

Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
C. S. JACKSON, Publisher
Published every week day and Sunday morning.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.
Subscription Rates: Daily and Sunday, One week, \$1.00; One month, \$3.00; Three months, \$8.00; Six months, \$15.00; One year, \$28.00.

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NATURE'S NICE BALANCE

WHEREVER civilization enters regions of virgin land it finds a modus vivendi that just about balances accounts between mutually hostile occupants of the soil, a nice adjustment between eater and eaten, between consumer and food, that permits the seed of the one to remain in the earth without smothering the sprout of the other.

Where we find two caterpillars pasturing on the same leaf we find a natural law that eliminates one of the feeders, if by chance one leaf is a meal for but one caterpillar. Where two wolf pups persistently growl over the same bone, presently there is but one wolf pup and he the fittest to survive.

In the Dakotas, coyote and jack-rabbit kept the scale in nice equilibrium through long ages till the sheep men came. Then the dead lambs called forth a scalp bounty from the state, and the coyote faded from the horizon. But subtracting coyotes multiplied jackrabbits and gophers, till in self defence the legislature raised the ban on coyotes and the smaller pest subsided.

In Jamaica for centuries the reptiles and birds had consumed the surplus insect population, and so made the island inhabitable for the aborigines. But the English planters, wishing to be rid of poisonous snakes, imported from Hindustan the mongoose, a kind of pagan weasel. This voracious beast ate not only the poisonous snakes but the beneficial ones also, along with the lizards and all insect eating reptiles.

THE National Parks association, through its secretary, Robert Sterling Yard, has issued a pamphlet attack on the plan to hold Yellowstone lake in Yellowstone National park to its high water level by a dam in the Yellowstone river some three miles below the outlet of the lake.

A bill introduced by Senator Walsh at the present session of congress has been referred to the irrigation and arid lands committee, of which Senator McNary of Oregon is chairman. In brief, it provides that the state of Montana or some irrigation district approved by it may construct the dam and that the water held thereby in storage shall be employed for irrigation and hydro-electric power development.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE sculpture, "The Vaquero," but renamed "The Bucking Broncho" was inspired by Pendleton Round-up experiences, has become the permanent possession of Denver

through the gift of a citizen, J. K. Mullen.
It stands in Denver's civic center, life static in bronze, a heroic figure splendidly exemplifying not alone a lawless life thrillingly tamed by another less governable but a raw West compounded of such wild elements as the sculptor's cunning has molded into imperishable form.

But always the humorous must accompany the heroic. The rugged form may arouse an impious spirit. If so, that is the artist's model was a vaquero known in the Northwest as "Slim." Ernest Pexlotta in Scribner's retells the sculptor's story of "Slim":
I got "Slim" to buy me a couple of ordinary ponies, a couple of bucking bronchos that were full of ginger. These were the best I had ever seen. I selected them. But we had our troubles. "Did Wall Eye" got away and I was left with a horse on the other end. So that, just as soon as I was finished with the sheriff took him. He had been needing him in his business for three months, but he didn't want to spoil my work by taking a my mount. Pretty nice of him, I call it, don't you?

Three people were murdered in New York robberies, a Fifth avenue jewelry store was looted of \$100,000 and \$2000 taken from the safe of a municipal court, all in one day. Add to the New York collection of masterful crooks and murderers the affable young man who empties Portland homes of valuables at will and life in the metropolis would never be a humdrum.

WEALTH UNDERGROUND

UNUSUAL experience awaits Portland in the international mining congress which is to be held in this city the second week of next April. Some 1200 mining men, owners, operators, engineers and even the prospector with his pick and pan, will bring to a focus here the reviving interest of the West in the wealth that lies underground.

Incidentally it may become clear before the session has ended, that there are minerals which will represent larger revenues to the West than the precious metals. Official Idaho, to illustrate, will prepare the first complete exposition of the phosphate rock deposits, which amount to probably five billion tons, and which will be moved through this port, ultimately at a probable rate of 300,000,000 tons a year, and with a revenue value to the port, for handling alone, of 50 cents a ton.

The magnesite of Washington, used in lining the furnaces of the iron and steel industry, the lime of Oregon and Idaho, and the basaltic rock of the nation's highways might be built without exhausting the supply, are other subjects susceptible of statement in terms nearly as expansive.

It will also be of interest and no little significance to learn in particular about the adventures in mining which engross the West. Alaska is ordinarily credited with leadership in mineral production, but where Alaska's annual output of gold and copper, under present conditions, is five or six millions of dollars a year, the silver and lead of the Coeur d'Alenes, almost at our doors, has reached the total of \$20,000,000 a year.

