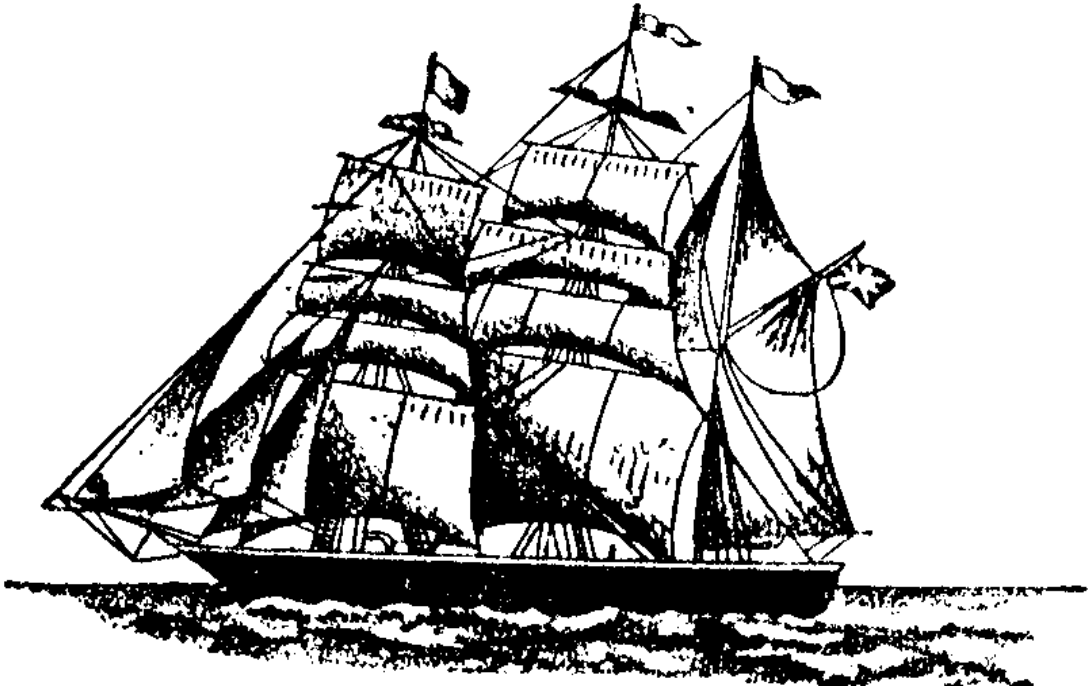


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**RETRONYMS.**

A retronym is an old word that has changed because of new names have taken its place. Once there were just movies. They had no sound but then came movies with sound and dialogue. For a while they were called talkies. What were movies became silent movies. Old guitars had to become acoustic guitars because now electric guitars were introduced. Once we used flavouring to spice up food. Because chemical flavouring has been introduced those flavouring became natural flavouring. In-person meeting were once just meetings since we now have zoom meetings. The internet and digital age has caused many words to become retronyms.

## How FG Gibbs came by the nickname ‘Saus’.

By Nigel Costley



Frederick Giles Gibbs (1866-1953) is one of the great characters of Nelson’s civic life. From 1895 to 1936 he was closely involved with the Nelson Institute, serving as president during the Edwardian Era.

The Gibbs family’s arrival in Nelson was dramatic. The recently-widowed Mrs Gibbs and her nine children left London on the 720 tonne barque *Queen Bee* on 21 April, 1877. It ran aground on Farewell Spit on 6 August and during the abandoning ship exercise the Gibbs brothers were swept out to sea in a cutter. They were given up for lost at one stage but eventually ended up on D’Urville Island where they were hospitably treated by the Maori and rescued several days later. They arrived to a rapturous reception in Nelson harbour where virtually the entire population lined the shore and the Artillery Band played *Home*

*Sweet Home.*

Like his brothers, Frederick proved an excellent scholar, securing an MA with first class honours in English and Latin from Canterbury College. He became headmaster of Nelson Central School living in the family home situated on the corner of Alton and Nile St (now 94 Nile St). He was headmaster at the school from 1893 to 1922 and had a reputation as a very progressive teacher with a gift of imparting complex scientific principles in a way that young children could understand.

He never married, throwing his formidable energies into the affairs of Nelson city - it is his association with the Nelson School of Music that lead to his nickname. Gibbs was a trustee of the Nelson School of Music long before it was opened in 1901. Working in conjunction with businessman and philanthropist JH Cock, he was instrumental in establishing the NSM.

