. Any unspecified ordinal number of times, usu. a large number, indicating a repeated act; 1903, DAS 1937

W

whole shooting-match, the. Everything; the whole lot, 1902, DAS nd, DA 1946, SUE c1915

LIST (4)CLOSE OR SAME DATES LIST

The lexical items contained in this list have file dates which are the same as the earliest recorded date of origin in the dictionaries consulted or which are within a year or so of that date of origin in the dictionaries. This list is included because the lexical items may be originally Canadianisms as a result of the items arising in both the US and Canada at or about the same times.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition, file date, dictionaries and their dates

AS:

bull. Stupidity, insincerity, idle talk, exaggeration, lies, and the like, 1916, DAS c1915, DA 1939, SUE C 20, naval

LISTB

beat (one's) gums. To be loquacious; 1945, DAS 1945, SUE c1945, ex US

bull. Stupidity; insincerity; idle talk; exaggeration, lies, and the like, 1916, DAS c1915, DA 1939, SUE C 20, naval

buncomb buncombe bunkum. Nonsense; bunk; 1848, DAS nd, obs., DA 1847, SUE -1827(US), and c1856 (Eng), becoming coll. in C 19, and S.E. in C 20

C

cauliflower ear. An ear so deformed as the result of an injury, usu. in boxing or wrestling, as to suggest a cauliflower, 1909 (4 Dec.), DA 1909 (31 May)

D

Dollardom. A place where getting money is the primary aim

of the people, 1853, DA 1852, rare

dollars to doughnuts. It is practically certain (def. from DA), 1905, DA 1904, SUE = long odds, uncertainty c1920, low, coll.

dump. Any unattractive, cheap, shabby, or wretched house, apartment, hotel, theatre, or the like; a joint; 1904, DAS 1930, DA 1903, SUE 1932 (NZ), 1942 (Aust.)

G

guff. Empty or foolish talk, chiding, exaggerated, or pompous talk, writing, or thinking, boloney; 1890, DAS 1888, DA 1888, SUE c1888 (US)

H

hound. A person, as in 'government hound', 1919, SUE c1919, slang verging on coll., of the upper-middle classes

J

jitney. A car, usu. one owned by an individual, used to carry passengers along a standard route for a small fare, 1916, DAS 1924, DA 'jitney bus' 1915, or DA 1947

L

lightning. Inferior whiskey, 1859, DAS c1880, coll., DA 1858

M

mut(t). A stupid person, a person easily disliked, 1910, DAS 1910, obs. by c1940, SUE 1910 (US), DA 1910

P

plank. To pay, to put up money; 1825, DAS 1824, DA 1824, SUE 1824 (US)

R

ripstaver. A person or thing regarded as markedly superior or striking, 1833, DA 1833

S

skidoo. A humorous nonsense word to attract attention or to attest to the speaker's being modern and wise; 1904 (4 Aug), DAS 1905, DA 1904 (31 Jan), SUE 1907

soda jerk. A person, usu. a youth, who prepares and dispenses refreshments at a soda fountain; 1950, DAS 1949, coll., DA 1949

spill the beans. To reveal a secret inadvertently; to spoil a plan or the like by saying the wrong thing; 1919, DAS c1920, coll., DA 1919, SUE nd (US)

split. A division of profits; 1919, SUE -1919, low

T

tangle-leg. Liquor, esp. cheap whiskey, (n., attrib.); 1860, DAS c1860, obs., DA 1861

two-spot. A two-dollar bill; 1905, DAS nd., DA 1904

LIST (5)NO DATE GIVEN LIST

This list contains items which exist in only one of the dictionaries consulted, and which do not have a date of origin given in that dictionary. The only available date of origin for the item is the one which exists in the files. Therefore it is a matter of doubt as to which may be the earliest instance of the item, the dictionary cite, or the file cite, consequently the item may be a Canadianism.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition, file date, dictionary with
no date

AS

buddy up with. To combine resources; 1936, DAS

LISTA

alchy alki. A drunkard; an alcoholic; 1962, DAS

alfalfa. Whiskers; a beard, 1919, DAS dial.

angle. That part of a plan, action, or scheme from which
a person hopes to profit or benefit; 1955, DAS

ass-backwards. Wrong, confused; 1968, DAS taboo

B

base, off. Descriptive of an unfounded statement or a person
who utters such a statement; 1954, DAS

bash. Any exciting, memorable party; 1959, DAS

bat. A gossipy or mean old woman; a shrew, 1910, DAS, coll.,
(Part. 'Und.' 1811?)

bear, loaded for. Angry, ready for a fight, 1897, DAS, (but
DAS = drunk, 1896), obs. and dial.

- belly laugh. A deep, loud, long, uninhibited laugh, 1956(1960), DAS coll.
- belt. To hit a blow with the fist, 1962, DAS coll.
- big hole the air. 'big hole', n., The low gear of a truck or an automobile, 1942, DAS, (file has the verbal form of the noun = to gear down a vehicle to its low gear)
- block off, knock (someone's). To hit someone very hard, to knock someone unconscious, to give someone a severe physical beating, 1923, DAS
- blow-in. A spree; 1912, DAS
- boffo. A loud laugh, 1959, DAS
- brass. Executives, an official, officials, influential people, persons in authority, 1955, DAS
- buddy-buddy. Attrib., too friendly, presuming; 1963, DAS
- buddy up (with). To combine resources, 1936, DAS
- bug. A bacterium; a germ or microbe or virus, any micro-organism, 1953, DAS coll.
- bull-headed. Attrib., stubborn, 1856, DAS coll.
- butterball. Any plump person, 1959, DAS

C

- catch it (in the ear). To receive a complaint, strong criticism, a bawling out, punishment, or the like, 1963, DAS coll.
- Commy Commie commie. A member of the Communist party or the international Communist movement, a Communist, a Communist sympathizer, 1959, DAS coll.
- C(/c)owboy. A king in a deck of playing cards; 1964, DAS
- crock. A bottle of liquor; 1943, DAS

D

- dead. Attrib., completely, entirely, as in 'dead broke' = entirely without funds, 'dead out' = completely finished (referring to one's luck, fortunes, etc.), 1903(1913), DAS coll.

- deader. A dead person, a person in such serious trouble that he would be better off dead, 1913, DAS
- ding. To beg, esp. from passersby on a street, 1959, DAS
- do (one) up. To beat up a person, 1825, DAS
- dope. A prediction made from evaluating all the facts, gossip or news, 1910, DAS
- double in brass. To do any two different kinds of work; to be able to do more than one thing well, 1955, DAS
- drifter. A vagabond; a wanderer, a person without a steady job, occupation, or permanent address, 1911, DAS
- drop. An ostensibly respectable place of business used as a cover for illegal business or as a hiding place for stolen goods or contraband, or as a place for the sale of stolen goods, 1963, DAS

E

- emcee. A master of ceremonies--a spelling of the letters in the abbr. 'M.C.', 1962, DAS

F

- flubdubbery. Nonsense, bunk, 1936, DAS
- foofaraw. A loud disturbance or interruption; a commotion, 1960, DAS dial.
- footsie. Fig., any instance of friendly or intimate action, esp. as in courting business favours or to atone for past unacceptable behaviour, 1959, DAS
- frank. A frankfurter, a weiner; 1957, DAS coll.
- funny house. An insane asylum, 1963, DAS

G

- gang up (on). To unite against someone, as in a fight, argument, or the like, 1945, DAS coll.
- geek. A degenerate, one who will do anything, however disgusting, in order to satisfy or get money to satisfy degenerate desires, (often used fig., as an insult), 1959, DAS

- goop. Any sticky or greasy liquid, such as a chocolate syrup, or mud; 1951, DAS
- go overboard. To go on a spree, to be wholeheartedly and perhaps irrationally in favour of, 1954, DAS
- go places. To be successful; to have a successful career; 1956, DAS
- go to town (on). To respond (to), perform; plan or work without restraint or qualification, 1959, DAS
- green light. Approval; permission to proceed, a go-ahead sign, 1955, DAS
- grunt and groaner. A wrestler, (from the excessive facial grimaces and groans from the wrestlers to increase the popularity of wrestling with their fans); 1950, DAS

H

- ham and. An order of ham and eggs; 1896, DAS
- hard-sell. The act or an instance of selling or advertising merchandise in an aggressive, loud, unpleasant way; an aggressive pitch; 1959, DAS
- hash foundry. A cheap restaurant; a charitable institution that provides free meals to the destitute; 1919, DAS
- have it made. To be assured of success at or in something, esp. without further work; 1958, DAS
- heist. To steal, to take by robbing; 1959, DAS
- heister. A hold-up man, a professional robber, 1959, DAS
- hell to pay. A severe punishment, penalty, or bawling out; 1919, DAS
- hogger. A railroad engineer, 1961, DAS
- hole in the (/one's) head). A mythical symptom of stupidity; 1921, DAS
- home free. Assured of success or winning, having such a large advantage, or lead in a contest, that one is sure to succeed or win, 1959, DAS
- hotbed. A place or region that fig. produces, breeds, raises, or shelters many creatures of a specific type, for example, trout in a deep pool, people in a defined geographical area, 1963, DAS

J

joker. That which gives one an unfair chance, that which makes a task or plan impossible or difficult to achieve, literally, the small pea used by a gambler in the shell game; 1881, DAS

joy-juice. Liquor, 1909, DAS

K

kick around. To discuss, consider, or meditate on a topic, proposal, or plan; 1958, DAS

kill-joy. A gloomy person; one whose actions or remarks deprive others of pleasure, a pessimist, 1957, DAS coll.

kiss-off. Death; the fatal end of an adventure, or manoeuvre; 1928, DAS

kooky. *Attrib.*, crazy; odd, eccentric, 1959, DAS

L

laying off lay off. Of a bookmaker, or gambler, the giving of, (or to give), part of a bet to another bookmaker, or gambler, to reduce his potential losses, 1964, DAS

loaded for bear. Angry; prepared to expose or ruin someone's reputation; ready for a fight; 1958, DAS

long-haired. Fig., intellectual, highbrow; eccentric, far-out, 1936, DAS

lushed up. *Attrib.*, Drunk, 1928, DAS

M

mainliner. A drug addict who takes his narcotics by intravenous injection; 1963, DAS

make. To attain success, fame, money, or the like, as in 'make the price of a meal'; 1961, DAS

Molly Hogan. Any complicated or puzzling thing, mainly confined to logging; a mythical person who receives the blame for some puzzling or unfortunate occurrence, such as a man falling off a log; 1966, DAS

mon. Money; 1910, DAS

N

Newfie. A person from Newfoundland, a Newfoundlander;
1962, DAS

nightingale. An informer, one who squeals to the
authorities; 1963, DAS

no-account. Attrib., worthless, untrustworthy, irresponsible,
1912, DAS

nogoodnik. A worthless person, 1959, DAS

O

once over lightly. Cursorily, quickly, of a topic: treated
in a light manner, not profound in thought, not treated
in great depth; 1957, DAS

on the nose. Correct, right, exact; 1959, DAS

ornery. Attrib., Unpleasant, bad-tempered, intractable;
occ., ordinary; 1903, DAS

P

paste. To strike someone a hard blow with the fist; 1952,
DAS, (SUE has 'paste', v., = to thrash, implied in
1851, (Mayhew))

patsy. A weak or cowardly man; 1963, DAS

patsy. The person who is given the blame for any crime or
difficult situation, esp. by others who were actually
involved, a scapegoat; 1967, DAS

phoney-man. A peddler, street vendor, or auctioneer of
cheap or imitation jewelery; a swindler, or con-man;
1927, DAS

play. A role of leadership or authority, control of a
situation, the situation in one's life where one feels
most comfortable and at ease, 1910, DAS

plow-jockey. A farmer, lit., a man who works with a plow;
a rustic, 1959, DAS

potwolloper. One who washes pots; more generalized meaning
of a domestic, 1902, DAS

puke. Fig., any object, person or situation that is terribly
inferior, obnoxious, ugly, or disliked; 1912, DAS

put on. To act affectedly; to conduct oneself ostentatiously, to put on airs; 1909, DAS

R

redhorse. Corned or pickled beef; 1964, DAS

roller. One who robs men who are drunk; 1923, DAS

rope. To gain the confidence of a person, or pose as a friend, in order to deceive, trick, cheat, or swindle; 1960, DAS

roughie. A working man in a circus; a circus labourer; one who assembles and knocks down the carnival shows; 1958, DAS

