

LABOR BOARD HEAD WARNS RAILROADERS

Strike Would Mean Disaster, Says Mr. Hooper.

UNION ACTION REGRETTED

Vote on Walkout at Time When Conditions Are Mending Is Held Ill Advised.

CHICAGO, June 20.—(By the Associated Press)—Disaster for the striking railway union and unfortunate results for their membership was predicted to follow the threatened walkout, on which a strike vote is now being taken by nine railroad organizations, in a letter from Ben W. Hooper, chairman of the railroad labor board, to the union leaders today.

Answering a letter from the union chiefs to the board, which declared the executives would authorize a strike if the employees demanded it, Chairman Hooper made categorical reply to the "direct assault" on the board, for which, he declared, there was no ground.

"With the degree of friendly interest that I feel in these organizations and with the recognition I accord to their great service to the country, I am hopeful that they will not adopt a course that would surely prove disastrous to the organizations and unfortunate to the men composing them," wrote Mr. Hooper.

Step Held Regrettable. "It is regrettable that such a step is contemplated at a time when the country is just entering upon an era of more stable industrial conditions that give promise of an enlarged degree of prosperity to railway employees."

Although Chairman Hooper said in his letter, which was addressed to B. M. Jewell, president of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, that he felt no reply was required to the union's charges, he expressed a willingness to go beyond the strict limits of his official authority in the interest of railway peace. He said he felt it his duty to reply because the threatened strike "contains such possibilities of loss and detriment to the striking railway employees that the board's decision should not be taken on any misunderstanding of the action or attitude of the board, but declared the union had manifested "a strikingly distorted conception of what the board has done and why it did it."

Board's Acts Misconstrued. "Your statement that the board's last decision is based on the pressure of circumstances was such that the board was unable to determine just and reasonable wages is not correct. The board's decision contains no such statement and none that can be fairly so construed.

"Your statement that this board says that the establishment of just wages for railway workers must await the complete satisfaction of the employer in the matter of rehabilitation and profits is an unnecessary perversion of both the language and meaning of what the board in fact said. A strike of railway employees, involving their wages, their employment and their welfare, based upon such misleading statements of the board's attitude and intentions, would be unjust to the men and to the public."

Economic Law Rules. "The statement in the board's decision that labor cannot be completely freed from economic laws which likewise affect the owners of capital," is so obviously sound that it will not be questioned anywhere this side of the kingdom for the foreseeable future. The board mentioned this as an occasion for offense.

"Your statement that the board failed to take into consideration the principle that even the lowest paid railway employees, such as section men and laborers, should receive at least a living wage," is entirely baseless."

Mr. Hooper then attacked the "continual isolation and accentuation" of the minimum 25-cent rate for common labor, which he declared was made misleading by the union men. He pointed out that section men receive a rate of from 25 to 35 cents an hour, the majority considerably higher than the minimum, as shown by the average rate of 22.7 cents as compiled by the board.

Pre-War Wages Exceeded. The 25-cent rate, he said, was found on few roads, mostly in the south, where the cost of living is unusually low and where the men are furnished free living quarters. He pointed out that this low paid class of common labor in 1915 received but 15 cents an hour and in 1917 19.2 cents, increases of 113 and 64.4 per cent, respectively. The average pay of the section hands, the chairman added, will, under the July 1 reduction, still be 119.7 higher than in 1915.

"Surely the leaders of these railway labor organizations cannot expect to win the approval of the people of the United States by a rigid, unyielding resistance to the inevitable process of readjustment which has been in progress for the past year," the letter continued. "If the public is satisfied that the railway employees have been even more than fairly dealt with by comparison with

similar labor and in view of the conditions surrounding their work, there will be no doubt that they shall be treated as absolutely immune from the operation of the economic processes through which everybody else must pass."

U. S. OWNERSHIP NOT ISSUE

Reaffirmation of Labor Federation's Stand Withheld.

CINCINNATI, June 20.—(By the Associated Press)—Government ownership and operation of the railroads will not be an issue in the threatened strike of 1,000,000 shop workers and the spokesmen for the rail unions today (old the American Federation of Labor convention, which responded to their request by withholding a reaffirmation of the federation's stand in favor of the adoption of such a policy.

