THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1941.

Air Training Fatalities

Wide publicity must necessarily accompany any fatalities occurring in connection with the Air Training Plan. Official assurance has been given, however, that the number of these catastrophes is actually lower than was anticipated, the rate being 0.11 per thousand flying hours. Unfortunately, there is no way by which recruits can attain proficiency except by practical personal experience. The successive stages through which the candidate passes before acquiring that degree of confidence and mastery which is the goal of his ambition are necessarily attended with unavoidable risks, which are not reduced by the urgent necessity of speeding up the supply of competent airmen to meet increasing demands, as the great training scheme gains momentum.

The United States War Department is warning the American people in advance that they must be prepared for a higher accident rate as the American Air Corps program of expansion is developed. It is pointed out that pilots under training have yet to gain the needed experience, and statistics prove, as might be supposed, that liability to error is in inverse proportion to the number of flying hours to the credit of the trainee.

The best that can be hoped for is that accidents will be kept down to the minimum, through carefulness at all times, from the preliminary to the final period of instruction. The public may rest assured that everything possible is done for the protection of life and property—but no absolute guarantee of immunity from accident is possible. It is gratifying to know that the margin of safety achieved is regarded by competent judges as quite satisfactory, under prevailing circumstances.

Workmen'sCompensation

For some years past an effort has been made, sponsored by the Laborers' Protective Union and supported by other organizations, to have the Workmen's Compensation Act put through the Provincial Legislature. The legislation, we understand, is in force in all other Provinces, and similar provisions are on the statute books of most countries. While we are primarily an agricultural Province, we have a considerable body of men in Charlottetown and other centres who would come under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and these men are as much entitled to consideration as any other class of our citizens. This year again the Government is being requested to put the legislation before the House, and it is hoped that every facility will be afforded for full discussion and consideration of its provisions, with a view to their enactment in accordance with the need which undoubtedly exists for protection against industrial accidents.

American Legion Speaks

The virtual unanimity of the people of the United States in support of Britain in her defense of democracy is made more evident by resolutions endorsed by the American Legion, through its national committee, meeting recently in Indianapolis, and attended by representatives from all States of the Union, from Mexico, Alaska and the Phillipines.

With characteristic thoroughness, the Legion sent to Britain a mission to secure first-hand information regarding conditions. This mission reported that Britain will surely win her fight for freedom if adequate assistance is actually delivered to her, and that a sound national policy for the United States "requires at this time that all practical aid should be delivered to Great Britain and those aligned with her in their fight for freedom."

It was urged by the committee that all bottlenecks in industry be eliminated so that "our aid to Great Britain and other nations fighting the battles of democracy may be made fully and immediately effective, and in order that the defense of these United States may at the earliest possible moment be made impregnable and complete."

Lease-Lend Long Ago

A despatch from Ottawa draws a parallel between the Lease-Lend Bill signed by President Roosevelt on March 11, and a lease-lend agreement made between Great Britain and the United States nearly a century and a half ago, in which the lending was the other way about. The story of the agreement is told in "Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States," compiled and edited by Mr. W. R. Manning, the noted American historian and diplomat, and throws an interesting light on the relations of Great Britain and the United States in the period immediately after the American Revolution.

In the reign of George II., while the American states were still British colonies, the King had given to his loyal people of South Carolina, for their defense, a number of 24-pounders taken from the French ship Foudroyant. In the war of the Revolution, the British had captured these guns and taken them to Halifax. The Americans, in their revolt, had had the assistance of the French, but when the Revolution was over, trouble blew up between the Americans and their allies, and in 1798, Timothy Pickering, President John Adams' secretary of state, wrote both Halifax and London to know whether the British would sell, lend or give back to South Carolina, for the defense of Charleston, the "parcel of iron 24-pounders."

Both Halifax and London intimated without delay that the guns would be loaned "on the condition of their being returned into the King's stores at Halifax, whenever the occasions of public service may induce the British Government to make a requisition to that effect."

