

porter on a great morning paper must be ready at all times to start for any part of the Province on 10-minutes' notice, and usually from one to six members of the staff are scattered over the country. Our papers devote so much attention to political reporting that it may be taken as typical of Canadian newspaper work and a passage taken at random from a political speech will best illustrate the routine of news gathering.

The passage selected as uttered by the speaker would be written in shorthand in this form:—

but it is nearer the truth than to say that the shorthand represents all the sounds uttered by the speaker. "Ftz" represents more nearly the opening of a soda water bottle than "if it was," and "Iz oo biz" differs materially from "I was too busy," for which it is the shorthand form. Shorthand without an alert memory, close attention and common sense, is worse than useless. The slightest error may change the meaning of a word or an entire sentence. A too erect "R" becomes an "S." This caused a reporter to make Mr. Goldwin Smith say that he had

The image shows a handwritten shorthand notation for a paragraph of a political speech. The notation is written in a cursive, stylized script using various symbols, including letters, numbers, and special characters, arranged in several lines. The symbols are compact and interconnected, typical of shorthand systems.

A PARAGRAPH OF A POLITICAL SPEECH AS IT APPEARS IN THE REPORTER'S NOTE BOOK

It is generally supposed that shorthand is a system of writing by which every sound is represented. There could not be a greater mistake than this; shorthand's chief economy is omission, and what it suggests is of more importance than what it actually represents. For instance, the characters for which the shorthand equivalents are here used are:

i wntd tt stmnt fr nthr prps. I
 bld ntr ftz tr ts ntr pn a nu er o
 dvl. im a crdn b brth, a ntv o
 prvns ntr. i lkd vr fld. s md fr
 16 rs m tim fl kpd w rk o dkshn
 prps sm o ulsa iz oo biz."

This, perhaps, is not a fair representation of the shorthand, for other characters are suggested by ingenious devices too intricate to explain here,

spent many years in the "asylum," instead of in the "realm" of our Lady of the Snows. There is simply no limit to the possible causes of error in shorthand reporting. A burst of applause may drown the close of a sentence, conversation behind him may throw the reporter out, even inability to see the speaker's gestures may prove disastrous, as happened at Bowmanville a few years ago. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in an impassioned peroration, declared that the epitaph he desired was "Here lies a man who gave the best of his life and the whole of his heart to making Canada a united country." That was no time for the reporter to sit back and admire the outstretched downward arms with which the Premier seemed to cast from him the weight of years, nor the one emphatic gesture at the