S

salty. Attrib., audacious, daring; 1955, DAS

scared stiff. Frightened greatly, literally, to death; 1910, SUE 'US'

scratch. A horse that has been withdrawn from a race after midnight of the night before the race--the withdrawn horse's name usually is listed on a 'scratch sheet'; 1964, DAS

seat-of-the-pants, (by the). By instinct; in aviation, a pilot who flies his route by a combination of instinct and thorough knowledge of the countryside over which he is flying, perhaps mixed with a little bit of luck; 1967, DAS

seat of (one's/someone's) pants, (by the). See preceding entry for definition; 1967, DAS

sitting duck. Lit., and fig., an easy target, as for scandal, danger, or the like; fig., an easy mark; 1960, DAS

skin head. A bald man; 1962, DAS

smakaroo. A dollar; 1964, DAS

smart money. Money bet or invested by those in the know, or by influential or wealthy people who are supposedly in a position to know that their bet or investment will be profitable; 1959, DAS

snoose. A potent, moist snuff; it is usu. chewed or sucked, rather than snuffed, 'Snoose' is a specif. brand name of one such snuff, 1963, DAS

sonofabitch. A despicable man, sometimes, though rarely, a woman, 1954, DAS taboo

sour apples, for. Unsuccessfully, poorly; as in 'He can't talk French for sour apples' = he speaks French poorly; usu. used alone or in several phrases indicating incredulity or lack of faith in another's ability; 1903, DAS

sozzle. To render moist, 1923, SUE 'US'

squeaker. A close result, as in a game won by a small margin; 1957, DAS

stanza. Any unit of time or action, esp. in sports: a round of a prize fight, an inning of a baseball game, a quarter of a football game, a period of a hockey game; 1955, DAS

Sunday driver. A poor automobile driver, one who drives uncertainly and erratically, as one who drives very seldom, for example only on Sundays, 1964, DAS

T

think-tank. The brain; 1964, DAS

tub. A ship or boat; 1921, DAS

Turk. A strong man; a large, strong, energetic, overbearing man, a man quickly aroused to anger; a stubborn man, one hard to deal with, 1883, DAS

W

weirdo. A weird person, an eccentric, or unusual person; 1963, DAS

whingdinger. An uninhibited, boisterous celebration; 1959, DAS

Y

yardbull. A railroad guard or detective assigned to duty in a freight yard, 1955, DAS

yatter. To talk loquaciously or inanely, 1962, DAS

LIST (6)FILE ITEMS NONEXISTENT IN CONSULTED SOURCES

This list is composed of all words and expressions which exist in the files, but which do not exist in any of the three dictionaries consulted (DA, DAS, SUE), or which exist in one of the dictionaries with a slightly different meaning to the item in the files, or which exist in one of the dictionaries in combination with another word and with the same meaning. Some of these words may also exist in dictionaries other than the three consulted. In this case, the dictionary is noted with its information.

The semantic information contained in this list may or may not be correct, but it is based on information given in the quote containing the word, and where the information in the quote is not sufficient to confirm a semantic interpretation, this is noted by the use of a '?' in the semantic part of the lexical entry. Any item not explicitly defined in the quote has been given a definition based on the information, context, and so on, of the quote as much as possible.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition, file date, any dictionaries'
dates

AS:

staky. Attrib., well-off, rich, as in 'he was never
very staky' = he was never too rich, 1919

LISTA

ad man adman. A man employed in the advertising business, 1960

aitch. Euph. for 'hell', 1951
 'all for George' boys. The regular forces in WW2; 1945
 allow. To admit, acknowledge a fact, or the like; 1919
 amour. One's sweetheart, girlfriend; 1963
 Ananias. To lie; 1889, but DA 1888 as n. 'liar'
 annex. Outhouses, 1956
 answer back. To sass, to speak flippantly to someone,
 1902
 arbitrator. Dice; 1962
 Armstrong Hoist. A hand-operated windlass, 1922
 armstrong route. (In canoeing) to paddle a boat rather
 than use a motor; 1920, but DAS 'armstrong' = attrib.,
 operated by hand, requiring muscle power (said of tools
 and machinery), nd
 around, have been. To know something of life, to be
 experienced, 1945
 arty-farty. Attrib., ostentatious (?); derogatory; 1960
 as all hell. Adverb, extremely, as in 'I was tired as all
 hell.' = I was extremely tired., 1964
 ass-busting. Attrib., difficult, hard, 1960
 away up. ?, 1962

B

baby breath blasting. Blasting with care not to damage
 the surrounding areas, 1947
 baby sprinkler. A euph. for a Bs-er, 1924(1933)
 backbite. To argue strenuously, to conduct a contest with
 lots of name calling (usu. associated with politics);
 1917
 back-end. (Drugs) the person who cuts the drugs with
 sugar or milk to help the profit along, 1954
 back-end. (Gambling) the person who actually makes book,
 --the term is borrowed from drug terminology, 1964

- bagosh. A sol. for 'by gosh!'; 1899, dial.(?)
- bail out of. To jump from a car, 1960
- baldheaded Mackinaw, by the. An oath = ?; 1934
- baled hay. Tobacco or cigars with which a smoker has become dissatisfied, or the 'trash' that someone else smokes, 1913
- ball, carry the. To act as messenger or leader, 1958, but in Webster's 3rd
- bamboo slide, on the. Attrib., down and out, in someone's bad books, 1953
- bang. A drinking spree; 1963
- bangles. Handcuffs, 1919
- bash(ing). Drink(ing), 1957
- bash. To shoot, 1964
- bean-headed. Attrib., crazy, 1919
- beat. Attrib., broke, penniless, 1935
- beat the can off. To physically beat up a person, 1942
- beef parade. A protest march; 1955
- beer. A policeman, 1909
- bejeepers. Euph. for 'by Jesus!'; 1959
- belly laughing. Attrib., funny; 1958
- belly red. ?; 1955
- belt, close to the. Carefully; 1955
- berries, the clear. Attrib., good stuff; 1962
- biff. A strong push, 1903, but DA = a blow, a punch--1904
- biff. A mistake, 1909
- biff. A toilet, 1963
- big Auger. A big shot, an important person; 1953
- Big Dipper. Cheap potent rum, Nfld.; 1965

- big shotism. A pretence of importance; 1957
- biliary (/bibulary) calculus. Overdrinking, 1870(1963)
- Bill(y)-be-damned, like. (Of something) done well, 1954
- billy-ho. The devil, 1962
- bingo. Cheap wine; 1963, but SUE = spiritous liquor, esp. brandy--C 17-18, cant, becoming slang C 19, now obs.
- bingo. A prison riot, 1965
- bitching. Complaining; 1963
- bitching-post. A complaints department in a store, office or the like; 1961
- black-balled. Attrib., thrown out of, ejected from, dismissed; 1960
- black-beaned. Same meaning as in preceding entry; 1925
- blackjack. A swarthy person, 1962
- Black Monks. ?; 1955
- blast-off. A tantrum, flare-up, outburst; 1963
- blaze-belly. Liquor; 1953
- bleatnik. A teenager who constantly listens to his transistor radio, 1964
- bleed freely. To talk, confess, 1825, but Part. 'Und.' 1666
- bloop. To fail, to do poorly, 1958
- blow over. (Of a predicament, scandal, or the like) to pass into the forgotten past, out of memory; 1903
- blow-up. A sudden increase in the value of a company's stock, 1956
- blue. Attrib., unfavourable; 1912, but SOD c1600
- Blueboy. A person with a job and social stability during the Depression; 1955
- blue-joint. Whiskey, 1962
- blue shrieks. Adverb, fiercely, hard; 1912

- boar's nest. A filthy room, from--a pigsty, 1964
- boche. A French Canadian's name for an English Canadian, 1919
- bohunk. A pro-Germany sympathizer in WW2; 1959
- boiler room. An investment brokerage, 1959, but in Webster's 3rd
- boiler shop. Attrib., the method of telephone soliciting for buyers of securities, 1952
- bollix. Confusion, hassle; 1963, but DAS 'bollixed up' = confused, mixed-up--1937
- bomb. To drive nowhere in particular; esp. in phrase to 'bomb around', 1964
- bomb. To fail miserably, 1968
- bone. A mistake, a boner; 1924
- bone, to the. Adverb, completely, 1919
- bones, rolling the. Playing dice; 1938
- bone-shaker. A saddle, 1922
- boob. A mistake, 1958
- boondocks. The outer extremities of an area, for example, the distant parking places in a large parking lot, 1963
- bootlegger. Attrib., illegal; 1960
- booze cruise. ?; 1961
- booze-fighting show. A saloon; 1943
- boozereno. Booze, liquor; 1896
- booze runner. A rum-runner, an illegal exporter of whiskey; 1919
- bored out. Attrib., tired, worn out; 1922
- boss. The best of something, as in 'This party is the boss.' = This party is the best I've seen in a long time., 1889
- bottom, the. An account (of what one owes) in illegal gambling, 1964

- boxes, on the. (Narcotics) ?, 1955
- boy! An expletive showing surprise, pleasure, 1942
- boy. A guy, a fellow, 1910, but OED 1866 'US'
- boy. A miner, 1955
- boy-o'-boy! An expletive showing surprise, 1961
- boys in blue. The city police, 1963
- brassie. A brassiere (bra); 1928
- brass-pounding. The operation of a telegraph key; 1954
- break up. To cause to laugh, 1959
- brew. Home-made beer, 1929
- brewpot. A container for home-made beer, 1951
- broker. *Attrib.*, ?, 1955
- * bronc(h)o. An Englishman who still clings to Old-Country manners and speech; so called because he requires some "breaking-in" - When "broken-in", he may be described as an "Improved Britisher", 1918, but in Sandiland, 1912
- brothel siren. A prostitute, or pimp, procurer for a brothel; 1883
- bubble-water. Champagne; 1910, but DAS 'bubbly'--British WWI slang
- buck-brand. Merchandise selling for one dollar; 1906
- bucket (down). To travel, esp. fast, 1942
- bug. Tuberculosis, 1919
- bug-list. A list of people to work on pest control; 1955
- 'bug' wing. The section of a prison where mental prisoners are kept, 1932
- bugger around. To behave in an aimless manner, 1955
- bull buckler. The lead hand, foreman of bucking (logging slang); 1919
- bull con. A euph. for 'bull shit'; 1910, but Part. 'Und.' 1930

- bull-horrors. A fear of police; hoboese' (?); 1955
- bull pen. The backbench area in politics; 1964
- bullee. A type of tinned meat, --from 'bully beef';
1850, but SOD 'bully' as in 'bully beef' --1883
- bulling. Attrib., tough; 1963
- Bull's Ball. A stag party; 1888(1890)
- bum-boy. A follower, one easily swayed by another; 1965
- bumfousul. To fool, dupe someone; 1906
- bundle. Twenty-five capsules of heroin; 1960
- bung. To bang, to hit against; 1958
- bunk. A cell in a police station; 1889(1964)
- burn. To eat; 1960
- bush-rat. (A transferred meaning) a no-good person; derogatory,
1936
- bush-scythe. A razor; 1927
- bust. To stop, to break up something; 1919
- bust (someone) one. To hit someone; 1951
- bust!, --- or. To succeed at something no matter what the
cost, or suffer the consequences of defeat; 1910
- bust through. To enter forcefully; 1927
- buster. Attrib., a euph. for 'hell'; 1917
- bustiflicated. Attrib., broken; 1913
- butt. To extinguish a cigarette, or cigar; 1962
- buzzard-head. A stupid animal; 1962
- by gum. An expression of surprise or delight; 1878
- by hok(e)y. A euph. interjection for 'by God'; 1824
- by Jacquers! A euph. interjection for 'by God'; 1835(1837)

C

caboosh, (whole). The lot, everything; 1948

- calico-snipper. A dressmaker, 1910
- call. Turn, as in 'It's my call.' = It's my turn (to do something), 1910
- call the shot. To dictate policy, 1957
- can. To defamate, to adversely criticize, 1915
- can, give (someone) the. To fire someone from his job; 1943
- canary. *Attrib.*, fearful, cowardly, 1908
- cancan. A euph. for 'bull shit', nonsense, 1895
- caper. A field of interest (?); 1959
- care a sou, not to. To be disinterested in something, euph. for 'not to give a damn'; 1899
- * Caribou. A mixture of pure alcohol and cheap port wine; 1964
- cass. A euph. for 'arse', 1918
- cat. Property considered unlikely to produce ore; 1912
- catcher. (*Gambling*) the person who writes down the parimutual results passed to him by the 'pitcher'; 1964 (see also 'pitcher' and 'peek operator')
- catch with (one's) pants down. To be taken by surprise, to be unprepared; 1960
- cavalierio. A man; 1912
- cavalry casino. A horse race; 1968
- cart. Certainly; 1909
- chaffy. Anything worthless; Eastern Rockies' use (Alberta), 1962, but OED 1594, fig.
- cheap affair. A lowly person, derogatory, 1919
- cherry-picking. The process of crane loading of logs; logging; 1966
- chestnut (argument). An argument used too often; 1895
- chew on. To ponder over something, to think about; 1944