An American ship called at Halifax for the guns and with them went 1800 shot. An agreement was drawn up and duly signed promising that the guns and shot would be returned when asked for, but the British minister at Washington told Mr. Pickering he hoped and trusted the guns "will never be redemanded." Nor were they. Promptly on its arrival in London, the American undertaking was sent back to the United States, thus terminating, in the words of the British minister, "a transaction which, while it discovers on the part of my Sovereign a perfect confidence in the sentiments of the American Government, can not but tend to consolidate the connection so happily subsisting between the two countries."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Prince Edward Island Legislature opens today.

* * * *

Give today's collectors not only a glad hand but a full one.

* * * *

"It's money makes the mare to go," and likewise the war charities. After yesterday's prayers, today's thank offerings.

* * * *

If all go well, and no controversial legislation is introduced the present session of the Legislature should conclude by Easter.

* * * *

According to income tax returns filed in 1940 there are 483 persons in Canada with incomes of $50,000 or more. Persons receiving from $10,000 to $25,000 totaled 9,901, while 1,433 persons received between $25,000 and $50,000.

* * * *

To prevent any "leakage" of man power across the border a new provision in the Resources Mobilization Act this year forbids any man to leave Canada for any reason after his age class has been called up without written authority from the chairman of the board under whose jurisdiction he comes.

* * * *

The presence of twenty-four British officials in Vancouver, engaged in censorship work of a special kind, was the subject of a question raised in the House of Commons. Postmaster General W. P. Mulock replied that the twenty-four men and women had come to do "highly specialized censorship work" and that he had consented at the request of the Director of Imperial Censorship, who had given him 'certain information of a confidential nature."

* * * *

Elizabeth, Queen of England and Ireland, died this date 1603; daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn; was imprisoned for two months in 1554 in London Tower for suspected complicity in Wyat's rebellion; early in her reign she aided the Scottish reformers, and refused the hand of Philip of Spain; her antagonism to Mary Queen of Scots is usually ascribed to jealousy, but it should be remembered that till her death in 1587 Mary was the centre of plots aimed at Elizabeth's life and throne. Her reign is marked by the rise of the English naval power, the defeat of the Armada, and the most extraordinary outburst of intellectual energy in English history.

* * * *

Here is justification for "cut the corner" Islanders abroad. Pedestrians have a right to cross a street at a place other than an intersection, and in doing so are not committing an act which, per se, in itself is in law negligence or a negligent act, pointed out Chief Justice R. A. E. Greenshields in a judgment handed down in the Montreal Superior Court in which His Lordship confirmed an award of a jury for $11,404 damages in favor of Wilfrid Cox against Saul Goldberg and Philip Goldberg, jointly and severally. He dismissed a motion to reject the award or order a new trial.

* * * *

Herr Hermann Goering, like the late Mr. Henry Fielding (1707-1754), claims to be a Plantagenet —name of the family that reigned in England from 1154 till 1485. Fielding, the author of the immortal "Tom Jones," claimed descent from the Denbighs, a left-handed branch of the Plantagenets, but Goering direct descent from Henry II (1154-1188), who instigated the murder of Thomas a Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170, and Henry the Lion Duke of Baravia and Saxony in the same century. It is a matter of authentic history that the legitimate male issue of the family became extinct with the death of Count Geoffrey Plantageant, in 1499, so the Goering escutcheon, like that of Fielding, should show the bar sinister. But whether it does or not a London columnist writes: "General Goering underrates his pedigree. He is clearly a descendant of the Neanderthal Man, and brings his manners and his morals with him."

* * * *

It is with the utmost satisfaction we note that distinguished Maritimer, Mr. D. Leo Dolan, Director of the Federal Government's Travel and Tourist Bureau, has entered a vigorous protest against "Americanizing stunts" being adopted to please visitors from across the borders. At a recent meeting he reminded his hearers that United States visitors did not come to Canada because of 'our mountains, lakes and streams." They had attractive mountains, lakes and streams of their own. They came because Canada had the charm of being different—"because it is foreign, it is Canadian, it is British." If we must fly flags, people associated with the tourist industry do not need to be told what flag to fly during the present march of the world events," Mr. Dolan said. "We have letters from United States tourists at Ottawa saying they did not think Canadians were paying any tribute to 'Old Glory' by using it for cheap commercial purposes. Citizens of the United States perhaps have been taught to honor their flag more than we do our own. Another letter speaks of seeing more Stars and Stripes in a few minutes drive from Windsor, (Ontario), than the writer had seen all across the State of Michigan." Mr. Dolan pleaded for a distinctly Canadian flavor, even on hotel menus in Canada. The phrases "Omaha potatoes, Cape Cod oysters, or Oregon apples," which he had seen on Canadian menus were not designed to appeal to United States visitors.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Il Duce, says a Rome report, congratulated Hitler on the eighth anniversary of his rise to power. It is not on record that Hitler congratulated Mussolini on anything. — Hamilton Spectator.