The copper of Montana is normally worth \$12,000,000 a year and the copper, silver, lead and gold of British Columbia are worth at least \$5,000,000 a year.
Washington's minerals, including her coal and magnesite, represent an annual value of \$10,000,000. Oregon's output of gold, silver, copper, lime and building stone falls comparatively low in the scale at \$2,500,000 a year, but this, Professor Parks, at the head of the state mining bureau, assures us, is due not to lack of resources but to lack of development.

It will be worth not a little to the plans and enterprises which in the future will center here to have acquainted the representatives of mining interests so large with Portland's business and distributive facilities.

It has been proposed in Portland that divorce laws be made more strict to reduce the number of legal separations. That may be the remedy, but it doesn't sound like good logic to lock up strange bulldozers in the same room.

SCENERY OR FOOD

THE National Parks association, through its secretary, Robert Sterling Yard, has issued a pamphlet attack on the plan to hold Yellowstone lake in Yellowstone National park to its high water level by a dam in the Yellowstone river some three miles below the outlet of the lake.

power commission set so that no permit for power development in a national park or monument may be granted without a specific act of congress.

Should the Montana plan succeed, a large area will be irrigated in Idaho with water taken from the Yellowstone and a substantial power development will be accomplished incident thereto.

If the bill should be defeated and the Jones amendment should pass it would mean that the irrigation and power resources of all national parks would remain unutilized in order that the scenic beauty of the streams within the parks might continue unimpaired.

With a view to the economic rather than the scenic aspects of the controversy, the Pacific Northwest Irrigation convention some months ago in Seattle adopted a resolution favoring the irrigationist point of view. But the ultimate decision of the issue will probably depend upon how humbly the people of the nation behave.

If the market price of turkey is equitable, the birds must have been raised on diamonds.

CHARITY AT HOME

THE word "chaos" applied by the governor's commission to the condition of public and private charity administration in Oregon is consistent with its recommendation that two years be spent by the social work department of the University of Oregon in merely ascertaining facts which could be used as the basis of corrective measures.

There must indeed be chaos which requires that two years be devoted to a search for facts in the labyrinth of confusion. And if such a period of time is required for study how much more necessary must be a measure of correction to provide against a future hodge podge of charity.

The commission found that the legislature of 1919 appropriated more than \$2,500,000 for charitable and allied purposes. Several of the appropriations were apparently duplicative.

Counties were without interchange of information or even knowledge of amounts each was spending. Some of the counties maintain "poor farms" without sufficient inmates to justify the expense when several counties might "club" together and increase their benefactions to the needy while at the same time reducing their expense.

Charity, public and private, administered as the governor's commission on coordinating from it to be administered, is charity that paralyzes. It is charity that wastes. It is charity that does harm where good is the intent.

The commission calls the need for improvement a "crying need." No such need can be safely neglected.

The county commission rejected the appeal for the inclusion of a Rose Festival tax in the 1921 budget. That was the proper thing if it is desired that a few public spirited people finance the festival. Such people have always done it and will always do it under a system of contributions. They bear the burden while the tightwads have equal or greater benefit with no cost. If, however, it is desired that the rest of the festival be equally and equitably distributed, the commissioners should have made an appropriation. They ought to reverse their decision. With roses in bloom throughout Portland on New Year's day, shall the Rose Festival be dropped?

AS SCHWAB SEES IT

WHEN Charles M. Schwab says that the extravagance of the rich is negligible compared with the reinvestment of their gains for the expansion of industry and the employment of labor, he states a fact. But he does not condone a condition.

should against rats or influenza; for he is just as contagious, or whatever other word describes him and his little isolated world. There is absolutely no place for him here or hereafter in our scheme of desirable things. Let's shun him, let's turn the cold shoulder to him and his regrets and whining.

He is the personation of the tinkling cymbal, the sounding brass, that has rung out across the ages. The beauty of the line, "Do not weary of well doing," has never appealed to him. He is wittily ignorant of such things, and because he persists in enacting this role, we must not let him spoil the season which for most of us has meant appreciated gifts, and still, more heartfelt giving.

Astoria is to be congratulated on the speed with which that port loaded and cleared the Orca, one of the largest cargo carriers that ever visited the Pacific coast. Besides 5000 tons of coal and stores, the Orca carried away nearly half a million bushels of wheat valued at more than three quarters of a million dollars. About \$60,000 was disbursed for labor and supplies at Astoria by the vessel. The visit of the Orca is a step forward in making commercial history for the Columbia river.