- * chicamin. Money, from Chinook Jargon; 1927
- chicken. To inform to police, to get scared; 1963
- chicken. A person, a fellow; 1887, but DA = chum, friend--
1888
- chicken crap show. A no-good outfit, a poor group; 1942
- chipper. A prostitute; 1958
- chipper up. To cheer up; 1909, but OED 1873 'US'
- chipping. (Narcotics) ?; 1960
- * chippy. A hockey player with a chip on his shoulder; 1960
- * Chirper. A Britisher; 1965
- chop, the. A dismissal from one's job, a firing; 1959
- chrisely. Attrib., euph. for 'Christly'; 1955
- Christmas month. December; 1955
- chucks, be worth. To be without value, worth nothing; 1883
- Cincinnati chicken. Pork; 1962
- city bust. A trip into the city; rural use(?); 1958
- clamjamfry. ?; 1925
- clean out. To ransack something; 1860
- clear dope. The real thing, something genuine; 1910
- climb a tree. (Of a person) to be lynched; 1910
- clip. A fine, a ticket (for breaking the law); 1898
- clipperino. ?; 1952
- coin-op. A coin-operated laundry facility; 1960
- coketail party. A teenager-style cocktail party, with soft
drinks; 1965
- cold, (stopped). (Stopped) completely; 1959, but DA 'turn
down cold' = to completely refuse--1905
- cold-deck. To make someone a loser; 1919
- cole-slaw. Euph. for 'bull shit'; 1961

- collard with, be. To be stuck with, to be left with the work or responsibility; 1963
- comeback money. Bets made on the favoured horse in a race to bring down the odds and the payoff, 1964
- cook of the mess. The cook on a ship; RCN; 1945
- cooler. The penalty box, hockey; 1955
- cool off. A criminal's hide-out; 1964
- cornball. Attrib., crazy, zany; 1959
- cotton hat, not to give a. Not to care, to be disinterested in; 1889
- country jack. A country person, a rube, 1908, but DA 'country jake' 1884
- country jockey. A rancher, farmer, 1830
- cowboy. To drive recklessly, 1959
- Cowtownner. A native of Calgary, Alberta; 1963
- coyote. ?, synonymous with 'shavetail', 'giffin', 'rooster', 'piebiter', 'ringtailed snorter'; 1900
- Crackity! An interjection and euph. for 'Christ!'; 1946
- crazy as a coot. Attrib., crazy, mentally deficient, 1956
- crazy as a cut cat. Same def. as in preceding entry; 1960
- crazy as hell in a frost. Same def. as in preceding entry, 1956
- crib-sucker. A derogatory name for a horse (?); 1924(1933)
- crime sheet. A person's personal record file; RCN; 1954
- crimp. A press-gang agent, 1883, but in Webster's 3rd, and Part. 'Und.' 1931
- crimps to, put the. To stop, to diminish the activity of, 1955
- cruise the drag. To drive up and down the main street (looking for girls), 1966
- crush. A hat, esp. a top hat, 1887, but in Webster's 3rd as 'crush hat'

- cuffer. A tall tale, a highly improbable story; 1937
- curbstoner. A real estate salesman working without a home office; 1890, but DA 'curbstone broker' 1848, 'curbstone operator' 1861, 'curbstone agent' 1884; and SUE 'curbstone broker' c1865
- curve. A person's habit, his way of doing things; 1910
- curve off. To go away; 1912
- cut a swell. To make an impression, to appear to be important; 1829 (Contrast 'cut no figure')
- cut country. To take a shortcut across country, to not travel by the main route, 1963
- cut no figure. To make no impression, to be unimpressive; 1912
- cut out for, be. To be able to accomplish a task, to be matched to the task set for one to do, 1915
- cut the buck. To be worth what another person thinks you are, to 'cut the mustard', 1958(1960)
- cut the crooked stick. To do something illegal, to live outside the law; 1853, but DA, DAS 'crooked stick' = a dishonest person--1848

D

- damn all! To h--- with everything; 1936
- dash. To run, hurry on an errand, 1954
- dead Indian. ?; 1957
- dead-panned. Attrib., ?; 1964
- dead soldier. A nonce word(?), an old TV show; 1963
- deadwood. The discards in a card game, 1903(1913)
- deezy-wheezles. ?; 1939
- de-juicing. The removal of static electricity from metal objects--from "juice" = electricity, 1955
- devil with, be a. To be exceptionally adept at handling someone, 1915
- devil for, be a. To be enthusiastic for, 1923

- dewie. a dew-worm, (used for fishing?); 1971
- dibble. Refers to a particular method of fishing; 1960
- dibby dab. A type of person, not complimentary, 1945
- dib in. To invest, to share the cost of something by several people contributing to the total cost; 1963
- Dick-and-Harry. Attrib., common; 1944
- dictator. A gun, revolver; 1919
- dido. A frivolous article of clothing, something showy, 1836, Webster's 3rd ed
- Dief. John Diefenbaker, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and Prime Minister of Canada, 1957-1962, 1962
- Diefenbaker. Government surplus canned pork, a staple handout in western Canada missions, 1961
- Diefenbaker French. A type of spoken French used by English-speaking people in Canada, characterized by English stress, intonation, pronunciation, etc., so-called because John Diefenbaker (PM of Canada) used this type of French when he was addressing French-Canadian audiences; 1963
- Diefenbunker. A small family-size bomb shelter recommended by PM John Diefenbaker--a blend of 'Diefen(baker)' and 'bunker', 1964
- Diefendollar. An imitation banknote supposedly worth 92½ cents, it was circulated by the Liberals in their 1962 federal election campaign, and intended to discredit and ridicule John Diefenbaker and the Progressive Conservatives for their government's devaluation of the Canadian dollar by 7½% as compared to the US dollar at 100%; 1963
- dig. To work hard at the game one is playing; in hockey, to check hard, to try to gain possession of the puck and try to win; 1962
- digger. A player who works hard throughout the game (hockey), 1963
- dig-up. To 'raise the wind'(?); 1962
- dinged. Euph. for 'damned'; 1918
- ding-gasted. Attrib., euph. for 'damned'; 1913

- dip. A pocket; 1910
- dip. A salty yarn; 1945
- dippy-house. A mental institution; 1910
- dipsy doodling dipsey doodling. *Attrib.*, refers to a type of skating and puck handling in hockey, whereby the hockey player carries the puck with his stick first on one side of him, then on the other, while weaving around opposition players; 1955
- dodgasted. *Euph.*, for 'god-damned'; 1918
- dog from every town, a. In cards, esp. poker, it refers to having been dealt a hand of cards in which none match--all are different and not able to be matched up--in this case the player withdraws from the hand; 1964
- doghouse. A workman's changing room; 1957, Webster's 3rd ed
- do-gooder. *Attrib.*, refers to people who invariably interfere in others' lives and try to change them for the 'good'; 1962
- do up. To cheat, to get the better of someone; 1911
- doin's doings. Events, happenings; 1921
- doozer. Something that is exceedingly fine in quality; something that is extraordinary, either for the good or the bad; 1966
- dopey. A user of dope (drugs); 1950
- double harness, in. *Attrib.*, married; 1937
- doughbaby. A dollar; 1915
- doughface. A softy, a coward; 1863
- dough-nut. A dumpling, used in restaurant language; 1962
- douk. A Doukhobor--member of a religious sect of immigrants who settled in the B.C. interior; 1897
- Douky. A Doukhobor; 1959
- down on (one's) luck. Extremely unlucky; in a depressing state of mind when nothing one does seems to work out to one's benefit; 1903
- D.P. A displaced person; a person forced out of his country for some reason, who comes to another country as an immigrant; a foreigner; 1961

- drill doctor. A man who fixes drills (in mining); a machinist; 1958
- drunk as a coot. Extremely drunk; 1945
- druthers. A choice, from: "I'd rather" slurred to "I'druther" and nominalized; 1959
- dry. Sober 1918
- dry. A change house(?); 1957
- drygulch. To defeat decisively, (in a headline); 1958
- duff. Dessert at a dinner; 1945, but SUE = food, coll., late C 19-20
- dumbwildered. Attrib., confused, befuddled--from: "dumb-founded" and "bewildered"; 1959
- dummy. A person that does not gossip, one that says nothing; 1915
- dummy. Attrib., depressed, 'down in the dumps'; 1921
- dusted. Attrib., said of a miner suffering from silicosis, suffering from 'black lung'(?); 1964
- dust out of. To drive (an animal) out of somewhere; transitive v.; 1909
- dusty. Attrib., jazzy, stylish, smart; 1920

E

- eagle bird. A US gold coin; 1919, but DA 'eagle' = \$10 gold coin, 1786
- early line, the. The starting odds on the outcome of a sports event, used in gambling circles; 1964
- economy, on the. On welfare, at the expense of the taxpayers; 1959
- eighteen carat. Attrib., real, genuine; 1910
- elephant hunter. An oilman who searches the Arctic islands for large and valuable pockets of oil; 1967
- equalizer. The tying goal in a game (hockey); 1958
- Ethiopian. A negro; 1911

Eyetalian. An Italian--from the often used pronunciation,
1964

F

fag up on. To cheat(?), to do something the easy way(?);
1909

fairy. A prostitute(?), 1910

fake apples. v., (?); 1909

fanny. Attrib., referring to the human posterior; 1957

fast-talk. To try to convince by arguments in favour of
something, 1960

fatling. A fat person, 1910

fat pork and sundown. Trivialities(?); 1919

fazzle. An uproar, confusion, tizzy, 1919

feather-merchant. Refers to men who stayed in civilian
life during the war (WW2), and got rich while others
went off into the military to fight, and came home
almost broke, 1959

female. A mare, female race horse, 1968

fight-water. Liquor, 1909

fill-up. A meal, 1919

fin. \$500.00, 1968

fink sparrow. An informer, perhaps the entry should be
divided into 'fink', attrib. = disliked; and 'sparrow',
n. = one who squeals, an informer; 1963

first off the bat. Number one on the list, the first
thing one has to say, 1960

fished. Torpedoed, 1945

fishhead sailor. A fresh water sailor; or an inshore
fisherman, or a sailor who spends his time at sea on
a ship as opposed to a flier in the navy, 1961

fist. An attempt, effort (?); 1960

fix. An event that has a predetermined outcome because of
betting on one of the contestants to either win or lose; 1964

- fixing. The practice of illegally predetermining the outcome of some event; 1960
- fiz(z) on (one). To make an impression on, to bother someone; 1944
- flab. Fat, caused by overeating; 1958
- flannel-mouthed. *Attrib.*, harsh-spoken, rude; 1903(1913)
- flash up. To fire up, to get up a head of steam (as in a ship's boiler); 1945
- flop-house. *Attrib.*, cheap; referring to the qualities (or lack of) of a flop-house; 1959
- flop-joint. A place where one can obtain a cheap night's lodgings; 1936
- flopper. A goalie (in hockey) who throws himself down in front of a shot in an attempt to stop the puck from going past him into the net for a goal, this type of player is in contrast to one who stays on his feet usually, and tries to block the shots with his stick, feet, and hands, 1967
- fly-away. A prostitute that has decided to quit her profession and go straight; 1913
- folknik. A proponent of folk music, a relaxed way of life, and a different style of living to the majority of society; 1962
- follow-up. An approach to a prospective customer after initial contact, in order to clinch the deal; a particular approach to someone after he has been sold something, to learn what the buyer thinks of the product; 1922
- food-trap. Mouth; 1910
- foofy. *Attrib.*, ?; 1953
- foolish house. A mental institution; 1910
- fox-hole. A small, dirty, disliked apartment; 1953
- frazzle, wear to a. To reduce to a state of chaos, to reduce something to nothingness; 1910
- frazzle. To cause something to wear out (like one's nerves), to completely demolish the stability of a situation; 1945

- free lance. A person willing to do anything or go anywhere just for the pleasure or excitement of it (?); 1919
- free-loader. A person who is not a member of a union, but who nonetheless receives all the benefits of the union without the cost, 1958
- French-safe. Condom, 1946
- fresh Alick. A smart aleck, a practical joker; 1903
- frewferaw. A hassle, red tape, 1958
- Fritzie. Attrib., German, 1944
- * frog. A French-Canadian; 1968
- frog-hopping. Crouching on one's hauches and hopping forward (a type of punishment in the navy (?)); 1945
- front end. Referring to the betting trade, a legitimate front, or business used to deceive the authorities; it received the bets and relayed them to the bookie, or 'back end', who placed them; 1964
- fruit-legging. The practice of selling fruit at roadside stands to tourists much to the detriment of the local fruit-packing industry, 1963
- Fuhrer. Leader (?); 1961
- funny farm. A mental institution; 1959
- fuzzle. To deliberately dispose of a drink by other means than drinking it, such as spilling it, or pouring it somewhere out of sight, 1953

G

- gabble-guts. ? -- some reference to excess talking (?); 1924(1933)
- gaffle. To snaffle; 1960
- gaggle. To be struck speechless (?); 1957
- gandy-dancing. The process of tapping fresh gravel under the ties with a shovel, RR use; 1966
- gas-house, the. The House of Commons in the Canadian Parliament--so named because of the amount of talking (gassing) that goes on there; 1963