The First World War was a harrowing time for the NSM because of an increasingly vitriolic campaign to oust their principal, German-born Julius Lemmer. For many Nelsonians it counted little that Lemmer had been a naturalized British citizen since 1903 and was married to an Australian. All Germans were the enemy. Fortunately for Lemmer he had Gibbs in his corner who countered the abusive anti-Lemmer letters to the newspapers on a weekly basis. Fuelled by endless stories of ‘Hun’ brutality and accounts of mines discovered in Cook Strait, the anti-German hysteria swept the country in 1918 with demands to dismiss all Germans from public office. The fact that Lemmer’s son Adolph was killed fighting for the Allies didn’t stop the anti-Lemmer campaign. Gibbs’s diary reports: “sleepless nights and spending much time over the most disgraceful anti-Lemmer attack...”

The issue culminated in the NSM election of trustees in July of that year where the pro-Lemmer lobby won the vote by 217 to 60. So thanks largely due to the tigerish defence of the likes of Gibbs there were no more recorded attacks on Lemmer and remained in his position at the school until 1944.

With the war won, by April 1919 the school held a concert featuring *The Banner of St George* which according to Gibbs’s diary: “went splendidly. Good audience. Took over £11”.

The other great battle for which Frederick Gibbs will be forever enshrined in Nelson history is that with Maitai landholder Mrs Effie Richardson. Taking a holistic approach to education, Gibbs

felt that the pupils under his tuition at Central School should be taught to swim, and to this end he took groups of boys up the Maitai for swimming lessons in the area now known as Denne's Hole.

This was much to the chagrin of Mrs Richardson who regarded this as wilful trespass. According to the recollection of Miss A Dodds, one day Mrs Richardson was so incensed by Gibbs's action that, in a fit of fury, she swooped down and made off with the boys clothes. At this point Gibbs and little band of heathens were supposed to slink back to town, unclad, defeated and humiliated. But Mrs Richardson hadn't budgeted on Gibbs's feisty streak. He counter attacked by ordering his boys to dance naked around her house. Needless to say, the clothes were promptly returned and the swimming lessons proceeded apace.

In 1908 the Gibbs/Richardson relations deteriorated further when Mrs Richardson decided to subdivide her estate which entailed fencing off each block from the road so that the swimming holes could no longer be used. Gibbs was having none of this. In December 1916 he cut Mrs Richardson's fences and knocked down her 'trespassers will be prosecuted' signs. This was too much for Mrs Richardson and accompanied by her daughter Ralphine (known to subsequent generations as Queenie) attacked Gibbs with stones, calling him, among other choice phrases, a dirty German Jew who should be interred on Somes Island. His diary entry dated 10.12.16, is brief on the fracas: "10 hits, washed blood".

From this incident Mrs Richardson was charged with assault, resulting in a very lively court case presided over by magistrate OB Loughnan. Mrs Richardson told the court she had always been told that Gibbs was a German and he was known as "German Sausage". No doubt inspired by his defence of Lemmer. She had written to the Education Department to have Gibbs dismissed, and would write to Scotland Yard about his history. This caused much hilarity among those attending and extreme sarcasm from the magistrate who said: "how shocking that children should dabble their feet in the sacred river of Mrs Richardson". Gibbs was awarded exemplary damages of £ 25 which he immediately gave towards the rebuilding of one of the Maitai's bridges. Hence the nickname "Saus" Gibbs. Whether it was used to his face is unknown.

NB: Gibbs diary spanning 1883 to 1947 has been transcribed in the Nelson Provincial Museum. Further information on Gibbs can be found in Mann Shonadh: *FG Gibbs, his influence on the social history of Nelson 1890-1950*. The Nelson Historical Society, Incorporated. 1977  
Brereton CB: *The History of the Nelson Institute*, AH and AW Reed, Wellington. 1948.

## **NEW TECHNOLOGY.**

A NASA aircraft with new radar technology flying over Greenland looking at ice levels noticed something unusual within the ice. It was resolved in discovering the US military had set up a base up in the NW near Thule on the ice there nominally as a base for science. It was really Project Iceworm to set up as a base in the ice as a place to have 600 missiles ready to launch.