"The rail unions have not abandoned the programme of public ownership or grown lukewarm or indifferent," declared William D. Johnston, president of the machinists' union, in explaining the request. "We ask a declaration, however, because we have a most unfriendly and unsympathetic administration at this time, and our enemies work every way to bring us in the near future that the fight was for government ownership. I believe the strike is inevitable, for we want the issue clear-cut. The issue is the amelioration of the wrongs committed by the railroad labor board."

Similar pleas by others, who are the prospective leaders in the threatened walkout, led Max Hayes of Cleveland to withdraw his motion for a re-declaration of the government ownership policy. The motion was injected into the convention's work when it for a second time during the day went on record as favoring repeal of the transportation act, in which connection it denounced the railroad labor board for its orders, especially those reducing wages and changing working conditions.

In addition to its big programme of work, the convention was marked by the beginning of a movement to run Mr. Lewis as a candidate for president of the federation in opposition to Samuel Gompers. Although Mr. Lewis declared he "was in no sense" a candidate, efforts were pushed in his behalf during the day.

PETITION THROWN OUT

REFERENDUM ON LINLTON FRANCHISE DENIED.

Only Small Number of Signatures Are Declared to Be Those of Registered Voters.

The referendum petition filed in an effort to prevent the granting of a franchise by the city council to the Linlton Transit company is not valid, because of lack of signatures, according to an opinion given out yesterday by Auditor Grant to City Auditor Funk.

The petition, filed with Auditor Funk several weeks ago, contained 217 signatures, but only 932 of the signatures were those of registered voters residing within the city limits.

Mr. Grant called attention in his opinion to a charter provision which requires 2000 registered voters on a petition to obtain a referendum upon a franchise ordinance and to an ordinance which requires such a number of legal voters equal to 15 per cent of the total votes cast at the last city election.

Therefore, Mr. Grant held that the petition failed to comply with the ordinance requirements.

The franchise, which has been granted by the council, calls for the operation of jitney buses in competition. As a result of the ruling, the franchise granted is now in effect.

BARS UP FOR REPORTERS

Public Service Commissioners Decide Not to Talk.

SALEM, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—The public service commissioners passed under the bridges since the new public service commission of Oregon was organized here, there has been a meeting today in the offices of the public utility commissioners and there put questions of varying degrees of importance before them. The meeting was held in the offices of the public utility commissioners and there put questions of varying degrees of importance before them. The meeting was held in the offices of the public utility commissioners and there put questions of varying degrees of importance before them.

FREIGHT RATES REDUCED

Cherries and Berries Covered by Sweeping Rail Cut.

THE DALLES, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—Reduced freight rates on cherries, strawberries, loganberries and raspberries, between The Dalles and Hood River, and Yakima, Wash., were announced here today. The new rate is 30 cents, with a minimum of 20,000 pounds. A new rate of 42 1/2 cents a hundred on cherries, from Lewiston, Idaho, to Yakima, also was announced.

These rates are the result of efforts of R. B. Wilcox, district superintendent for Oregon and Washington of the Libby, McNeill & Libby company, it was stated. The Libby company now plans to buy fruit in Hood River valley and ship it to its Yakima plant for canning.

The local cannery of the company will handle all Wasco county fruit it gets, however, and it is not believed that there will be any shipments to Yakima from here, Mr. Wilcox said.

Man Found Half-Dazed. (KLAMATH FALLS, Or., June 20.—) A man believed from papers in his possession to be John Neira of Emeryville, Cal., was found by the police wandering about in a half-dazed condition on a street here last night. He said he remembered being in Sacramento recently but did not know how he came here. He did not remember if he had a wife or family. A notebook contained the name of Mrs. John Neira with an Emeryville address. An old scar on his head indicated that he had been injured at some time.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

COPY OF DIVORCE GIVEN MCCORMICK

Rumors of Coming Marriage Are Revived.

PATIENT IS RECOVERING

Glandular Operation Completed. Interview With Millionaire Gained in Hospital.

CHICAGO, June 20.—Harold F. McCormick head of the executive committee of the international Harvester company, today received an exemplified copy of the decree of divorce obtained last January by his wife, Mrs. Edith Rockefeller McCormick, daughter of John D. Rockefeller. With the decree was an exemplified copy of the record in the case.