- gate-crash. To enter a country illegally; to enter anything illegally; 1955
- gears, give (someone) the. To string someone along, to tell exaggerations to someone; to disappoint (?); 1966
- geewhilicker! An expression of amazement; 1926
- genuine article, the. The real thing (?); 1911
- get action on. To be successful with something; 1910
- get good on. To become successful at a particular task; 1951
- get in on. To become a part of, to enter into some interest; 1832
- get made. To be prepared; to get set; 1910
- get (his, their) man. Of the RCMP, to capture a criminal; 1928
- get (one's) marching orders. To be fired from a job; 1912
- get onto. To take note of, look at; 1912
- get (something) out. To say something; 1910
- get the parchment. To receive a promotion, literally a scroll showing this promotion; 1948
- get personal. To say things that tend to pry into one's private affairs; to question one's private affairs; 1959
- get (one's) wires crossed. To go crazy, to lose control of one's senses; 1936
- giffin. A tenderfoot, a newcomer (?); 1900
- gimmini crickets! An expression of amazement; 1902
- gimmini whack!, by. Euph. for 'by Jesus'; 1902
- gin-busted. (In this cite, it is predicate nominative), euph. for 'damned', as in "'I'll be gin-busted!"; 1913
- ginning up. A reprimand (?); 1906
- give the shirt off (one's) back. To be generous with someone, to do without something so that someone else can be made more comfortable; 1910

- give (someone) the wall eye. To take a quick look at someone, to squint at someone, 1910
- glad handing. The process of shaking people's hands to gain their support, sympathy, friendship, or the like; 1914
- gluck. Some state of pollution, perhaps a film of refuse over top of the land or water, 1966
- go back on (one's) grub. To lose one's appetite, or to lose one's nerve (?); 1909
- goblined. *Attrib.*, ?, 1919
- go by-bye. To go to sleep, 1919
- go down the road. To quit a job, or to be fired, 1942
- go down the road talking to (oneself). To be fired from a job, 1962
- go for broke. To risk everything on a chance of winning a great sum of money, or losing everything wagered; 1964
- going concern. A successful enterprise, a fortunate or successful person; 1934
- gollyfoxing. ?, 1916
- gone-dollar. A dollar wagered and lost (?), 1891
- gone duck. A loser, an unsuccessful person; 1831
- good pay. A solid investment (said of men thought to be worth their wages); 1909
- goods, hand out the. To present the facts, or to present false ideas and impressions in the hope of deceitfully attracting someone to a cause; 1911
- goofball. *Attrib.*, crazy, nonsensical, 1964
- goofed up, get. To become drunk; 1962
- goofus. A derog. name for someone = stupid, 1955
- goo-goo. A baby, --from their noises, 1923
- goonism. The employment of thugs (goons) to act as disturbers of the peace, and as muggers, or even killers; 1963
- goose-egg. Nothing, as in 'We expected goose-eggs.'; 1961

- go over. To be a success; 1959
- gorgeous. A dollar, as in '30 gorgeous' = \$30.00; 1962
- goshfry! Euph. for 'God', as an interjection; 1946
- gospel factory. An irreverent term for a church or chapel;
1913
- gotrocks. A derog. term for a rich man, 1960
- grabs, up for. To be won, as in '500 dollars up for grabs',
1958
- grass. Attrib., fat, as in 'a grass belly' = a pot gut, a
fat stomach; 1912, but DA 'grass bellied' = fat, pot gutted,
1902
- grasshopper farmer. A farmer who has a part of his land in
grass (?), a farmer who runs his farm only during the
growing season (?), 1964
- grease. v., ? as in 'grease the skids' (a transferred meaning?),
1966
- great horn. An intensifier, with no particular meaning (?);
1904
- green in my eye?, is there any. Do I appear easily fooled?,
perhaps from 'green' = inexperienced, new, 1901
- Greenland. Attrib., cold, angry, as in a 'Greenland gaze';
1908
- green one. A mountainous ocean wave; 1945
- grey back. A louse; 1883
- grit and go. ?, 1900
- grog shop. A liquor store, perhaps specifically in B.C., a
government controlled liquor store; 1960
- gucky. Attrib, dirty, sticky, obnoxious; 1960
- guesstimate. To form some sort of prediction based on scanty
facts; 1959
- guestimator. A person with limited knowledge who bases his
decisions on this knowledge and good luck; 1942
- guk guck. A substance of unknown composition, not necessarily
sticky, or dirty, but obnoxious to the speaker for some
reason; 1962

- gun brag. The brandishing of weapons with the intent of frightening people, 1957
- gunslick. A gunman, a thug, 1954
- gussied-up. Decorated, made better looking; 1959
- gussy (oneself) up. To dress up, to attire oneself in fancy or formal clothes, 1960
- 'gut' issue. A basic problem in politics, a problem that affects a great many people personally, such as "farm income, unemployment, welfare benefits, and the like", 1963
- gut-twisting. Attrib., terrifying, painfully frightening to the extent that the nerves and stomach muscles tighten up in response, 1962
- gut wagon. The sleigh used to transport the mid-day meal to the loggers working in distant parts of the woods and unable to return to the camp to eat; 1913
- gut wagon. A box car or an old caboose converted to passenger carrying by the addition of a few wooden benches, and used to carry the men to and from work; 1942
- gym rat. A person who spends much of his time around a gym, perhaps spending too much time in relation to that spent at other activities, 1966

H

- hat chick. A hat-check girl, 1950
- hair on you! Good for you!; rare, 1912
- hairy. Attrib., mouldy, 1932
- as hands me as. ? 1822
- hang tough. To keep trying, 1953, but 'tough' = persistent, diligent; 1930
- hard. Coin, as used in gambling; 1962
- hard case. A tough situation, 1916
- hard-case hardcase. Attrib., tough; 1945
- hard case, in. Penniless, broke; 1921

- hard nose. A steelhead trout, 1961
- harness rack. A lean, bony animal; 1962, but DA 'rackbone'
= a lean person or animal --1854
- harpies. Prostitutes (?); 1898
- hash-and-clothes people. People who work for a low salary,
1909
- hasherette. A waitress, 1927
- hash house slinger. A waiter, or waitress; 1900
- hash joint. A cafe, 1910
- hassel. To fight, to annoy, 1959
- hatchet job. ?, 1959
- * hat trick. Three goals scored by one player in a hockey
game, orig. from English cricket (?); 1955
- haul. Loot; 1936, but OED 1776
- haul. A discovery, claim, find, 1958
- have the price. ?; 1927
- hawkeye. ?, v.; 1916
- haywire. Equipment not up to the peak of operating
efficiency; 1942
- head over teacup. (To fall down) in a tumbling motion;
1946, but SUE 'head over heels' c1770, 'head over tip'
1824
- hell in a half pint. Liquor (?), 1910
- hell-popping. An intensifier = ?; 1957
- hell-runner. A person who solicited business for saloons,
brothels, gambling houses, and the like, 1883
- he-mutt. A man, 1920
- herring-back. A Maritimer, c1875
- herring-gut. A thin animal or person; 1919
- herring trailer. A person who lays false clues (?); 1916
- hicker. A tangle in a fishing line; Nfld., 1963

- high falutinities. ?, 1882
- high life. Bootleg scotch whiskey, 1945
- high-roller. A hobo, 1963
- high rolling. Gambling, 1963
- hill, go over the. To die, 1944
- hit me (easy). Liquor, 1910
- hit the high places. ?, 1910
- hit the spot. To feel good; 1955
- hit the trail. To go on a spree, 1911, but SUE = to go,
travel along --nd 'US'
- hit the turnpike. To travel, esp. by road, 1910
- hobble on, put short. ?, c1862 (1958)
- hobby horse. A political cause or position, 1908
- hobby-jobby. ?, 1948
- hog. ?, a reference to horses, v., 1954
- hog-root. To dig up; 1910
- hold (one) to it. ?, 1825
- hold-up man holdup man. A robber, 1904
- holer, three-. An outhouse with facilities (three holes) for
three people at the same time; 1948
- holler bull! To call the police; 1927
- Holy diddle! An expression of surprise; 1961
- holy doodle! As in the preceding entry; 1960
- holy Mackinaw! As in 'holler bull!'; 1910
- holy Mike! As in 'holler bull!'; 1919
- Holy Willy. A preacher; 1963
- home brew. Liquor; 1966 (see also 'brew')
- * homer. A referee partial to the home team, 1967

- honey-bug. A term of affection; 1909
- honey-peloozer. Something of great size, strength or force,
1953
- hook, get the. ?; 1908
- hook, the. An exit from, or finish to, a performance; 1910
- hoop. To score a basket (two points) in basketball, 1955
- hopper. A grain elevator, 1913
- horned. An intensifier, 1926, but DA 'horn' 1842, 'horned'
1943
- horn-swaggled. An intensifier, 1910
- * horseman. A member of the RCMP, 1960
- horseshit, old. A member of the RCMP; 1956
- hosing. A defeat, fig. a beating, 1967
- hot-brain. ?, 1912
- hot cap. Straight (undoctored) heroin, 1960
- hot-jointed. Attrib., weak, in reference to race horses,
1919
- hot paper man. A person passing forged, stolen company
cheques; 1963
- hotshot system. A police 'All points bulletin' (APB);
1958, but DAS 'hot shot' = news announcement, message,
recent news bulletin --1948
- hot stuff. A mixture of tallow, tar and sulphur painted
on hulls of ships (wooden hulls); 1799 (1958)
- hurroar. Fuss, uproar; 1912
- I
- ice palace. An arena for hockey, skating, and the like;
1955
- idiot stick. A low priced Indian souvenir pole, 1964
- * Indian list. A list of people prohibited from buying and
using alcohol, 1960, but SUE 'he's on the Indian list'
c1925, Cdn.

* iron chink. A machine which cleans fish -- a job formerly done by Chinese labourers, 1955

Iron-Heel Bennett. The Prime Minister of Canada, 1930-35; 1963

iron mike. ?, a reference to fishing, 1958

Itey's. Italians; 1959

J

jacket wetter. A Baptist (?); 1924 (1933)

jam-packed. *Attrib.*, tightly scheduled (in the case of a programme of events), filled to capacity; 1957

Japaneesy. Looking like a Japanese, having the characteristics of a Japanese, 1921

jaunty. The master-at-arms in the Royal Canadian Navy; 1960

jeeper's sakes, for. *Euph.* for 'for Jesus sake', an exclamation of surprise; 1955

jeesless. *Attrib.*, *euph.* for 'Jesus-less', *derog.*; 1952

jeesly. *Attrib.*, *euph.* for 'Jesusly', a meaningless adjective said for something to say; 1949

jerkeroo. A jerk, a useless person, one who is disliked; the -eroo suffix sometimes conveys familiarity, or indicates hyperbole, 1950

jerry, by. *Euph.* for 'by Jesus'; a meaningless interjection; 1943

jerry mug. A chamberpot, from 'jerry' = chamberpot (SUE c1825), 1924 (1933)

jig. In printing and certain other trades, it means a day's work, or that period between starting and leaving off, 1913

jim crow. A red serge shirt (?); 1859 (1958)

Jimmy. The First Lieutenant, originally 'Jimmy the One' in the Royal Navy, usu. referred to as such by the men, not the officers; 1945

jing-banged. *Euph.* for 'damned', as in "'I'll be jing-banged"; 1913

- jinniker. A type of pitch in baseball (?), 1962
- Jock. The common worker, labourer, 1940
- Joe Bagstock. ?, 1910
- Johnnie Bull. An Englishman, from 'John Bull' = the typical Englishman (originated by John Arbuthnot, physician and writer); 1910
- joy rags. A person's dress clothes, or glad rags; 1912
- Judas, the. Euph. for 'the hell', consciousness, 'the daylight', as in 'I'll beat the Judas out of him.'; 1910
- Judas priest! Euph. for 'Jesus Christ!', an exclamation of surprise, anger; 1909
- jukebox joint. An establishment which has jukeboxes (record playing device) to supply the music for dancing or listening, 1959
- jump, go. To go away; an expression showing one's wish to terminate something by the other person(s) leaving-- often said in anger, 1936
- jumpin' cats! Euph. for 'Jesus Christ!', a meaningless exclamation, 1909
- jumping Jesus, by the. An intensifier, an angry exclamation, 1829
- jungle hut. A hollowed brushpile floored with dirty wet excelsior and sour rags, used for shelter (?); 1955

K

- keelbone. A spine (of a person); 1954
- keep (one's) face shut. To remain quiet, and not tell vital information to someone, 1910
- keep a jump ahead of (something). To be prepared for all eventualities, 1957
- keep (one's) skirts clear. To stay out of trouble, 1893
- keep up side. To manage not to fall behind in one's duties, 1765-75 (1933)
- keep the wires hot. To telegraph continuously (?); 1919

keep (one's) tail up. To be courageous, to keep faith in oneself; 1912

kefuffle. A mix-up, a confused happening; a hassle, 1959

* Kenty cooker. A native Nova Scotian, 1830

kerplump. Adverb, directly, straight, as in 'he ran kerplump into them'; 1918

kick. To quit doing something, as in 'kick the habit'; 1959

kick in. To break into a place, for the purpose of robbery; 1963

Kid McCoy. The best there is, referring to a person; 1922

kisser. A derog. name, perhaps meaning a weak or effeminate man, 1924 (1933)

kit and dice, the whole. Everybody, everything considered together; 1924 (1933)

ki-yoot. An unliked person, one who will stoop to anything if the price for doing it is likeable to him, 1955

knicking. ?, 1903

knock-about. A person (child) employed to do odd jobs, one who doesn't stay too long at one job before he is made to do another; 1926

knock-about. A vagabond, a rolling stone; 1935

knothead. A horse; 1962

knotheaded. Attrib., stubborn, strong minded (said of a horse); 1954

knot the count. To tie a score in a game; 1958

L

labour-faker. A political candidate who uses labour union support to further his efforts towards election but who has no plan to aid the unions when he is elected, 1959

lack-of-foderobia. An acute lack of food for animals to eat, resulting in their deaths; 1876