Many tunnels in the ice were built up to 3 km in length. It was powered by a mini-nuclear power unit (PM2A). Two hundred soldiers were based there. They had problems with sewage water. In 1967 it was abandoned after eight years of occupation. Missiles were never placed there. The power plant was removed but 200,000 litres of fuel was not. It was thought that it would be covered up by snow fall, however recent science has found the ice level is now dropping. It has several metres yet to drop before the base is exposed.

## WORDS.

Teachers had a professional body the NZCER (NZ Council of Educational Research) that helped support teachers as professionals. An example of the NZCER developing tools is an early computer analysis of what words were essential for early learners. In the 1930s Edgar Dolch in the USA produced a word list which covered two thirds of a vocabulary. New Zealand got a list created by G L Arvidson from local usage.

In 1975 the advent of computers simplified the possibility of modernisation. Teachers provided written work of students. 1,250 scripts were obtained and recorded onto punched cards. That amounted to 15,621 cards. Punched cards came in boxes of 2,000 cards at a time so that amounted to eight boxes and quite a heavy weight. The card reader on the computer used could read them at 1,000 cards a minute maximum. The computer operator could work up a sweat trying to keep up with loading of the cards onto an input shelf and also recovering those processed and returning them to boxes.

The analysis of the computer program especially written for this job with an advanced technique recorded 13,258 sentences and a total of 198,844 words covering a vocabulary of 9,675 words.

## MARIANA MAZZUCATO.

Italian, this woman moved to the USA when her father took up a job in nuclear science. She had her education there and studied History and International Relations. Further study was in Political Economy and then Economics for her PhD. She is now a Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London (UCL) and founding director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP).



**Figure 3** Mariana Mazzucato.

She has won many prizes and is to be seen in many interviews and TED talks. She is a dynamic and clear communicator. She is the author of two important books; “*the Entrepreneurial State.*” (Debunking Public vs Private Myths), and “*The Big Con.*” (How the Consulting Industry Weakens our Businesses, Infantilizes our Governments and Warps our Economies) with Rose Collington.

In the “*Entrepreneurial State*” she debunks the notion that the State should be reduced. In 1957 when Sputnik circled the earth USA panicked and set up DARPA (Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency) in 1958. Government funding paid for development that the military industrial complex benefited from. There is whole chapter on how the corporation Apple was able to benefit from ideas and development that they did not pay

for. The same applies to the pharmaceutical industry where Government and University research and development was free to exploit for the industry. The development of the internet was funded by Government and now makes profits for commerce. The last chapter is “Socialisation of Risk and Privatization of Rewards” which is a clear statement of her thesis.

The book “*The Big Con.*” is a thorough investigation into the consulting industry done by Mazzucato and her PhD student Rose Collington. Some consulting organisations have become very big and wealthy multinational organisations. Where Governments lack expertise, say climate overheating and virus pandemics the political pressure against any expansion of Government turns Governments to consultants who start in the same position of not having any expertise. In Australia their version of DSIR, CSIRO was overlooked in favour of McKinsey which was to develop a plan for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. McKinsey commenced operations as cost-accounting experts. But the consultants were also working for opponents in energy industries. The authors call this working both sides of the street.

No consultants had expertise in pandemics so their involvement in the UK led to corruption and a greater fatality rate from Covid. They have many consulting disasters analysed in the book. The Enron case provides good material for the book. The criminal activities were aided by their auditors Arthur-Anderson. They were exposed by a journalist. They were shredding documents. That accounting division ceased trading. A few people in management went to jail.

The INCIS (Integrated National Crime Information System) developed by the consultants Price-Waterhouse for NZ Police contracted to IBM was a disaster. The police at least got personal computers.

### **NOT TRUE.**

It is not true that it is darker just before dawn. It is worth checking if you rise early. You can put toothpaste back in the toothpaste tube. The way is just like the way the toothpaste was originally inserted. It was through the bottom of the tube. Unfold the seal, not the cap, and you can insert anything, even tomato sauce into the tubes base. Water can flow uphill. Fast running water has lots of kinetic energy and it can flow uphill to produce water at a higher level turning kinetic energy into higher gravitational energy. It is called a hydraulic jump.

It is not true that banks lend out depositors money. Check your bank statements - there will be no reference to who or what has any of your deposit now. The bank increases a borrower's account with the loan and in double-entry accounting posts an asset of the loan to the bank's own accounts. The borrower gains the money and at the same time has a liability to the bank. The rising tide lifts all boats? This is only true if you have a boat otherwise you might drown. Are half the population below average IQ? No, half the population are below the median IQ. The average will equal the median if the distribution is symmetrical. It tends to follow a power law like earthquakes. Many small, too few big.