TO SWAT HIGH TAXES

BLAME is a poor substitute for a system and economy in financing Oregon's public administration. To invoke the high heavens will bring no answer to the query as to how long the riot of excess expenditure will continue.

Assessor Reed calls attention to the fact that the impending tax levy will be the largest in Multnomah county's history—probably \$14,713,000. The levy in 1910 was \$6,401,000. In 1900 it was \$1,006,000.

Ten years ago, principal and interest payments on bonded debt in Multnomah county reached the total of \$315,680.29. This year the principal and interest payments reached the total of \$1,402,379.93. Multnomah gross bonded debt in 1910 was \$15,260,489. This year it is \$34,269,218.

The assessor says that the demands of the state government will call for \$9,493,106 in the next tax budget as compared with \$4,391,208 last year. Traced a little further, it appears that the funds voted by the public to the state university, agricultural college, normal school, elementary school fund and the extensive men's educational fund account chiefly for the state's increased needs.

The dock commission is also asking for an increased budget but the dock commission is meeting expenses of bonded debt voted by the people to the extent of \$10,500,000. Likewise the Portland school district, third of the public agencies named by the assessor as calling for more funds, is acting on authority granted it by the public.

The public's own spending is responsible for the tax load. When the public becomes a student of taxation, and realizes that every dollar spent must ultimately be paid in taxes, expenditures will tighten.

If Irvin S. Cobb had thought a little harder and hunted a little longer for a really humorous term to describe his impression of Oregon, he could have done himself more justice. "Youbetcher" Land" may be located in the hills of Arkansas, the feud area of Kentucky or the sinuous thoroughfares of Boston. But who in Oregon heard a telephone girl say "youbetcher"? Cobb, writing in the Saturday Evening Post, says they all do. And he attributes the same method of acquiescence to scores of other Oregonians who would mind admit it if they did it. But they don't. They are more apt to express extreme vigor of agreement by saying "You're turned right."

A CHANGE

THE new year brings the retirement of J. D. Mickle from the office of state dairy and food commissioner, after eight years of service in the position. It has been a notable service. The whole influence of the office and all its authority were used in the public interest. There was an efficient, conscientious and courageous discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the position.

TO END WAR END ARMING

Solution Offered by an Eminent Swiss Authority—The Less Preparedness. The Less Danger of War, is the conclusion of a Swiss authority on the League of Nations.

Foreign Editorial Digest (Consolidated Press Association) The Journal de Geneve publishes an article which advises on the question of disarmament.

One of the highest and most beneficial aims of the League of Nations, he says, is to make it impossible for a nation to be longer to be the remany when people are uninvited. The caution is necessary to be the last appeal.

It is certain, however, that an ideal cannot be realized at the very onset. In spite of the lassitude and exhaustion of nations, not only is the war still going on but we see the menace of it on the horizon, perhaps even in the clouds. It is impossible to suppress the desire to make a measure which is taken to avoid it, to make its declaration difficult, to prevent its suddenly breaking out at the seizure of a sudden opportunity.

It seems that the most efficacious means of bringing about this result is the one which the League of Nations is now occupied, namely, disarmament. But how is it possible to obtain this without hurting the feelings of a nation? Let us, therefore, take a glance at the war which has just come to an end.

It cannot be denied that it had quite a new character for modern times, but that it can also be compared to a struggle between armies trained solely for that purpose. The nations themselves took no direct part in it, their only part being that of spectators. Their sons fall at the front or become mutilated in the battle; they suffered material losses; but their economic, industrial and scientific progress was not stopped, their occupations scarcely changed, and their activities were not concentrated on only one object, the producing of what was necessary for war.

Since 1870 all this has changed. Most European nations have felt the need of not allowing themselves to be starved, to equal, and to exceed every rival in the number of their soldiers, to favor incessant recruiting, until the limit has been reached, and the nation is no longer a certain number of men that are armed, it is the whole nation that is armed, and the war breaks out where people are fighting against each other. And as all the men are at the front, women have also to carry a gun, which does sometimes happen, they work behind the lines in the huge munition factories.

As disarmament is really desired, the first condition is to make war what it was formerly—a struggle between armies and not between the whole people. It is not a compulsory service. If a permanent army is necessary, as the great powers seem to think, it should be an army of volunteers, a "citizen's army" in America, or an army recruited by conscription, that is to say, consisting of only a small proportion of the population.