Rep. Maas, a Minnesota Republican suggested in Congress that the U.S. buy all British territory in this hemisphere, "with the exception of Canada and the province of Nova Scotia." You can hardly blame Mr Maas for getting confused on the present status of Confederation, if he read the headline at the time of the recent Sirois ruckus. — Ottawa Citizen.

It is not unnatural that Sir Archibald Wavell, the "Desert Fox," should have made such a success of the British operations in North Africa. He is the third general in his family in as many generations and he was a pupil of Allenby in the Great War. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

We feel sorry for Italy, but we are not sorry for Mussolini. The man is deserving of no respect. The man was once a bum in Switzerland just as Hitler was once a bum in Vienna, and though birds of a feather stick together, this is not true of bums, one of whose main characteristics is to outwit each other if they can. Hitler outwitted Mussolini — that is all.—San Francisco Argonauts.

The British West Indies Colonies as a whole offer today an opportunity for Canadian export enterprise such as has never presented itself before. With the possible exception of Jamaica where the exchange situation seems to require a closer conservancy, the demand for Canadian goods is wide and varied and includes almost everything (excepting luxuries) from smallwares to all kinds of food products and the larger items such as machinery and metal manufactures. In Trinidad the cry of traders is for contacts with Canadian manufacturers interested enough in export trade to explore, at least the possibilities of the market. The writer of these notes on a recent tour of these colonies was besieged, literally, by merchants with long lists of products for which they wished to find Canadian sources of supply. It was fully realized that many of the large manufacturers already well established in export are heavily burdened with war orders but it was difficult to understand why the smaller manufacturers failed to grasp the opportunity now afforded them of developing an export market. Some West Indian firms of high standing stated they had written hundreds of letters to manufacturers inviting quotations and had received scarcely one percent. of replies. — Canadian-West Indies Magazine.

The idea of improving so-called Summer-time by moving the clock on two hours instead of one is being seriously considered in Whitehall, not least by Mr. Bevin's department. The arguments in favor are pretty obvious. Either offices and shops could work an hour later than they do at present, or their employes would have an hour longer to get home in before the blitz; probably the hour might be split between the two desiderata—half an hour to each. There would be some economy in gas and electricity, for after a certain date less would be required in the later mornings than would be saved in the later evenings. It would undeniably be hard on farmers and other early workers who have been looking forward with intelligible relief to the prospect of beginning in daylight. But the balance seems in favor of the extra hour. — London Spectator.

Do not go about saying "Isn't the news marvellous?" A too facile optimism is fatuous. The news is good; even "excellent," if you will. It is not yet "marvellous." Another six months may make it so. But it will require a supreme effort of planned preparedness, from factory to battle-front — from every factory, British and American to every battle-front actual and potential. If, as many competent observers believe, the great Battle for Freedom is to be decided in and around the Mediterranean, then the issue has at last been joined and the fight is "on". Our whole future, and that of our children and our children's children, may well rest on the result. — Johannesburg Times.

Several months ago a manufacturer we know placed a bid or proposal of some sort before the War Department, which has to date made no response. Last week he went down to Washington to see if he could get some action. His complaint was investigated by a spidery civilian clerk, who shuffled through filing cards, prowled in and out of various offices, and finally advised our friend to go home and wait in patience. "You see," he said, "everything takes so much longer now, on account of the emergency". —The New Yorker.