The records were delivered while Mr. McCormick was at the Wesley Memorial hospital recovering from an operation performed a week ago by Dr. Victor D. Lespinasse, widely known for his research work in the field of rejuvenation accomplished through glandular operations.

Considerable mystery was thrown about the procuring of the records, it being pointed out by the court that the certified copy might be used in other states or in Europe as documentary evidence of the divorce, should it become necessary to produce such evidence, as in procuring a marriage license.

Marriage Rumors Revived. This revived rumors that Mr. McCormick, who is 51 years old, might be married soon to Mme. Ganna Walska, but his attorney, John W. Wilson, denied that this was the reason for procuring the records.

At the Wesley hospital Mr. McCormick, sitting up in bed, received the certified copy of the divorce and talked freely on any subject except his operation and the future plans for himself or his 17-year-old daughter, Mathilde, who had announced her intention of marrying Max Oser, Swiss riding master and 27 1/2 years her senior.

And what's the latest from Madame? A wave of the invalid's hand stopped the reporter. "Oh, now, quit that," he urged. "That's unfair."

Mathilde Ends Interview. The arrival of Mathilde, accompanied by Edwin H. Cassels, attorney for Mr. McCormick, recently when Mrs. McCormick sought to place a legal obstacle before the marriage of Mathilde and Oser when Mr. McCormick was appointed her father's guardian, brought the interview to a close.

Mr. McCormick has been reported as favoring his daughter's marriage to the Swiss, but his appointment as guardian was seen as an effort to clear away legal obstacles to the match, the Swiss law requiring the consent of both parents to a marriage or that of a legal guardian. Mrs. McCormick from the first has indicated her unalterable opposition to the wedding, both on the ground of the disparity in age and also because of the fact that Oser was a comparatively poor man.

Yesterday McCormick's daughter, Mathilde, was taken to the hospital, alighting at an alley entrance to the hospital boiler room and slipping thence into her father's car, which was driven by a chauffeur sped from the alley and circled the hospital. As he passed the entrance he paused as if expecting a signal, then kept on his way, leaving the building. Several other expensive cars, whose owners were not identified, joined the round-the-hospital procession. Looking dejected, observers guessed the McCormick party was anguished for hasty flight.

The operating surgeon, Dr. Victor Lespinasse, a pioneer of international fame in gland transplanting, at noon yesterday issued a bulletin on Mr. McCormick's health. Like the surgeon's only other statement, issued Saturday, the bulletin made no reference to the nature of the operation. It read: "Harold F. McCormick is in excellent spirits this morning and his surgical condition is all that can be desired."

Unnamed Subject Tested. Already the second party to the giving and taking of human processes has been named. His name, of all the secrets in the closely guarded transaction, is the least likely to be known. He is understood to have been one of several roving men picked up on the street, with the intention that their identifications be obscure, and given blood tests.

The unnamed subject, tests showing that his system met the requirements of Mr. McCormick, submitted to this operation. He was not told the name any of the circumstances of the man he was aiding. It is understood he received \$500.

The removed gland was taken to the hospital from a physician's office, where, it is understood, that the transplanting was only a matter of minutes, and delivered to Dr. Lespinasse. It is understood that the preservation of the gland's vitality is comparatively simple, requiring only the temperature of an ice box.

Isolation Is Complete. Mr. McCormick, who is a trustee of the hospital, then entered his specially prepared ward on an upper floor. Several days before he had given orders for partitioning off a space to afford complete isolation from visitors, and even from a hospital attaches outside a small group required for duty.

So desirous was Mr. McCormick of complete secrecy that he is reported to have offered Dr. Lespinasse \$50,000 if none beside the pre-arranged attendants learned of the operation.

All who had knowledge were warned that summary dismissal would be the penalty for talking of it. Precautions were ordered that might have been more than enough to guard any other prominent persons. Mr. McCormick, though, has become so important a news figure through the romance of his younger daughter, Miss Mathilde, and the fact that she is being married to the Polish prima donna, Mme. Ganna Walska, that his presence in a hospital stimulated irresistible curiosity.