"Far be it from me," continues the writer, "to undervalue the importance of armed service for purely defensive reasons. It is a duty which every citizen of a Swiss people would not exclude of himself and which we even consider as an honor. But this sort of service constitutes a danger for the world. If a militia knows no offensive conquest, what would contribute most, not only to disarmament, but to a general refinement of character, would be the compulsory education with no other end in view but war, just as if war of any kind ought to be the aim of life. The permanent army, or the compulsory service, creates a military caste, whose influence has so often been injurious. And the institution leads to war, for in the end, the army is never used to be made of no use of it opportunely arises. If the army is never used it is waste of money and energy.

"Imagine what a weight would be lifted from the shoulders of the great powers if they could get rid of their standing armies. Instead of making hundreds of thousands of men live uselessly because they are doing no work, these countries had, as a result, to be a saving of millions of dollars or francs. Some idea can be formed by looking at America. It is certain that America is the richest country in the world, and that it has the most advanced machinery for industry and remunerative work. It is useless to insist on the benefits which all nations would derive from the abolition of the standing army, a military organization which would not demand the complete sacrifice of several millions of men, and which would be an interruption in the life's work of each individual. If armies are still necessary, let them at least be composed of those who have a particular aptitude for the profession of arms, whom if the numbers were insufficient, conscripts chosen by lot or otherwise, could be added. But there should be no obligation to serve in a military army, except as a means of defense.

"For many years the idea has been prevalent that the power of a nation depends on the number of its soldiers, so that without the aid of a standing army, military service would meet with violent opposition, especially in countries like France, which are proud of their military glory, and which, in the great campaign in France, from Turenne to Napoleon, ever commanded a nation in arms. And the more the idea becomes established that the army must be reduced to the very minimum the more the danger of a sudden attack will be increased.

"For this reason we should like to see the League of Nations proclaim this idea as the ideal to be attained. It is a duty which every citizen of a Swiss people would not exclude of himself and which we even consider as an honor. But this sort of service constitutes a danger for the world. If a militia knows no offensive conquest, what would contribute most, not only to disarmament, but to a general refinement of character, would be the compulsory education with no other end in view but war, just as if war of any kind ought to be the aim of life. The permanent army, or the compulsory service, creates a military caste, whose influence has so often been injurious. And the institution leads to war, for in the end, the army is never used to be made of no use of it opportunely arises. If the army is never used it is waste of money and energy.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Change Sidelights Martens is ordered not only to leave the country, but to leave it as he found it.—Bullfreak Commercial.

It looks as if Niagara Falls might be the first part of the Canadian border to go dry.—Boston Herald.

Villa appealing for protection from the crooks of New York. Let's hope the Springfield Republican.

We begin to fear that England will never stabilize Ireland by continuing to stabilize it.—Columbia (S. C.) Record.

After they get through with the "better babies" campaign, we favor putting on a "better grown people" drive.—Wentworth.

Princess Christopher has a coronation of a new kind. Let's hope the Greek palace has switching facilities.—Pittsburgh Press.

They started in yesterday to run all the crooks out of New York. Let's hope it will be one lonesome town in a few days.—Greenboro (N. C.) News.

The principal difference between the hating men and the profilers is that the former are government in the one front-page publicity.—Columbia (S. C.) Record.

Annette Kellerman declares that she is taking her vacation. This is comforting for those who are trying desperately to keep their heads above water.—Kansas City Journal.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

His royal highness William I, King of Hanover county and ambassador extraordinary to New York, is in the city. He is here to visit his brother, Ed Hanley, of Alaska. Bill and Ed Hanley were born at Jacksonville, Fla. Mr. Hanley is a well known sportsman and knows all there is to be known about jackrabbits, antelope, bunchgrass, alfalfa, irrigation and cattle, and though, like his tanned crown and benevolent and benign expression, he looks like a monk his friends claim he isn't one.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Warwell of Salem, Mass., are guests at the Hotel Portland. As yet no action has been taken by this ancient Massachusetts community to change its name so as to prevent confusion with its Oregon namesake.

A. G. Hopper of the Inland Empire is taking in the sights of Portland. Mr. Hopper is a bachelor, but if he should marry and his wife decide to leave him and become a grass widow, would it be incorrect to refer to her as a grass Hopper?

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The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader

OREGON NOTES Smallpox is increasing in number of cases in Pendleton, eight new cases being reported in the last few days. The Deer mill of the Oregon Lumber company of Hood River county cut, during 1920, approximately 18,000,000 feet.