There's a new pencil-and-paper game, called Rembrandt, and it should become widely popular because it is utterly inconclusive and almost certain to lead to ill feeling Here are the rules, such as they are: One man chooses, from whatever books or magazines are available, a picture that the others have not seen—a landscape or street scene for preference, the simpler the better. Then he describes it to the others, and they try to draw it. It's not a competitive game, so the man with the picture gives all the help he can, except that he's limited to words. The others can ask questions all they like. The fun, if you can call it that, comes from comparing the finished drawings with the original picture. The game was invented, they say, by a psychologist who wanted to drive home the point that although people talk a lot they seldom say what they mean. — New Yorker.

John Gunther has pointed out that only ten percent of Italy's 42,000,000 are engaged in industries; that twenty-one percent of the population is illiterate; that the country lacks raw materials, and has no rubber, tin, nickel, tungsten, mica, or chromium; that it is dependent on imports from abroad for ninety-nine percent of its cotton, eighty percent of its wool, ninety-five percent of its coal, ninety-nine percent of its mineral oil, eighty percent of its iron and steel, ninety-nine percent of its copper, fifteen percent of its meat, and twenty percent of its grains. Of these huge imports more than eighty percent come from countries beyond the Mediterranean. And the Mediterranean is now the only sea open to Italian shipping — at its own risk. It would seem, therefore, that Italy has been, and could have continued to be, of far more use to Hitler as a nonbelligerent ally than as a fighting ally. If this is so, Hitler will not be pleased with Mussolini's thirst for glory on the battlefield. — Johannesburg Times.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"Canada needs us all—every man, woman and child to strengthen her, to stand faithfully by her, to make all necessary sacrifices gladly, to lift up our hands and hearts in prayer for her until the hour of trial has passed and her hour of glorious triumph shall arise." —From a Pastoral Letter read in all Catholic churches of Ontario.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

NEGLECTED SIDEWALKS

Sir,— Regarding the removal of snow and ice from City sidewalks I would like to point out that there are many walks which have not been attended to all winter and the snow and ice have accumulated to the extent that they are now dangerous and at times almost impassible, especially after sundown. We citizens expect the city officials to enforce their by laws. By laws regarding the removal of snow and ice should be enforced on everybody and not on a few. Certain sewerage and drainage gratings are opened in such a way that pedestrians are exposed to danger when walking over those crossings. We are paying foremen and assistant engineers. Why don't they protect the travelling citizens. In some parts of the town they receive better attention. Our beautiful squares through which children pass going to school, are at times in a deplorable condition.

Let our officials wake up and see that all sidewalks are kept clean.

I am, Sir, etc.

CITIZEN

KING'S COUNTY JUDGESHIP

Sir,—I was very much surprised when I read the letters in your issue of March 15th intimating that a plot was being hatched to take away the resident judgeship from King's County and appoint a fourth Supreme Court Judge at an additional cost to the country. If such a move is being planned is it not time for the people of Kings to protest?

Prince and Queen's County have their air ports but King's has been over-looked. We ask the members from Queen's and Prince to stand by us in our struggle for our very existence.

I wonder what the Patriot will say on this question? Is not the editor a native of King's County, and did he not seek nomination for the Georgetown District? Surely he will wield his powerful pen on behalf of his native county.

I quite agree with your correspondent when he states that Mr. MacPhee and Mr. MacLean will fight in order to have King's County get a square deal, and that they will have the able support of Dr. MacMillan and his worthy colleague Mr. W. A. Stewart from Charlottetown to help to repel any attempt by the "powers-that-be", to take away from King's County her constitutional rights is a foregone conclusion."

I am Sir, etc.
FAIR PLAY.

COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

Sir:—The letter in your issue of the 21st signed by Capt. Read is in much milder form than many would expect, and goes to show that the Captain is quite well aware that the resolution calling on the government to provide a cold storage plant at Borden was not sound.

If additional cold storage facilities are needed, why not enlarge the existing plants, and thus make it possible to assemble carload lots, drawing from each plant as conditions made it desirable; also making it possible to deliver direct from cold storage to such ships as sail from Charlottetown carrying our products. It may be too much to expect Capt. Read to think in terms other than ferrage from Borden, but he should realize that Charlottetown is still on the map, although not as important as it should be.