Lady. A queen in playing cards, 1964

- lammy. A duffel coat, a cowled overcoat made of wool, originally worn by seamen working in severe weather; 1962
- lammy-coat. *Attrib.*, and *n.*, a duffel coat, and pertaining to a duffel coat, 1954
- late line. The bookmaker's odds on the result of a game calculated just shortly before game time, as opposed to 'the early line' and the 'midweek line'; 1964
- lay in. To take into one's stock, to increase the quantities of goods in the inventory of one's shop, or the like, 1890
- lay in. To sleep in, to remain in bed after the time one should have risen, 1929
- layout. A meal, a spread of food, 1962
- lazy root. A potato, 1834
- lead pad. ?; 1919, but 'lead joint' = shooting gallery, *DAS nd*
- leather-pusher. A Mountie(?), a horseman(?); 1924
- leathers. Shoes; 1909
- lick. A try. an attempt at fishing (?), 1963
- lick(s). A blow with the fist, a beating, 1962
- life-saver. Whiskey, 1962
- Limey. The English language spoken with a British accent; 1961
- Line, the. The odds which a bookmaker has on the outcome of some event, 1964
- line up. In sports, to single out a player of the opposition in order to check him hard, and usu. illegally, 1963
- liquidate. To drink liquor, perhaps to excess, 1919
- loaded to the muzzle. Full of, as in 'loaded to the muzzle with ideas', 1910
- loafish. *Attrib.*, having the appearances of being an idler, a tramp, 1849
- lobsterback. A British soldier of several centuries ago, when he was attired in a scarlet tunic, 1942

locy. *Attrib.*, locomotive, as in 'a locy operator' = a locomotive engineer; 1958

loner. A drink, usu. drunk in a bar when by oneself; 1905

loner. ?; 1959

lonesome, on (one's). Alone, by oneself, away from other people; 1912

loney. Alone, by oneself, as in 'all by my little loney' = by myself; 1944

loot. A trophy, a prize, as in 'Her Majesty's loot' = the Queen's Plate trophy in horse racing; 1968

lose (one's) cool. To become upset, angry, frustrated; 1968

losh losh me. ?; 1903, 1902

Lousetown. ?; 1948

low-browed. *Attrib.*, low-class, referring to something dealing with a poorer quality patronage, as in a 'low-browed shop' = a pawnshop; 1890

low-browed. *Attrib.*, uncouth, unscrupulous; 1916

lulu. Something exceptional in size, intensity, goodness, or badness, or the like; 1959

* lumber. A hockey stick; 1963

lush around. To display quite freely; to spend money freely; to lose money heavily; 1910

M

maddie. An angry person, one who is mad; 1944

magnifico. A person in charge, the boss; one who because of his position thinks himself better than those under him; 1912

mahogany. A store counter; 1913

* mail-order wife. A wife obtained through a lonely-hearts club; 1958

make. To be jailed, to spend some time in jail, as in 'I made 30 days in Mimico last winter for begging.' = I was jailed for 30 days; 1961

- make. To stay at, to board, as in 'I've made a few missions when I had to.' = I've stayed at a few missions, 1961
- make a play. To pretend, to try, to attempt something; 1910
- make (one's) sneak. To exist, to leave quickly and without ceremony; 1890
- man. Attrib., aggressive, tough, 1919
- mañana belt, the. Vancouver, B.C., and surrounding area, because of the 'I couldn't care less' attitude of the people there(?), 1963
- Manningcare. Medicare as established in Alberta on Oct. 1, 1963, under the government of Premier Manning and the Social Credit government, 1964
- map out. To study, to think over, 1919
- mash-master. A distiller, 1968
- mat, go to the. To fall, to be down-and-out, from the sport of boxing, 1910
- matelot. A sailor; 1945
- matman. ?, 1950
- mazuma emporium. A bank, 1910
- meat-eater. A man; 1912
- meatground. Attrib., bothered, agitated, as in 'I was meatground by automation', 1962
- met-post. A meteorological station; 1954
- met-station. A meteorological station, 1958
- mickey. The detonation device in a (homemade) bomb; 1963
- Mickey Mouse (course). An easy course; something simple and a cinch to do well at; perhaps 'Mickey Mouse' implies childish qualities; 1971
- midweek line. The bookmaker's odds on the outcome of an event calculated shortly before the event takes place; 1964
- mittty. A drink of liquor(?), 1959

mix-in. Business, affairs, as in 'It's none of our mix-in.'
= It's not our business; 1953

molly-hogan. Attrib., refers to something being wrong, or to something having a catch attached to its completion, as in a 'molly-hogan deal' = a deal with something amiss, or with a catch; 1966

* Moneas. A greenhorn; 1900

money punching. The circuit of racing (horse-racing) which will bring the winning horse's owner the prize money(?), perhaps 'money punching' is an abbreviated form of 'money punching circuit' (?), 1968

moochigan. ?; 1948

moonng. The act of indecently exposing oneself, 1964, but 'mooner', DAS 1958 = one who commits such an act

moose. A mining claim that is worthless, non-productive and which could be put to better use as moose pasture land; perhaps 'moose' is an abbreviated form of 'moose pasture'; 1909

motorcycle cowboy. A motorcycle rider, perhaps because he sits astride his cycle as a cowboy sits astride his horse; 1957

Mr. Tanglefoot. Liquor; see also 'tangle-leg'; 1883

muck around. To be with someone, to create trouble by aimlessly 'hanging around' someone; to do nothing, to loaf around; 1944

mule. A horse; 1919

mulligan mixer. A camp cook whose specialty is stew; 1919

Murphy. A clairvoyant, a fortune teller, 1845

murphyism. An inconceivable blunder; 1959

mutton. ?; 1853

N

needler. A person who constantly is aggressive in his attitude towards another, one who is always trying to find flaws in something that another person is doing, 1958

nervous in the service. A phrase in use mainly with the

WRENS in the RCN, meaning ?, 1961

neutral. *Attrib.*, not completely in favour of French-speaking education, or English-speaking education, or not completely in favour of a separate Catholic school system or a provincially-run Protestant system, 1968

Newfie. Newfoundland, 1958

Newfie. *Attrib.*, referring to a person from Newfoundland, as a 'Newfie fisherman' = a fisherman from Nfld., 1958

* Newfiejohn. The city of St. John's, Newfoundland; 1945

Newfie Screech. An (illegally) brewed potent liquor indigenous to Nfld.; 1965

nick in (one's) horns, have a. To be sexually mature(?), 1832

nigger, treat like a. To behave cruelly towards someone, to treat one no better than one would treat a negro slave, 1901

niggerhead sailor. A fresh water sailor, one who frequents the shallow waters near land; 1936

nighthorse, the. A nightmare, a bad dream, 1915

night-ride. To rustle cattle by night; 1959

night-trail. The practice of rustling; 1954

ninny. A stupid person, a nincompoop, 1909

0

October blonde. A woman with reddish-blond hair; 1936

office hog. A person who once elected, tries to remain in office by running for re-election time and again; 1890

off the handle. *Attrib.*, crazy, loco; 1933

Old Alky. Whiskey; 1962

Old Creatur old creatur. Whiskey; 1962

Old Feller. The devil; 1933

old gall. Mother(?), 1863

old stuff. A routine of action that has been done many times before, something done so many times that the outcome is generally known before hand; 1919

one-horse. Attrib., tough, rugged-looking, barren (of countryside), 1901

on the bottle. Attrib., drunk, drinking, 1965

on the nut. By credit, on time with no cash needed; 1963

on the snow. Attrib., addicted to heroin, 1963

otter-skins. Money, 1962

ozone. Whiskey; 1962

P

packed. Attrib., (of a group of people) to be solidly in favour of one thing or person, and completely opposed to something else or someone else; 1959

packing, go. To leave (by request or order), 1944

pack-sack citizen. A tramp, a vagabond; 1966

paddle pusher. A canoeist, 1957

pae-san. ?, 1950

paper. Bad cheques, forged cheques, 1963

papertowner. A citizen of a town which manufactures paper(?); 1955

paperweight. A hot biscuit, 1962

pasture pool. Golf(?); 1968

patch. A lawyer who 'fixes' court cases--by either having a charge dismissed or reduced; 1968

Patrick. An Irishman; 1959

Peace-man. A bouncer in a saloon or dance hall; 1954

peacheroo. An excellent thing, something superlative, with the addition of the '-eroo' suffix, 1955

peanut-roaster. A man thought to be small in his outlook, a petty politician; not referring at all to the profession of toasting peanuts; 1904

- Pebble Pup. A junior rock-fancier, a child who collects rock specimens; 1962
- peek operator. In gambling, a man hired to watch the pari mutuel boards at race tracks, and pass the information to the bookie by phone, 1964
- penalty pew. The penalty box in the game of hockey; 1967
- pencil bait. (reference to fox hunting), the writing in the ledger books of larger numbers of game killed than was actually killed; the cooking of the books to show more than the actual figures; 1934
- penny-in-the-slot. Attrib., refers to the miserly qualities of a business, to the cheapness of the business when it comes to spending its money, perhaps, also to the size of the business, a 'penny-in-the-slot company' = a small, 'two bit' company; 1919
- percs'. (refers to drug taking), the cooking of heroin in preparation for injection--perking(?); 1963
- perfesh. The professional ranks of card players, or the like, as in 'He is of the perfesh' = he is a professional player; 1964
- pesky. Attrib., bothersome, 1918
- pick. A pickerel--a type of (fresh water) fish, 1958
- piddle about. To idle about, to waste time doing nothing, to do something for no apparent reason other than to waste time, 1958
- piepiter. ?, 1900
- Pier Sixer. A large fight with thugs joining in the fray--perhaps called so because of fights among longshoremen on the piers which were perhaps known for their fierceness and size, 1950
- pig. To live slovenly, to go around dirty and unkempt, as a pig, 1909
- pig brains. Some part of the human brain located at the back of the head (?); 1924(1933)
- pig's ear, in a. A phrase indicating non-belief in someone's ability to do something; 1961
- pike. To wager something (?); 1910
- piking. Attrib., cheap, stingy, miserly, 1919

- Pineapple Belt. An area of land rich in minerals, an area of land good for speculative purposes (?), 1952
- pine pastor. A preacher who works in the lumber camps; 1958
- Ping. Attrib., ?; 1960
- ping merchant. An Asdic operator--an operator of an Anti-Submarine Device; 1945
- pin-head. Attrib., flighty, dumb, simple-minded; 1915
- Pink Lady. A drink made from "Sterno", that is canned heat, strained through a silk stocking, and common among the bums along the waterfront; 1961
- pinko bunfight. Litl, a Communist or Socialist tea party; a gathering of socialist-minded people, 1955
- pint-sized. Attrib., small, insignificant; 1955
- pip. To place under suspicion of committing a crime, to arrest (?); 1919
- pistolling. Drinking from pocket flasks of liquor called 'pistols'; 1849
- pitcher. In bookmaking, the 'pitcher' is the person inside the race track who relays the pari mutuel results to the 'peek operator' (see above); 1964
- pizen. Anything worthless--used on the eastern side of the Rockies; 1962
- play along. To agree with the majority of people to avoid being on the losing side of a dispute, 1952
- plaza. A suburban shopping area, a shopping centre; 1964
- plug. To saunter away, wander off, as in 'He was plugging into the wilderness' = he was wandering off into the wilderness; 1936
- plutegewump. A person of importance, perhaps a blend of 'plut - ocrat' and 'mu - gwump' (?); 1953
- polecat. A man; 1912
- Polish flyrod. A stick of dynamite thrown into the water with the purpose of killing the fish with its concussion, 1959
- pollack around. To rummage through discarded items, usu. in a dump, for the purpose of finding salable items; 1963