## WHAT DO SCIENTISTS SAY.

When a scientist says “I don’t know.” that becomes a trigger for wanting to find out. Sometimes the curiosity is caused by “that is strange.”. So it becomes worthy of investigation. It is better that “Eureka” for further work. It is important for a scientist to be able to say “I was wrong” because hanging on to false concepts is no way to discover the truth.

An astronomer observed a pulsar which seemed to have a exoplanet. This was the first to be found. His observation showed that the planet had 365 days to circulate the pulsar shown by the wobbling of the pulsar and the exoplanet round a common centre of gravity. This is the same period for our earth. This was announced as a planet with the rotation period of 354 days. Hey that is the same as earth! Later the astronomer at a annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society (Jan 1999) told everybody he was wrong. The audience gave him a standing ovation because as he was the first to admit he was wrong. The oscillation he was observing came from his observation place, the earth. He allowed for the rotation of the earth around the sun but did not allow that it was not a circle but an ellipse.

The economist John Maynard Keynes was famous for a retort he once made: “When my information changes, I alter my conclusions. What do you do, sir?”

## GROWTH.

Like other Governments around the world our new Government is promoting growth as direction to be followed. The policy appears to be “Cut everything for Growth”. An English commentator (Richard J Murphy) has put up a list of questions on growth for his Prime Minister to answer. A list for us comes out like this:

1. Why do you want growth?
2. What do you want to grow?
3. What will be the benefit of growth?
4. Who will get the benefits of growth?
5. What has to be given up to get growth?
6. Why are those things worth giving up for growth?
7. Who will bear the cost of those things given up?
8. Is the growth you want sustainable here on earth?
9. How will you know when you have reached your growth goal?
10. How can you know if your measure of growth is correct?
11. When will you know that it is right to stop growth?
12. What can we expect when we give up growth?
13. If you have no answers to these questions why not?
14. What goal should we have instead of growth?
  - a) Meeting needs?
  - b) Greater equity?



- c) Sustainability?
- d) Enhanced well-being?

Using basic logic we can say that growth on a finite planet is impossible. The famous book “*Limits to Growth*” explored this but ran foul of economists who did not want help from other experts. The book produced a table from a good source of minerals resources that were seen as limiting with estimates of a practical life span. There an essential mineral that the book (and source) did not examine. The omission was phosphorous. It is an element that is absolutely essential for life. The economists idea of substitution cannot apply. The spiral of DNA has phosphorous atoms for it structure.

Phosphorous fertilizers have increased the ability to expand agriculture. We have used up some available nearby resources and are now using minerals from Morocco. Fortunately new resources have been found in Norway. But we waste this essential mineral in effluent sent out to sea.

Growth as a percentage of existing measures leads to exponential growth. An area of mathematics that seems to be beyond politicians and economists. Steady growth has a habit of stopping because it never goes on for ever whatever is considered.

1. It can suddenly stop abruptly and the growth scaling factor becomes instantly zero. This is know as the Seneca Cliff. It is often caused by a tipping point where something breaks.
2. The growth can be changed into a new negative growth factor coming into effect and a slide down to zero after a number of periods similar to the periods of growth. This is very like the ‘normal’ curve or Gaussian curve skewed somewhat.
3. Or the de-growth factor results in a levelling out to a lower non growing level. This is the hoped for result of the de-growth campaigners.
4. Or the growth can just taper off and the level stops at some level. This is called the logistic curve.

**TRUTH.**

Can we stand the truth? A book “*A Climate of Truth*” (Why We Need It and How To Get It) by Professor Mike Berners-Lee is one to examine this and the ‘Post-Truth’ world and what he calls a ‘Polycrisis’. Yes, he is the brother of Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the world wide web. He indicates that the fields of politics, media, and business are not truthful. He says that not being completely truthful is an abuse. There needs to be a high price for this deceit. It deserves to banish any truth of the perpetrators for ever. People who should expose lies and do not are complicity. He obviously uses examples from the UK where this has been a



**Figure 5** Mike Berners-Lee.

habit. The ‘weapons of mass destruction’, the Brexit campaign, and UK cabinet members are in his sights.

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