We should also try to remember that the present storage facilities were provided not with government funds, but by enterprising men to whom this Province owes a lot, and whose investment would be endangered should the resolution be carried into effect. And apparently the resolution has just such an aim in mind, and such a spirit does not encourage development along any line. If there is a shortage of cold storage facilities, then ask for more; but why should the government go into the business in competition with those whose efforts in the past have been to develop our Island production?

One cannot help smiling at the list of names of speakers at any farmers convention. If we would drop out of the list those holding a government job or living on a pension after having given some years' service, and those who are looking for an opening to get a job that will permit them to carry on without doing much in the way of actual work, there would not be many names left. Now I would suggest that the farmers occasionally have a meeting of their own, and do their own talking. I am quite sure a lot of them are already doing some thinking.

I would suggest putting into actual productive work some of the host of so called experts and government officials who do all the talking, and see just what success they make on the land. We would then be better able to judge as to whom we should listen when future conventions are held. My guess is that most of them would starve during the try-out unless relief measures were continued.

I am, Sir, etc.,
PRODUCER

LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Sir,—In the Public Forum, Saturday's Guardian, appears a letter over the signature of Ernest Houston, Hunter River, in which he undertakes, as a matter of "conscience," to give an explanation in regard to the present status of the Livestock Marketing Board, and its possible course of development in the future.

The entire article is only a recapitulation of what Mr. Houston handed out at several farmers' meetings held recently in Charlottetown; and on each occasion his representations and suggestions were turned down almost unanimously.

There are four outstanding features in Mr. Houston's somewhat lengthy letter. First, his presumption in assuming sole responsibility for giving the "stupid public" an "explanation" of presumed defects in our livestock marketing practices of the past few years. Second, the facility with which he repeats, through the press, incorrect statements and misrepresentation of fact upon which he was so roundly exposed, at public meetings of farmers Thirdly, his deep-seated love? and affection? for the present manager of the Livestock Marketing Board, and concern for his future welfare; and lastly the clumsy attempt to influence and sway the expected action of the Provincial Legislature in dealing with the "Sheep and Swine Marketing Plan," on the eve of its assembly.

I do not propose to deal with these special features of Mr. Houston's letter, except comment briefly upon the last. The fate of the "Sheep and Swine Marketing Plan" is now in the hands of the government of this province. The provisional directors, acting on instructions issued by delegates attending an annual meeting of one of the leading marketing organizations of the province, and representing in scope approximately six thousand producers, have completed a creditable job. The manager of the present Livestock Marketing Board gave every possible assistance, as was expected of him, in steering its course from its origin to its present status. We received wonderful support from other organizations and individuals, without which the progress made would have been impossible. We have the overwhelming support of outstanding farmers attending responsible organized meetings and finally, we have a clear conscience that nothing other than the welfare of the livestock producers of this province, motivated our every action throughout the entire struggle. Now, we have finished, and we leave the matter with confidence in the hands of the government, believing they will dispose of the matter conscientiously and for the best.

I am, sir, etc.,
J. A. GILLIES.

United States And The War

Excerpts from an address delivered by Hon. Frank Knox, U. S. Secretary of the Navy, at the United States Conference of Mayors held recently in St. Louis.

The President, in what I conceive to be one of the most courageous and statesman-like proposals in American history, has suggested that we eliminate from our discussion with the British, the dollar sign, and proceed to lend them, subject to future adjustment, the vital things they need to carry on the war to victorious conclusion. At a time when the very fate of our kind of a world hangs in the balance we must not let this British lack of dollar exchange halt the flow of material to Britain, so vital to her defense—which is also our defense. We cannot afford to stop now and help in material things, but also dicker and trade. We must help—help in spiritual things. The magnificient fighting spirit of the British, amazing to her friends and devastating to her adversaries, must be maintained. There must be no thought that while they fight with their lives a battle so vital to us, we are thinking in terms of dollars and cents. We can well afford, indeed, our own self-respect permits no other course, to let the future relations between the United States and Great Britain wait for a time when the war has been won and the danger of dictatorship of the world has been destroyed. Our own defense in a world where force is supreme is dependent upon our speed in production of those things essential to defense. Expanding our production to help the British, directly helps us to achieve that speed in production which is our only hope of safety if Hitler wins in Europe.