- pony soldier. A member of the RCMP (?); 1923
- poobah. An important person, one with influence and wealth; 1958
- pop Pop. A popular person, the most popular boy in college; 1913
- pork-trough. Attrib., unimpressive, unprofound, as in 'their pork-trough profundities' = their unimpressive statements; 1962
- prairie plow jockey. A prairie farmer, esp. one from Alberta or Saskatchewan; 1966
- pressure. To force someone to do something by either physical force or argument; 1959
- prison-punching. Guard duty in a jail; 1954
- prize-broker. A person whose job is to talk manufacturers into donating their products in return for the publicity gained at a show; 1963
- probie. A student nurse in the first year of training, a probationary student; 1959
- puffer. A journalist for a newspaper, a writer; 1891
- pug-uglies pug-ugly. Ruffians, thugs; 1958
- pukey. Attrib., bad, no-good, as in a 'pukey trick' = a nasty trick; 1965
- pull (someone's) chicken. To take advantage of someone; 1849
- pull the pin. Of union members, to go on strike; 1960
- pull the stick. To draw lots in order to determine who will do or get something; 1923
- pull the rag out. To hurry; or to do everything possible (?); 1965
- puppy puppies. Foot / feet; 1936
- pusher. A person who likes to push ahead in lines, one who tries to get ahead of everyone else in line-ups; 1960
- puss. An unfaithful woman, one who leaves her husband for another man; 1912
- pusser issue. A uniform (uniforms) issued to a sailor when

he joins the navy--government issue uniforms not tailored to fit an individual man, 1945 (see also 'tiddlies')

put in (one's) lip. To give an unasked for opinion, to intrude into someone else's affairs, 1910

put it for. To travel, to go, as in 'I put it for home' = I went home, 1933

put (one's) money on (someone/something). To wager one's money on the outcome of a match by betting exclusively on one participant; 1910

put (something) on the map. To make popular, well known, to make a place well known to a lot of people, 1918

put the lid on (one). To make one be quiet, to shut one up, 1910

put (someone) through. ?; 1866(1962)

putt-putt. A motor boat, esp. one with an outboard motor; 1938

Q

Q-patch. The quarter-deck on a ship; 1945

quartz sharp. A man who is a specialist in ores; 1870

R

rabbit ears. The condition acquired by a (hockey) player of being aware of jibes from the crowd; 1963

racewires. A news network that supplies regular press networks with news from the race tracks (horse racing) with the understanding that they will not resell the information to bookies or illegal racewires, 1964

rack. To check a player into the boards by taking a run at him and thumping him into the boards (hockey); 1965

racko. ? (something to do with gambling?), 1950

rag cook. A bank teller, from 'rag' = paper money; 1829

rail hopper. A vagabond who travels from place to place by hopping onto freight trains and concealing himself from authorities, 1956

raise a stink. To hassle, to cause a ruckus, to create trouble; 1960

- raise the wind. To get together the required capital to finance an undertaking (?), to put together an outfit; 1854
- rake-off. The main body of competitors left out of the running, the ruck; 1897
- rake-off. Attrib., referring to illegal doings, and the acceptance of graft money, 1904
- ratfink. To squeal to the police, to inform, 1966
- rattle-snake. Bacon, 1962
- rattle-trap. A car (?); 1923
- razoo. To razz someone, to anger or fluster someone; 1890
- Red Curtain Sister. A doukhorbor woman (?); a saloon girl (?); 1896
- Red Parlor. ?; 1891
- Red-river granite. ?; 1886
- reel. A fire truck, specifically a reel truck (one with all the fire hoses on it), 1957
- rhubarb. Muskeg or brush along the road, 1963
- ring-dogs. Handcuffs; 1919
- rock. A tough person, a rugged individual; 1887
- Rock Doctor. A geologist, 1952
- Rockin' Chair Money. Unemployment Insurance money, received from the government when one is unemployed and doing nothing but sitting in one's rocking chair; 1959
- Rocky Mountain feathers. Dry wood shavings used for starting campfires; 1962
- Rodney. A warmed-over stew, hash or the like, 1872(1877)
- rollings. Hand-rolled cigarettes (?), or the tobacco used to make the cigarettes (?), 1965
- rooster. A person (as in 'chicken, bird, duck'), 1956
- root-catcher. A botanist, a naturalist; 1832
- rooting. The practice of shouting objectionable remarks at the referee of a game, and questioning his decisions at

every point, 1912

rough-neck. *Attrib.*, tough, crude, said of something, as in 'a small rough-neck mining community' = a small town inhabited by tough, crude people, 1959

rough-necked. *Attrib.*, tough, crude, unmannered, (referring to people); 1910

rubber-necking for drinks. The practice of appearing desperate for a drink (of liquor), or a refill of liquor, by gazing around looking for a waiter or for someone going to the bar to get himself a drink, in the hope that he will get the rubber-necker a drink too (?); 1920

run in. To substitute something in place of what one is accustomed to having, 1910

run into the ground. To defeat decisively, 1961

rush (someone). ?; 1919

S

Saloo. ?, perhaps an expression resembling 'sure as shootin' or 'by George' (?), 1950

sandbagging. The practice of piling sandbags, as a dike, protective covering, or the like (?), 1944

sashed. *Attrib.*, drunk, 1910

scallywag off. To go somewhere, perhaps with the intent of causing trouble, or mischief, 1925

scam. Information, the 'low-down'; 1966

scaredy-cat. *Attrib.*, afraid, 1955

scattergat. A shotgun, 1965

scattergunner. A hunter who uses a shotgun, 1963

scawf house. A restaurant, from 'scoff' = food, a meal, 1963

sched run. A scheduled trip by a plane, train, etc., as opposed to a non-scheduled trip such as a charter trip, or an emergency trip, 1957

schnoggered. Drunk, 1961

schnoose. A variant pronunciation on 'snoose', which is a type of snuff, which is sucked or chewed, (see also

'snoose'), 1965

scoff up. To display, to bring out, to hand over something, as money, or merchandise, 1944

scoopograph. An elegant form of 'scoop' = an advance knowledge of some news, as in 'I'm sorry to work the scoopograph on you, she said' = 'I'm sorry to beat you to the information--sorry to find out about something before you'; 1891

Scotcher. A Scotsman (?), 1912

scrapping-hitch. Some type of fight, maybe a free-for-all scrap (?); 1900

scratcher. ?, something to do with horse racing (?); 1968

scratch, from. With nothing to start with, from the beginning; 1961

scrounged. Attrib., found, begged, or borrowed, stolen or somehow got; 1961

scruffy. Attrib., dirty, dishevelled, unkempt; 1945

scrumpshy. An ignorant, stupid person; 1964

scrunch. To hunch, to squeeze down; to fit into something with great difficulty owing to it's small size; 1959

set of rods. A car, 1963

set (someone) on (his/her) feet. To back financially in order to help him out of debt, 1945

shade. To accomplish a task before the maximum time allowed for it's completion, to do something before a specified date, 1959

shaft. To severely criticize, to pan (a show, programme, or the like); 1966

shaker. An enthusiastic worker for an idea, or cause; 1962

shake note. An instruction memo left for a man to instruct him to cease his sleep period and go on duty; 1945

shampoo. To shoot someone, 1919

sharper. A cheat or swindler, perhaps from 'sharpie'; 1863

sharp-shooter. A 'sharper', a person out to make a fast buck and to take whatever he can get from someone else; 1920

- sheets and a shadow, like two. A very poor appearance, sickly, as in 'you look like two sheets and a shadow' = you don't look very well at all, 1949
- shell. To defeat decisively in a game, to win by a lopsided score, 1958
- shine. A party, a get-together, 1911
- shipping bundle. A package containing the clothing and worldly goods of the prospective gandy-dancer; 1964
- shipwrecked. *Attrib.*, of eggs, scrambled, 1910
- shirt tail. ?; 1952
- shirt-tail cousin. Someone or something distantly related to a person or thing, 1963
- shiver a lance. To argue with, to 'shake a stick' at (?); 1926
- shoe-string. Poor, penniless, as in 'a shoe-string traveller' = a person travelling on a tight budget; 1958
- shoot (one's) jaw. To obtain credit, from 'jawbone' = credit; 1869
- shoot square. To be on the level with someone, to be honest with, 1936
- shotgun (one) into marriage. To force a person to marry, 1960
- show money. Money used by a shill, in order to entice others to wager their money at the game or sport, 1919
- show skin. To leave the smallest visible clue to later identification as the culprit of the crime, 1960
- Shylock. A money-lender, esp. one out to make a bundle for himself in interest on the loan, 1903(1913)
- Shylocking. The process of swindling, gypping, or duping the public, 1964
- side of meat. A racehorse, 1968
- sidewinder. A railroad locomotive (see also 'stemwinder'); 1942
- sitter. A piece of journalism, a story left unpublished with the intent of publishing it at a later date to re-engage interest in a particular topic (?); 1962

- siwash. To do something in a slipshod manner, as to tie a rope around something in a loose knot, 1943
- scallawag scalawag. A person up to no good, a rascal; 1888
- skatathon. A marathon ice skating contest, 1955
- skedaddle. To scatter a group of people (or things?), to drive someone (or something?) off, as in "He'll help you skedaddle the rebels" = He'll help you to drive them away, to scatter them", 1922
- skirmishing line. A mythical type of rope or line, such as a greenhorn would be sent to find--much to the amusement of the old-timers in the know--another item sought after is a 'left-handed monkey wrench', 1945
- skullbuster. Cheap whiskey, 1968
- sleeper. A drunken person (in underworld jargon); 1963
- slim. To perform a task in a shoddy manner, to finish something quickly by leaving out the non-basic touches; 1826 (1829)
- slim(m)ing. The act of doing a task in a shoddy manner, etc.; 1826(1829)
- sliver-ass. A derog. name for a person disliked; 1959
- slosh. Gift money; (from earlier than) -1951
- small-timer. A person who operates a business on a small budget; an owner of a business that is small in its clientele; 1958
- smang about. To wander aimlessly, 1944
- * Smoked Scotchman. The offspring of a marriage between an Indian woman and a white man--perhaps from the smoked appearance of the Indian's skin and the prevalence of Scotsmen in the pioneer days of Canada; 1960
- snaffle on to. To take something, to grab hold of, to claim as one's own, 1955
- snag. To lay claim to something, to partake in something, as in 'Try to snag a bit of rest' = Try to go to sleep; 1936
- snake-room. A beer parlour, or cocktail lounge; 1961
- snarkily. Adverb, saucily, rudely, ill-temperedly, saracastically, 1964

- snipe. To work the claim of another miner after the claim has supposedly been worked out, in the hope of finding some small traces of gold that might have been originally missed, 1909
- snoose. To use chewing tobacco; to snuff dope (?); 1944
- snoozer. ?, used in referring to the sun, 1910
- snoozer. A slow person, one who is lazy; 1904
- snoozer. A vicious storm, such as a blizzard; 1919
- snuck. The past tense form of the verb 'sneak', used in place of the alternate past tense form 'sneaked', 1946
- sock away. To eat, esp. to eat in great quantities; 1959
- socked-in. Attrib., foggy to such an extent that visibility for landing an aircraft is near zero, usu. said of airports; 1958
- sock off. To sleep, to go to sleep; 1962
- softie. A person who is physically unfit, one who is weak and flabby; 1959
- some snuff. Attrib. (?), high society, socially superior, 1924(1933)
- sort (someone). To reprimand, scold, or chastize; 1926
- souped, get. To receive nothing for one's work, to go unrewarded, 1910
- soup-bowl. Attrib., referring to the seemingly endless line-ups one has to stand in, as if one were in a line for the soup kitchen waiting to be served, 1959
- sour-assed. Attrib., unfriendly, cold-hearted, unsympathetic; 1955
- sour-dough stiff. A person, usu. a vagrant (?) peculiar to the Klondike in the Yukon, who will eat only sour-dough bread and not baking powder bread, 1899
- souse. To make someone drunk; 1959
- South Vanner. An inhabitant of South Vancouver; 1955
- * sparrow. An immigrant from London, England (Sandiland's 1912), 1918
- * speak white(!). Speak English, not French, 1968

- speed. Methedrine--a drug used to get 'high' with, 1968
- spiel the shells. To work a shell game (a game of 'chance');
1898
- spin. A dance, 1910, but 'spin', v., DAS c1935
- splat. A quarrel, disagreement, perhaps from 'spat' =
disagreement, 1955
- spoofy. Attrib., confused (?), 1926
- sprog. Usu. pl., feet, usu. referring to big or coarse or
dirty feet, 1958
- squaring. Attrib., equalizing, evening out, as in 'He
distributed a few dollars for squaring purposes in his
saloon' = He gave a few dollars to the losers at his
game to even their losses out; 1900
- squiff. To drink (heavily) ?, of liquor; 1959, but DAS
'squiffed' = drunk
- squiffy. Attrib., angry, peeved; 1925
- staky. Attrib., well-off, rich, as in 'he was never very
staky' = he was never too rich; 1919
- staked off. Attrib., of a girl, engaged, or going steady;
1915
- stats. Statistics, esp. the statistics as involved in a
sports league standing--showing the number of games
played, wins, losses, points and the like; 1963
- staved up. Attrib., stiff in the joints, because of lack of
exercise; 1920
- steam. Attrib., out of date, antiquated, as 'steam' was
replaced by better means of power, it became outmoded,
1958
- steam. Vigor, energy, 1960
- Steam-beer. A local group of Liberals (in the Yukon), so
named because their leader was the president of a
brewing company; 1938
- stem, score on the. (Of hoboes) to successfully beg for money
on the street, 1961
- stemwinder. A train locomotive, one that is geared, 1942
- steppies. A type of woman's undershorts; 1928

stew-bum. A cook in a lumber camp, 1919

* stick Indian. An Indian from the bush country of the interior of B.C.; 1956

stiff as a board. Attrib., usu. of clothing, frozen hard, 1910

stink-wagon. A tractor, (as described by an Indian), 1920

stockman. A rancher, a hired hand on a ranch who tends the stock, 1962

straw-foot. A person's right foot, as opposed to the 'hay-foot' = the left foot, 1909, English c1896 (?)