Operation Kept Secret. So for five days the millionaire succeeded in secluding himself from the public. He entered the hospital a week ago yesterday and that night Dr. Lespinasse and two trusted internes started the operation. Saturday it was learned that Mr. McCormick had been under the knife and

immediately afterward the nature of the case became known. The operation, in any event, was regarded with intense interest because Mr. McCormick is the first man of his prominence to undergo it. When he learned that the information had been published he is reported to have been enraged. His feeling was reflected visibly in a square of plain clothes men set today at the hospital entrance. Only his daughter Muriel and Mathilde and his close friend, Howard Colby, were permitted to visit him. It is understood that shortly Mr. McCormick will depart for Europe. Mme. Walska, recently separated from her husband, is now living in Paris.

CLERK, ISSUE MAY WAIT

SCHOOL BOARD MAY NOT TAKE ACTION TONIGHT.

Director Thomas Denies He Will Make Attempt to Displace R. H. Thomas Tonight.

Developments yesterday indicated a possibility that members of the school board who have been opposing retention of R. H. Thomas as school clerk after expiration of his contract at the end of this month may not bring up the matter of selecting a clerk at the board meeting tonight.

George B. Thomas, director, who has been invited to visit Clerk Thomas, denied that he would seek to displace the clerk at tonight's meeting.

This was one interesting development in the fact that the calendar for the session closed without listing the clerkship as a matter to come before the board. The directors are not bound to confine themselves to the calendar programme, but, mindful of the public criticism engendered when a majority of the board might bring forward an unscheduled project of importance, they stuck much closer to calendar listings than heretofore.

There was another development in the evidence of increasing demand that Clerk Thomas be retained. City Commissioner Pier and Council member Lewis, both of whom those who openly declared their support for the clerk, and it was shown that several leading bankers favor him as the man best fitted to head the board's work in its coming building campaign, following success of the bond and tax issues in last Saturday's election.

It was also noted that the formation of plans for new buildings, made possible through the \$3,000,000 bond levy authorized by the electors.

JURY IS HELD IN ERROR

Supreme Court Reverses Decision In R. R. Turner Case.

SALEM, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—The Oregon supreme court today reversed a decree of Circuit Judge Knowles of Walla Walla county, holding that the Walla Walla grand jury exceeded its authority when it considered for the second time, and without an order from the court the case of R. R. Turner, charged with assault with intent to kill. Subsequently Turner was sentenced by Judge Knowles to serve a term in the state penitentiary.

Turner was accused of assault with intent to kill Crawford Hunter. In the case of Lively versus Strauss, and in Adler versus Rosen, the petitions for rehearing were denied by the court. The case of Quarles versus Wickman was dismissed, and the case of the Gray Harbor Motorship company was advanced for argument.

\$225,000 SUIT IS FILED

Federal Action Is to Collect Taxes From Aberdeen Shipbuilders.

ABERDEEN, Wash., June 20.—(Special.)—Federal action to collect more than \$225,000 from officials of the Gray Harbor Motorship corporation, Aberdeen shipbuilders during the world war, was announced today in his present information filed with the federal grand jury. The specific amount, \$225,000.11, is held to be due the internal revenue department in taxes on income from profits of the corporation. The suit will be heard in United States district court in Seattle. The action was started by Burns Poe, collector of internal revenue. It was understood that the interest on the sum due the government is interest accrued from unpaid income taxes during the last period the firm operated in Aberdeen.

SLAYING IS CONFESSED

Laborer at McCloud Declared to Have Admitted Killing.

YREKA, Cal., June 20.—Antonio Delmas, laborer in the employ of the McCloud River Lumber company at McCloud, has confessed, Sheriff Calkins said tonight, the slaying of Frank Daniels, who was killed nine miles from McCloud Saturday. Sheriff Calkins said that Delmas had told him that he and Delmas had quarreled over a dispute about the river bank near the falls. In the fight, Delmas shoved Delmas over a 50-foot cliff, and when he found that Delmas had been killed in the fall, dragged the body to the bank of the river and placed two stones over it, the officer said Delmas told him.

EXPLOSION KILLS MINER

Two Expected to Die as Result of Accident Near Seattle.

SEATTLE, June 20.—One miner was killed and two so badly burned that they probably will die in an explosion 800 feet in the tunnel of the Beacon Hill coal mine at Black River Junction, four miles south of the Seattle city limits, this afternoon.