I am aware that the picture I present to you is grim. It deals with unpleasant facts, but they are facts that must be faced. To refuse to face them is to emulate the ostrich and bury our heads in the sand. For men charged with public responsibility to tell less than the truth, as they see it is to be guilty of cowardly faithlessness to one's trust.

I want peace as much as any American could want peace for his country. I hate war because I know from personal experience as a soldier in the last two wars, what war is, but there are some things I hate worse than war and one of them is surrender of everything that makes life worth living—a cowardly betrayal of the heritage of freedom bequeathed to us by men who loved freedom more than they loved life I would far rather die fighting Hitler than live under his rule.

Almost literally, American stands at the crossroads. Whether we like it or not, the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty has become our responsibility. We can discharge this responsibility right now by an all-out program for production of supplies and munitions for the use of those who are actually fighting the battles for human liberty in Europe and, Asia, and for our own defense. Or, we can shilly-shally and talk and debate and conjure up idle fears that have no basis in fact, until those who are fighting are overwhelmed and then we must take up the burden and fight ourselves, lest the sacred fires of liberty entrusted to our care shall go out. Or, we can adopt still a third choice and fail to help now and refuse to fight later, and then, spend everything we have now and that we can produce to build a wall around the United States and live within that wall, armed to the teeth, completely surrounded by totalitarian powers intent upon our final subjugation.

These are the three roads, and the only three roads, that converge at the point where we stand today In such an hour, if we are worthy of what we have if we are wise as the trustees of the institutions we have inherited, and finally, if we are merely shrewd and give way only to selfish considerations, we will implement, without delay. President Roosevelt's inaugural declaration: "In the face of great perils never before encountered, our strong purpose is to protect and to perpetuate the integrity of Democracy. We do not retreat. We are not content to stand still. As Americans we go forward, in the service of our country by the will of God."

How Nazis Starve France

(New York Post)

Here in a nutshell, is the answer to Herbert Hoover's plea that the United States undertake the feeding of Nazi-conquered areas of Europe:

In France one of the hungriest countries, Hitler's troops have occupied those two-thirds of the land area which produce the greatest food supplies. Included in this region are, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, "the most important agricultural sections of the country." France's chief wheat era is French Flanders, occupied. Its chief rye area is Brittanny, occupied. Its chief oats area is in the Parisian region occupied. Its chief vegetable areas are near Paris, occupied.

The unoccupied zone is, again according to the Department of Agriculture, "in many respects a deficit producer and at the same time burdened with millions of refugees from the occupied areas.

Furthermore, the feeding problem in the unoccupied zone is "complicated" says the Department, by "restrictions" placed by the German High Command on trade between the occupied and unoccupied parts of France." Thus the northern regions, which normally produce food surpluses for sale to the south, are prevented from making their normal shipments.

Now we may understand the implications of a German requisition, this week, of 1,200,000 pounds of poultry from the unoccupied area of France. The Nazis have not only taken the surplus-producing portion of the country but in addition they have deliberately deepened the normal food deficits of the free zone.

How, on the basis of this systematic Nazis stravation of a nation normally self-sufficient, can Mr. Hoover profess to accept German promises that there will be no food levies on areas fed with American help?

How can the Hoover plan be anything, in operation but a loophole through the British blockade, making it easier for the Germans to skim the cream of every country in their grip?

The German record is the most devasting rebuttal to Mr. Hoover's plan. But for the presence of the Nazis, France could feed herself—and Belgium too.

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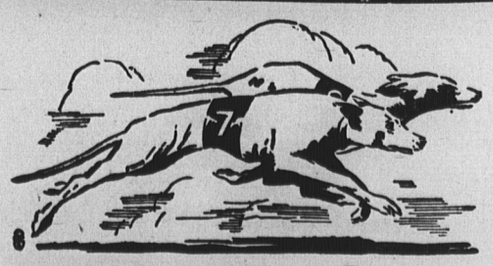

GOING TO THE DOGS

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