Vocabulaire Technique International de l'Ingénieur

The Engineer's Technical and International Vocabulary

AVEC LE CONCOURS DE M. G. RANSFORD ET DU PROFESSEUR GIROUD

There is no vocabulary that can disregard the basic laws of language. However obvious this statement may appear, it is a fact that in technical vocabularies, undue importance is often given to nouns, at the expense of verbs; this is particularly the case when they are made from drawings, the name of each part of the drawing being translated into one or several other languages.

Now the importance of verbs—even when not strictly technical—cannot be overlooked. They express actions, and are liable to many misinterpretations, some of them merely ludicrous, others leading to serious mistakes in meaning. It is therefore highly original of Mr. Ransford to have devoted a full study to the verbs expressing the various shades of meaning of "to flow"—a word, needless to say, of paramount importance in hydraulics.

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(Suite)

VII. — VERBES SIGNIFANT HUMEER OU IMBER (Fin)

To sprinkle signifie asperger (to spray ou to sprinkle seedlings : « bassiner » des semis). To besprinkle a le même sens, mais il est employé plus rarement. Il en est de même pour le verbe to asperge qui est l'équivalent littéraire de « to sprinkle ».

To blow c'est asperger d'eau le tabac.

To damp down signifie humeeter le linge, pour les repasseuses.

WET, FLOW, POUR (*)

(Continued)

VII. — VERBES MEANING TO MOISTEN OR TO SATURATE (Conclusion)

To sprinkle is to scatter in drops; to besprinkle is to sprinkle over or about, but is less commonly used. The last remark applies also to the verb to asperge, which is a literary equivalent of to sprinkle.

To blow is to sprinkle tobacco with water.

To damp down is to sprinkle laundry work for the ironers.


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To splash or to plash (éclabousser) est un terme courant. Il veut dire soit frapper ou projeter de l'eau ou de la boue, soit jeter du liquide sur quelque chose. On l'emploie, dans un sens spécifique, pour décrire le procédé qui consiste à faire flotter du bois en lâchant une masse d'eau retenue dans un barrage, spécialement conçu à cet effet, appelé splash dam.

To spatter, to splatter ont à peu près le même sens que to splash.

To splutter signifie rejeter quelque chose avec un bruit de crachottement, crachotter, mais aussi asperger.

To dash a le même sens que to splash, mais il implique plus de violence (flaquer).

To dabble signifie mouiller par éclaboussure ou humecter.

To swash signifie se déplacer dans l'eau avec des mouvements violents et bruyants, ou faire éclabousser, comme faire éclabousser l'eau d'un seau.

To paddle c'est s'agiter dans l'eau avec les pieds et les mains (barboter, patouiller ou patrouiller).

Patouiller se dit aussi de la façon dont fonctionnent les roues à aubes et du bruit qu'elles font.

To drabble ou to draggle signifie trainer dans la boue, se couvrir de boue, traverser un bourbier, se crotter.

To flounder signifie patauger ou se débattre dans des fondrières comme un cheval dans de la boue profonde.

To squelch évoque le bruit que l'on fait en marchant dans la boue ou la gadoue; il signifie aussi tout simplement marcher ainsi en éclaboussant. Squelching shoes sont des chaussures qui font flic-flac.

To ford correspond au français passer à gué.

To wade exprime l'idée d'une progression pénible dans l'eau, la boue, le sable; c'est aussi parfois passer à gué.
To surge originally means to rise or to spurt high as a spring of water. Nowadays it is used in the sense of to rise in surges or high waves, and hence, to move in a surge or in a series of surges; as, the tidal bore surged up the river; hence also, surge chamber or surge tank.

To beat (often with on or against) and to strike are frequently used to describe the impact of waves, wind, hail and so on; to strike is to hit once, while to beat is to strike repeatedly. Rain, therefore, beats on a roof (but does not strike it) while a gust of wind strikes it.

To impinge is to strike or dash upon with sharp collision, and aptly describes the impact of water on the buckets of a Pelton wheel, etc...

To wash may be included in the present list as meaning to cover or drench thoroughly with water or other liquid, as an injury with a disinfectant or a gas by passing through liquid to purify it; in this sense, as well as in that of group IV (*), to lave, a poetic word, can also be used. To wash moreover means to cleanse by dipping or scrubbing in water, as the body; to move or clear away by the action of water (a storm washes away a breakwater); somewhat paradoxically, to cover a surface with a light coat of watercolour, etc.; to bear washing without damage; and finally, amongst the varied uses which it is appropriate to note here, to be disintegrated by the application of a liquid (a cliff is washed away by the action of the sea).

To cave is to make hollows.

To gully is to make a miniature valley or gorge, as running water after rains.

To hollow out is to make hollows; to furrow, to cut a furrow in, to make a trench.
To flush, *laver à grande eau*, est aussi employé dans ce sens. On trouve cependant plus facilement « to scour » quand il s'agit de tissus.

To bathe signifie laver par immersion dans un bain (*baigner*); appliquer de l'eau, comme se baigner les yeux; ou humecter de liquide, comme un chiffon trempé dans de l'essence.

To bath veut dire donner un bain, et implique, contrairement à « to bathe », une immersion plus ou moins totale.

To rinse signifie laver légèrement, en général dans l'eau : c'est en particulier plonger dans de l'eau propre, seulement pour enlever de la poussière ou des impuretés : rincer.

To pan signifie laver (de l'or...) à la battée, ou puiser avec une casserole, comme to lade.

To scour is to wash thoroughly in order to cleanse: to flush is used in this sense also, though scour has as well a particular application to fabrics, etc...

To bathe is to wash by immersion in a bath, to apply water to (*bathe the eyes*) or to moisten with a liquid (*bathe a rag in petrol*). To bath, on the other hand, is to give a bath to, unlike to bathe the implication being of more or less total immersion. To rinse is to wash lightly, especially if in water, or in a particular sense, to wash in clean water only to remove dirt or impurities.

To pan is to wash (gold, etc.) with a pan, or to pour with a pan (in the sense of *to lade*) often as pan out.

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