The dead: Oscar Stiles, 40, Duwamish. The injured: E. M. Van Slyke, superintendent of the mine; Tom Korfus, 38. The explosion is said to have been caused by gas after a powder blast lighting from a miners' lamp.

Fight on Firecrackers Lost. SALEM, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—A. C. Barber, state fire marshal, has failed for the second time in his effort to prohibit the sale and use of firecrackers in Oregon. Saturday the city council considered a communication from Mr. Barber in which he urged legislation which would prohibit the sale and use of firecrackers in Oregon. A motion to insert in the ordinance committee to bring in the requested ordinance died a quiet death.

BRITAIN HAS PLAN TO APPEASE RUSSIA

Land "Possessive Rights" Would Be Permanent.

NATIONS GIVE SUPPORT

France, However, Begins Battle on Economic Formulas Upon Arrival at The Hague.

THE HAGUE, June 20.—(Special Cable.)—Without waiting for the Russians to arrive the French today began a battle over economic formulas. They opened fire on the sub-committee with a secret memorandum of their demands on Russia and their non-plussed conferees held a meeting this afternoon to endeavor to keep the irascible French quiet at least until the Russians get here.

It is a battle over the historic issue of private property—a heated controversy between the capitalist nations and communist Russia. The French insist that the Russians recognize the principle of private property. The Russians refused to do so at Genoa, and the British, knowing they will refuse to do so here, insist that no such principle is involved. But the French, several of their experts told me, feel secure in their position because it is that maintained in Secretary Hughes' notes and the French take comfort even in the distant support of America.

British Work Out Scheme. As at Genoa, the real business of the conference is conducted out of conference hours. In form, the meetings are only preliminary to lay down methods of approaching the Russians. What actually happened is this—all the nations represent the British and French to submit confidential memoranda of their position toward Russia. The British have worked out a scheme whereby the Russians need not recognize the principle of private property. Instead they will give "possessive rights." This means Russia still will have the property, but the user holds it for life, can sell it and derive profits from it. Even hereditary rights are safeguarded under the British plan, which maintains that the British in Russia are really under the jurisdiction of their home laws.

Italians Support Plan. This plan is supported by the Italians, who are anxious for a quick settlement. They are the Japanese and the Dutch. Even the Belgians are inclined to listen sympathetically. As the author of the plan told me: "We have got to let the Russians save their faces so far as communist principles are concerned. They can keep their property and we will enjoy the same privileges as elsewhere under the British plan. The point is foreigners are going to Russia to make money, not for sentiment. They want to make sure of their profits. It will be done this way and the Russian delegation need not surrender their theories on paper."

But the French say in their memorandum that the situation is unchanged since Genoa. Russia will have to abandon communism before the French consent to talk business. From the strategic position as a reluctant guest at liberty to depart at any moment, the French quibbled over every act of the conference, including the sending of a formal telegram to the Russians, notifying them that the commission and the three sub-commissions were working.

Japanese Back British. The Japanese, who had been keeping in the back ground, made it plain today that they are supporting the British. Mr. Sato, the head of the delegation, told me he had decided to change his attitude toward France because Japan is anxious for peace with Russia. He indicated that Japan would make her own peace with Russia on Siberia questions. America's role—in the surface non-existent—is being discussed. Some experts declare an American consular attaché in Berlin is now here and will report the state department what is going on, but there is no confirmation of this.

Myneer Patyin, the Dutch plenipotentiary, will probably be elected president of the general commission tomorrow. The British are angling to have the French mature and reduced the commission so as to keep them too busy to maintain their pose of a cynical, exacting observer.

The British themselves will probably head the debt commission. Foreign Minister Van Karnebeek, retiring in the background as honorary president because he is a diplomat instead of an economist, gave a tea to newspaper men this afternoon. He arrived half an hour late, however, stayed only a few minutes and refused to answer pertinent questions.

STREET CAR FARES RISE

Eugene Pays 6 Cents and Tariff to Springfield Is 12 Cents.