straw-push. A foreman, or an under-foreman, 1964

stretcher. A tall tale, a yarn; 1827(1829)

strike, on the. Attempting to pick up someone of the opposite sex on the street, without proper introduction; 1891

* stubble jumper. A farmer from the Prairies, anyone from the Prairies, 1966

stuffing. The process of placing illegal ballots in a ballot box during the voting in an election, the process of voting more than once, or of voting for a non-existent person, thereby supplying extra support for the candidate of one's choice, 1908, DA as v., 1854 slang

stumblebum. A lout, a fool, a clumsy person, 1946

stumpology. The science of stumps, perhaps forestry; 1827(1829)

sucker-bait. A person susceptible to any gimmick, trick, or the like, 1955

Sunday name. ?, a nickname (?), 1909

supe. To supervise, manage a person (in sports)(?); 1910

sure pop. As sure as shooting, as in 'you'd lose your license, sure pop', 1890

swear like a pirate. To use much profanity; 1905

sweet-bugger-all. Nothing, something of no value, 1946

sweet time, take (one's) own. To do something, or go somewhere in an unhurried manner, 1960

Swift Camp. A lumber camp with a tough foreman, where one can be hired and fired in a matter of minutes, 1908

swinger. A person, usu. a girl, who is an extrovert, one who enjoys a good time; 1964

swipe. A binge, a drinking spree; 1883

swonked. *Attrib.*, exhausted by labour; 1953

I

Tab. A local group of Liberals (in the Yukon), so-called because hotel-keepers gave credits on I.O.U.'s or 'tabs'. After the election (1902) the tabs were repudiated and unredeemed, and the party responsible (the Liberals) were nicknamed 'Tabs' as a result, 1938 (see also 'Steam-beer')

Tad. A member of the Conservative Party, as opposed to a 'Rad' = a member of the Liberal Party, 1852

Tadpole. A French-Canadian, a person from Lower Canada, 1853

tail, step on (one's). To apply pressure on a person to make him work harder; 1942

tail-twister. A horse, 1965

take to the bush. To travel off the main route, by way of a trail through the woods, or underbrush; 1874(1926)

take up with. To become friends with someone, to become a companion of someone, 1960

talkathon. A marathon round of talking, 1959 (see 'skatathon')

tall stuff. The forest, where the trees are tall; 1919

tally-ho. *Attrib.*, uppitty, snobbish, stylish (?); 1890

tank up. To fill up on water, to take a drink of water (both said of cattle), 1958

tater bug. A potato bug; 1949

* telegraphing. The impersonation of legitimate voters to enable one to stuff the ballot box in someone's favour, 1960

- tent-pegs. Beef-steak cut into strips for camp use, esp. if frozen; 1962
- Teut. A German, from 'Teutonic', 1969
- the man. The leader of a gang, the boss; 1963
- thievin' iron. A person's hand, 1909
- think-pan. A person's brain, 1919
- throw (someone) a duck. (Of a horse) to unseat its rider by throwing him off his back, 1965
- thumping. Attrib., an intensifier, euph. for 'damned', as in 'a thumping good idea', 1927
- tiddlies. A sailor's tailor-made uniform, as opposed to his government issued one, his best uniform; 1945 (see also 'pusser issue')
- tie on (something). To take part in, to enjoy to the fullest; 1952
- tie-pass. Force (physical), brutality (?), 1912
- tie-up. A jail, in western Canada, 1952
- Tiffy. (In the navy) a Sick Bay attendant; 1945
- tin ear on (someone), put a. To ignore by pretending deafness; 1920
- Tinsel Set. High society, so-called in Montreal; 1945
- tippler. Someone who drinks liquor (tipples); 1924(1933)
- T.O., old. Toronto, Ontario, 1964
- Toadskin. A dollar bill, 1912 in Sandiland's "Western Canadian Dictionary"
- tomahawk. In government, to defeat a Bill, by voting it down; 1836
- * Tomalky. A drink consisting of cheap alcohol and tomato juice, 1952
- tongue-thrash. To chastize, reprimand someone; 1924(1933)
- tongue-thrashing. A reprimand, a criticism, 1924(1933)
- tongue-wagger. A person prone to gossiping, or slandering; 1936

- top-brassism. An over-abundance of executives; 1961
- townie. A person who lives in the city, one who is ignorant of country life; 1946, OED 'townee', 1897, DAE 1853, as opposed to 'student'
- track snipe. A labourer on a railroad track, 1952, but DAS 'snipe', c1915
- trampette. A prostitute; 1950
- tranquilizer. A soap-opera on television, because it bores one to sleep (?); 1962
- trim. To overcome something, as in 'this time I'll trim it' = I'll overcome it; 1959
- trim to a finish. To financially ruin a person, to leave a person penniless; 1910
- triple X. Attrib., the finest, the best there is; 1898
- trot. A follower of, or member of, a Trotskyite club, as opposed to a Stalinist communist club member; 1962
- tumble off the wagon. To give up one's state of not-drinking, to start drinking again after a time of giving it up; 1932
- twister. A pair of handcuffs; 1958
- twist the tiger's tail. To defy someone, thus getting into worse trouble; 1953
- twitteration. A state of such excitement that one shakes all over because of it; 1855
- two-forty-one-an'-a half. Attrib., fast, perhaps because of a horse-race being run in that time, and considered to have been a fast running; 1903
- two on a raft. (Of eggs) two eggs, poached or fried, placed on a piece of toast; 1910 (see also 'Adam and Eve on a raft')

U

- Uncle Shylock. A mythical person used in reference to the United States, as in 'Uncle Sam'; 1961
- under the bush. (In relation to children) begotten illegitimately; extra-marital sexual activities; 1960
- under the gun. Attrib., pressured, forced to do something

because of circumstances, and expected to do it well;
1964

unhandled. *Attrib.*, untitled, not of nobility, 1960

University of Hard Luck. The bad experiences of life--
experiences worse than those experienced by people who
learned in the 'School of Hard Knocks'; 1910

untie. To open a bottle (of liquor) and pour the contents
out, 1889

V

vaude house. A theatre in which vaudeville is performed;
1950

W

wallop (the) daylight(s) out of (someone). To physically
beat someone, 1910

way-off beer. A type of beer with a very low alcoholic
content that can be sold in grocery stores in some
provinces; 1957

way up in the red. Deeply in debt (?)--'in the red' = in
debt, 1962

weed sharp. A botanist, 1870

well hooked-up. *Attrib.*, rich, affluent, 1962

Wets. The canteen in a ship where liquor could be purchased
and drunk, as opposed to a regular canteen where only
foodstuffs could be purchased, 1945

whack about. To roll around in bed, to toss and turn; 1932

whacked out. *Attrib.*, exhausted by overwork, 1958

whack up. To gather together one's goods (?); to leave one's
belongings with another for safekeeping (?), 1903

wham. A spectacular occurrence, something large in size,
1936

what have you. A catchphrase meaning etcetera, and the like,
the odds and ends; 1955

what killed Auntie. Home brewed liquor, 1945

- whipper. ?; 1968
- whiskified. Attrib., saturated by whiskey, drunk; 1916
- whistlepecker. A derog. name signifying a scrawny, insignificant person, 1952
- whitefeet. A white person; 1832(1952)
- white savage. A crew member of a Canadian Tribal Class destroyer in the Second World War, so-called by British sailors, 1945
- whiz kid. A highly intelligent person, one who learns things easily; 1963
- wholesale. A store which sells its merchandise at wholesale prices, 1960
- whole-wool. Attrib., genuine; 1923
- Whole Works. A leading citizen of a community--one who owns almost everything and everyone in the town; 1927
- whoop-de-doop. A party, a loud, fun celebration; 1959
- widehorn. An ox, usu. yoked to a wagon to pull it, 1935
- wiggy. Attrib., insane, crazy; 1963
- wind gambler. A person who pretends importance while it favours his position, but who quits and disappears when things go against him, he makes his plans according to the way the 'wind of favours' blows; 1919
- window-dresser. A person who has a very shallow personality, one who is pleasant outwardly, but who is sinister inwardly; 1920
- wind-warbler. A shrewd salesman, one with a glib tongue; 1916
- wine-winner. A variation of 'bread-winner' = the person supplying the bulk of a family's income; 1910
- wolf-juice. A type of home brew made of hundred percent grain alcohol, 1963
- Y
- yahoo. A rustic person, used in the cite along with 'Bluenoses', 'Peasoups'; 1930
- yakking. Attrib., talkative, noisy, as in a 'yakking little band of school children', 1958

yaketting. Talking, senseless talking just for the sake of hearing oneself talk; 1959

yard. The area around a train depot where railroad cars are assembled into outgoing trains, and where railroad cars are stored and shunted about; 1955

yardcop. A policeman, usu. hired by the railroad company, who patrols the rail yards looking for hoboes who are waiting to hop a train--his duty is to prevent them from hopping trains; 1955

yeller stiff. A no-good person, a coward--a combination of 'yeller' = cowardly, and 'stiff' = a person, fellow; 1916

yips. The jitters, a case of nervous tension; 1963

Z

zing. To travel quickly, to move at a fast speed; 1954

zoot. A zoot suit--characterized by a jacket with heavily padded shoulders, large lapels, many buttons on the sleeves, and high-waisted trousers with sharp pleats, cut full in the legs and tapered sharply to the narrow cuffs; popular in the 1930's and early 1940's; 1950

zoot suit riot(s). Outbreaks of violence between the civilian male population (those that did not enlist in the forces to fight in the Second World War), and the seamen who had been at war and who resented the civilians who shirked their duty; 1944

zyzzle. The extra output that a person gives which creates success, usu. applied to describe a date's dress that has everything; 1951

LIST (7)TABOO

This list contains words and expressions deemed taboo in my estimation. These are items which deal with sexual activities, curses, physiological activities, and the like.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

lexical item. Definition; dictionary date (all lexical items are from SUE)

AS:

another country heard from. A cp used when one of a company breaks wind, or interjects something into the conversation, c1930

LISTA

Anglo-Indian back, have an. (Of a girl) to have dead leaves adhering to the back of her dress as she returns from a 'stroll'; c1908

another country heard from. A cp used when one of a company breaks wind, or interjects something into a conversation; c1930

Are you keeping it for the worms? A cp addressed to a female rejecting sexual advances, here, 'it' = her virginity; c1945

ass-hole was drilled, dug, seamed, bored or naturally evaginated, that guy don't know if his. He is a complete fool, the phrase is more usu. '...was punched or bored', used by Cdn. Army officers, WW2

arse over kettle. (Of a person falling down) head over heels; C 20

ass. The female pudenda, late C 19-20

ass. Arse, buttocks, C 19-20, dial. and late coll., 'the general US pronunciation, Canadian also'

B

- balls in an uproar, get one's. To become unduly excited;
Army; WW1
- bang. To have sexual intercourse with a woman, C 20
- beachcomber. A white man living with an Eskimo woman, Cdn.
Arctic; 1913, becoming obs. by 1960
- better than a kick in the ass with a frozen boot. A cp
meaning that one should be satisfied with what one
gets; C 20
- black as Toby's arse. Pitch-black, usu. said of a dark night,
c1910
- bleed (one's) turkey. (Of men) to urinate; not in common use;
c1925
- break the sound barrier. To break wind; 'orig. and mostly
Cdn.', c1960
- Brown, good old. A cp implying sodomy, 'brown' = anus; C 20
- built like a brick shit-house, (he's / she's). One is
physically well-built, one has a good physique or figure,
C 20, low
- bull-fuck. Custard, RR construction crews', c1910
- bum-fucker. A pederast, C 20, low

C

- cat house. A brothel; c1925, ex US
- cherry. A young (wo)man's virginity (physically speaking);
C 20
- chicken-shit. Information received from a superior, c1920
- chicken-shit. Attrib., petty, insignificant, c1910-1930
- chicken-shit in one's blood, have. To be a coward; c1930
- corn-holer. See 'bum-fucker'
- crotch(-)rot. A form of skin fungus that attacks the area
between the buttocks and around the groin--an extremely
common affliction, 'mostly Cdn.'; C 20 coll.