EUGENE, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—The 6-cent fare schedule on the Southern Pacific company's street railway lines in Eugene went into effect today. The fare between Eugene and Springfield at the same time was advanced from 10 cents to 12 cents. The company several weeks ago gave notice of its contemplated advance in fares and as there was no protest on the part of the city council or individuals the public service commission allowed the company to carry out its plan. Several months ago an effort was made by the company to advance the fare in Eugene to 8 cents and between Eugene and Springfield to 16 cents, but as there were protests from both Eugene and Springfield the public service commission allowed the company's application.

BERRY SEASON NEAR END

More Than 10,000 Crates Marketed at Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, Wash., June 20.—(Special.)—The peak of the strawberry season has passed and this week-end will see the last of the crop on a large scale. The Washington Growers' association again handled the crop this year with profit to the owners. More than 10,000 crates have been sold. The local trade took only a fraction of the crop, the Oregon Packing company took a large part and many more crates were shipped to the bigger cities. It was a bad year for berries though. The late spring kept the blossoming time back, and just as the young berries had started to ripening naturally a three days' east wind, very hot and strong, forced the berries to ripen before they were mature and reduced the crop and stunted the later berries.



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PUSSYFOOT IS ANGERED

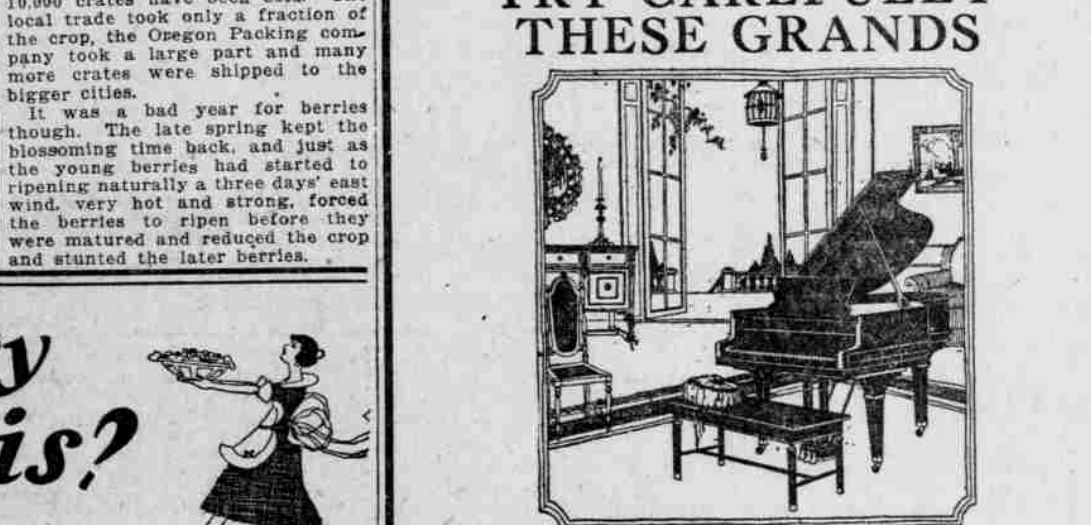
American Vessels Called "Bootleg Scows."

Foe of Liquor Refuses to Sail on Other Than British Craft and Says So, Too. NEW YORK, June 20.—(Special.)—The shipping board suffered another stinging reverse today. William E. Johnson, a resident of Smithville, Fla., Chenango county, N. Y., but an extensive traveler nevertheless, announced that he was going to Europe Thursday and that he most decidedly would not sail on an American vessel.

Mr. Johnson is perhaps best known from here to Shanghai as "Pussyfoot," the uncompromising foe to booze. "No, sir," said Mr. Johnson to a reporter who cornered him in the McAlpin hotel, "I would not even consider sailing on one of those bootleg scows."

"There'll be a flock of liquor on that British boat," suggested the reporter. "That's right," countered the foe of liquor with a hearty chuckle suggestive of other days, "but that boat's honest about it. It isn't violating any British law. It's living up to its traditions. But these American boats—well—it's like this: If I were a drinking man I'd certainly patronize an open saloon and not a speak-easy. Why, in Europe it's constantly thrown up at me that the American vessels are full of liquor and that we're actually advertising the fact in continental newspapers. I can't make any answer to that because it's true. It

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Advertisement for Thomsen's Fluffy Marshmallows, describing the product and its uses.

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