D

- dead-end street. The female pudenda; c1930
- dick(e)y dido. The female pudenda, C 20, by 1960, becoming obs.
- diddle. To digitate sexually and successfully, C 20
- dink. The penis, -1949
- Dirty Dick's (/Dicks). The venereal ward in a military hospital; 'mostly Cdn.'; C 20
- do it the hard way (standing up in a hammock), (That's right!). A cp shouted at an awkward workman struggling at his job, c1910(?)
- do what the steer did. To, at the least, try to do something; 'from the observed efforts of these underprivileged animals to lead a normal love-life', c1920
- do you spit much with that cough? A cp said to one who has just broke wind, c1910-30
- dong. See 'dink'
- don't get your shit hot! Simmer down, keep calm, C 20, low
- dose of salts through a serpent girl, like a. Adverb, very quickly; c1930
- doubled over like a dog fucking a football. Doubled right over, Army; WW2
- drain (one's) radiator. See 'bleed (one's) turkey'

E

- eyes like two piss-holes in the snow. Deeply sunken yellow eyes, C 20, low coll.

F

- fart in a gale, like a. Utterly helpless; C 20
- fart in a wind-storm, as much chance as a. A cp meaning no chance at all, c1910
- Fort Bushy. The female pudenda; C 20
- fucked by the fickle finger of fate. Down in one's luck,

done for; Army officers, WW2

fucking the dog. An irritating and senseless occupation;
occ. elaborated to 'fornicating the poodle', C 20

fucking the dog. The avoidance of work by appearing to be
busy at a useless task; c1920

fucks like a mink, she. A cp meaning a woman is amorous and
promiscuous; c1920

full of piss and vinegar. Robust in health, and full of
energy, 'vinegar' has a connotation of sex, C 20,
low, also US

G

get a marked tray. To catch a venereal disease; 'perhaps orig.
a euph. = to avoid infection', hospitals'; c1910

gifted. (Usu. of men) homosexual, as in 'is he gifted?';
c1925

giggy. Anus, C 20, low

giggy!, up your. A cp of contemptuous rejection; C 20, low

go all the way. (Of a girl) to permit sexual intercourse as
well as petting, c1920, coll.

go take a flying fuck at/of a galloping goose! Go away,
beat it; Army; WW2

goose. To jab a finger into the anus of someone, in order
to surprise or annoy; c1910

gooser. See 'bum-fucker'

H

H. T. W. S. S. T. K. S. Masonic initials sometimes interpreted,
facetiously, as 'Hot-tailed Willie should stop tickling
Katie's sex'; c1910

hammer. See 'dink'

hard (/tough) titty! A cp meaning 'too bad, hard luck',
often used ironically, c1930

haul arse. To go away, often quickly; c1930

haul (one's) ashes. To coit; late C 19-20, low

he could fall into a shit-hole and come up smelling of violets. A cp said of an exceptionally lucky fellow, late C 19-20, low

he'd drink the stuff if he had to strain it through a shitty cloth. A cp meaning 'he is a hopeless drunkard', c1920, low

he wouldn't say 'shit' (even) if he had a (/his) mouth full of it. A cp describing an excessively mealy-mouthed man, c1930, low

'hell!' cried the duchess and flung down her cigar. A meaningless elaboration of 'hell!'; C 20

hey, Mudder, give my brudder the udder udder! A cp with no meaning, used almost as a tongue twister, and clearly derived from one, never in very general use; c1930

honey thighs. An endearment to an attractive girl; c1945

horse's arse hoss's ass. A name given to a person disliked or distrusted, Army, C 20

horse going south, (the) north end of a. A joc. elaboration of the preceding, C 20

horse's neck. A polite form of 'horse's arse', c1920

hot as a fire-cracker. Attrib., sexually hot-blooded and promiscuous, c1910

hungry enough to eat the arse out of a dead skunk. Attrib., famished, C 20, low

I

I haven't laughed so hard since my mother caught her (left) tit in the wringer. I haven't laughed so hard in a long time, C 20

I need (/want) a piss so bad my back teeth are floating. I need (/want) a piss so bad I can taste it. Cp's expressing a strong need, C 20, low

I need (/want) a shit so bad my eyes are brown. A cp expressing strong need, C 20

I wouldn't give you the sweat off my balls or the steam off my shit. A cp said to someone detested, C 20, low

I'm off in a shower (/a cloud) of shit. A cp meaning 'goodbye', Army, WW2

in the words of the Chinese poet...What Chinese poet?...Ah
 Shit, the Chinese poet. A very elaborate way of
 expressing disgust on hearing of bad luck or unpleasant
 instructions--if a friend hears the first part of the
 expression, he asks the second part, thus affording the
 speaker the opportunity to express the last part; c1910

J

jerk (one's) gherkin. See 'pump (one's) pickle'

Johnson. The penis(?), mid C 19-20, by 1950, obs.

K

knackers, the man with the brass. See 'man with the brass
 knackers'

know (one's) arse from a hole in the ground, not to. To be
 inordinately stupid; c1910

know the difference between shitting and tearing his arse,
 he doesn't (/don't). He is stupid(?); 1920's

know whether (one) is Agnes or Angus, not to. (by males
 only) a cp used in very cold weather, or after swimming
 in cold water, c1930

L

lay. A girl, esp. one who is usu. compliant, ex US verb
 'lay' = to coit with a girl; c1945, low

like shit through a goose. Very fast; C 20, low, see also
 'dose of salts through a serpent girl, like a'

little friend, (one's). A euph. meaning the menses (female
 use); ex the fact that the menses are often welcome as
 a sign of non-pregnancy; c1920, also Aust.

M

maidenheads. Parentheses, printers', late C 19-20

make, on the. (Of either sex) seeking sexual adventure;
 c1920

man with the brass knackers, the. The boss, RR, -1910,
 general labourers', -1914

miles and miles and (bloody) miles of sweet fuck-all. The Cdn. Prairies, 'ruefully joc.', 1919

monkey, cold enough to freeze the balls (/ears--for refined company) off a brass. Exceedingly cold, C 20, low, coll.

monkey-farting. Useless employment, a waste of time, silly behaviour, n. and adjective, C 20

muff-diver. A cunilingist; C 20, low

my mother told me there would be days like this, but she didn't say there'd be so many. A cp applied to a 'tough' time, esp. in the Army, with an oblique reference to menstruation; Army, W/2

N

naval engagement. Sexual intercourse--pun on 'navel'; Naval officers, becoming more general, c1940

next time you make a pie, will you give me a piece? A male cp suggestion to a girl that she should co-operate, c1895-1914

nibbets. Deposits of fecal or seminal matter in the hair about the anus or the female pudenda; late C 19-20, low, coll.

north end of a horse going south, the. See 'horse going south, (the) north end of a.'

O

Old Lady Five Fingers. Masturbation, 'mostly Cdn.', C 20, low

on pleasure bent. A cp applied to a bow-legged woman; c1950

P

pecker. The penis, obs. in most places except Canada, where still in wide use, C 19-20

pee-Willy. An effeminate male, c1925

pig-fucker (/the P. F. man--a politer form). The man in a lumber camp who looks after the tools, lumbermen's, C 20

pig-sticking. Sodomy, c1920, low

- piss hard-on, a. A matutinal erection caused by the desire, and need, to urinate, C 20, low
- piss-pot juggler. A chambermaid in a hotel, C 20
- piss (/pee) -warmer. A highly complimentary term for anything well-liked; C 20
- piss-cutter. A term meaning the same as the preceding one; Navy; -1952
- pootang. Copulation, esp. with a coloured woman and a white man; variants: 'poong tai', 'poong kai'; common also among homosexuals for sexual relations; C 20
- pootanger. The penis; lumbermen's, C 20
- pot to pee (/piss) in, doesn't (/didn't) have a. A cp indicating extreme poverty, c1905
- proposition. n. and v., To suggest sexual intimacy, hence, the n.; ex US(?); c1940
- pump (one's) pickle. To masturbate; C 20, low
- put a bit of hair round it for you?, shall I. A cp said to a workman having trouble inserting something into a hole, C 20
- put out. To permit, even invite, sexual liberties, as in 'Oh, she'll put out, all right', ex US, c1950

R

- remember the girl who went out to buy a knick-knack and came back with a titbit. A punning cp, 1939-55, low
- round heels, she has (/she's got). A cp said of a girl who is sexually compliant--a girl with heels so round that the least push will put her on her back, c1925

S

- same old shit but (/only) more of it. The equivalent of 'SNAFU' = situation normal, all fouled (fucked) up; Army; WW2
- saw off a chunk (/piece). To have sexual relations with a woman, c1920
- scared fartless. Very much afraid; C 20

scared shitless. Scared to death, afraid, 'mostly Cdn.',
C 20

shack up. To live together although unmarried, ex US, c1945

shat on from a great height. Reprimanded by someone of much
higher rank, Services', WW2

she walks like she's got a feather up her ass. A cp applied
to a woman with a mincing, self-conscious gait; C 20

shit. An expletive, very common in the earthy speech in
Canada; C 20

shit. Short for 'bull-shit' meaning hot air, baloney, as in
'don't hand (or feed) me that shit' = I don't believe
you, Army, WW2

shit a brick, yeah, you could. A cp of disbelief meaning
'like hell, you could'; c1930

shit-ass luck. Extremely bad luck, C 20

shit (/be shitting) bricks. To be really worried; C 20

shit hits the fan, when (/shit'll hit the fan, then the.).
A cp indicative of grave or exciting consequences; an
allusion to the consequences of throwing this material
into an electric fan; c1930

shit-hot. Enthusiastic to the point of unpleasantness, as
in 'He's shit-hot on spit and polish', Army, 1914

shit house in the fog, stands out like a. A cp indicating
that something is very clearly visible; C 20, low

shit-house luck. Very bad luck, C 20, low

shit! mother, I can't dance. A cp 'just for something to
say', joc., c1920, low

shit or get off the pot! A cp directed at a dice player
unable to crap out, Army, WW2 Now, I believe, the
meaning is, make up your mind and do something, don't
just stand there.

shit, shave, shower, shoe-shine and shampoo, I've had (/I
had) a. Prepared for whatever happens, esp. for an
important date; Army in WW2; c1930

shit-disturber. One who by his actions, causes everybody
unnecessary trouble, late C 19-20, low

shit weighs heavy! A cp directed at a boaster; late C 19-20,

low

shoot the shit. To talk idly, to tell tall tales, Army; WW2

skeletons fucking on a tin roof, a noise like (/it rattles like) two (/a pair of). A loud, annoying noise, also US, 1920's, later (c1940) Brit. and Aust.

skin a turd, he'd. He is parsimonious; late C 19-20, low

skin dog. A male 'sexual athlete'; c1950, low

stacked, well. (Of a girl) possessing large and attractive breasts; ex US, c1942

steamed-up. Attrib., ready for sexual intercourse, 'turned on', c1930

sticks (/stuck) out like the balls on a bulldog, he. (Of a person) to be conspicuous, c1920

suck-hole. To toady, to cringe, as in 'he won't suck-hole to anyone'; C 20, low

sucking the hindtit. (Esp. in poolrooms, but also in general sporting slang) to be well behind in points, or in arrears; c1930, low

T

take it out in trade. To have sexual intercourse with a girl one entertains for the evening; joc.; c1946

tear off a piece. To copulate with a woman; also Aust. and US; late C 19-20

that remains to be seen, as the monkey said when he shat in the sugar bowl. A facetious elaboration cp of 'that remains to be seen', c1930

this training really toughens you: you get muscles in your shit. A meaningless cp, Army; WW2

tight as a bull's arse in fly-time, he's as. (also. he's so tight he squeaks). To be close-fisted, mean, stingy; 1930's

tit in a tight crack, have (one's). To find oneself in an awkward and uncomfortable position, whether physical or emotional, c1920, low

tough titty! See 'hard titty!'

U

under the weather. (Of a woman) menstruating, also US;
C 20, coll.

up and down like a shit-house seat. A cp referring to a
gambler's luck, Army; WW2

up the dirt road. A cp referring to sodomy, -1950, low

up your ass, with a hard-wire brush (/crooked stick,/red-hot
poker)! A cp said 'just for something to say; a fellow
doesn't mean anything uncomfortable when he says it';
Army in WW2; C 20

up your ass with a charged condenser. A variant of the
preceding; post 1945

used-beer department. A latrine in a drinking establishment,
c1925

useless as tits on a bull (/on a whore). Completely useless;
late C 19-20, low

useless as tits on a canary. A variant of the preceding;
c1945

V

varnish (one's) cane. (Of the male) to coit; C 20, low

W

wet deck. A harlot submitting sexually to several, or more,
men in quick succession, a Cdn. variant of 'battered
bun', late C 19-20

Y

you play like I fuck. A cp said to a poor card-player,
Army; WW2

you wouldn't shit me (/don't shit the troops). A cp showing
disbelief in what has been said, Army, WW2

your ass-hole's sucking wind. A cp meaning, you don't know
what you're talking about, Army, WW2, low

your ass is sucking blue mud. A cp saying you are in error;
c1925, low

your cock is out a foot. A variant of the preceding; c1925,
low

you're so full of shit your eyes are brown. A cp expressing
a violent dislike, Army, W/2

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Title of Thesis

A SURVEY OF CANADIAN ENGLISH SLANG

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APRIL 30, 1973

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