More than 200 of the 778 women who were reported by the University of Oregon held commercial positions during the summer. A report of lumber concerns operating in Hood River indicates a decrease of about 25 per cent in the 1920 production over that of 1919.

Bend claims an increase in population of 100 over the 1920 census. The school census showing 1859 children between the ages of 4 and 15. The state military department has finished the biennial bill with a surplus of \$5000 instead of a deficit which was threatened last year. The Nibley-Minnigh company has closed its mill at Wallawa after running for 12 years, cutting about 15,000,000 feet of lumber.

Gross returns of Hood River county during 1920 on fruits and farm products and forest products were approximately \$1,300,000. Mrs. M. J. Goggin, who has charge of the herd at Billy Meadows, reported three foals of 2004 in the pasture and the alkali in the form of food. The body of Charles Fisher, the son of the late J. H. Fisher, who died of his life in France during the great war, has been shipped to Wallawa for burial.

Lane Thomas is dead and Patrick Rogers and Fred Fosberg are seriously ill. The coroner's jury in the case of the snow storm and finding them in the morning near Bend. The state service commission has set January 3 as the date for the hearing to be conducted at Astoria on the question of the award of a \$1000 bonus to the Aurora Mutual Telephone company. Jackson county has received a check for \$20,000 from the National Surety company as a result of the recent amount of the surety bond furnished by Miss Blakely, county treasurer.

Yakima's fire loss for 1920 was close to \$100,000. The loss in 1919 was only \$12,847. Crime in Spokane is on the increase and police authorities are considering the possibility of a new police force. Sugar beets grown in the Yakima valley during 1920 produced approximately 1,200,000 pounds of sugar, or 100,000 tons. Falling prices of farm products have caused a decrease of approximately \$2,000,000 in the value of the Yakima Indian reservation. Investigation of six cases of haemophilia in the Yakima valley, which usually within the last few days, is being made at Seattle by the county commission.

Adoption of a state tax upon gasolene is being considered by a grant Hinkle, secretary of state of Washington, as a means of raising more funds for road building. Howland on Thursday night dedicated some manufactured whiskey to veterans of all American wars, in which all local organizations are to have a share. The total value of fruit shipments from the Yakima valley to date is about \$9,000,000. Reports indicate that the value of the shipments were worth over \$20,000,000.

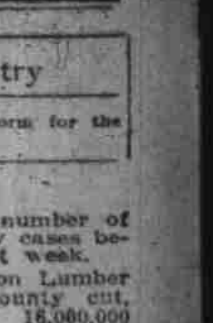
Pipe in the Christian church at Hood River, was started by a fire which whiskey still in the basement, near which were found two barrels of corn meal. The fire was started by a fire which whiskey still in the basement, near which were found two barrels of corn meal. The fire was started by a fire which whiskey still in the basement, near which were found two barrels of corn meal.

Apple shipments out of the Wapinitia district passed 7000 cars the day after yesterday. The district has 8800 carloads of apples, having an estimated value of \$81,000,000. When completed, the Skagit river power project at Seattle will develop 450,000 horsepower and will cost \$100,000,000 and \$60,000,000, according to Carl F. Uhlen, chief engineer of the project.

IDAHO

16000 acres in fall wheat. One year ago the total was 445,000 acres. Elizabeth Wright Crawford, who settled in Salmon, Idaho, died in that city, at the age of 82 years. It will require 3000 cars to move the balance of the Idaho crop. The state has 600 refrigerators cars to move the potatoes held in storage. Raymond L. Givens of Boise has been appointed judge of the judicial district to succeed Judge McCarthy, who was elected to the supreme court. The legislature will be asked to pass relief legislation for the ex-service men. They are not satisfied with the legislation passed two years ago.

After an illness of one week, Edward Stanley, pioneer of Coeur d'Alene, died. He had resided in Coeur d'Alene for 35 years and assisted in quelling the last Nez Perce Indian uprising. The late Warren, former deputy sheriff of Nez Perce county, who disappeared after cashing a forged check for \$1500, has been located in Florida and is according to word received at Lewiston.



Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

Granpa Billy Heburner, who allus was a leetle close in his ideas, didn't enjoy his Christmas dinner, on account of the turkey being so much like the one he had at home. He said he didn't like to see him eatin' money; but his grandson, Billy Washington, seemed to be bound to eat double rations of the bird, because he had a good reason for it. Heburner told the Corners economy class.

KNOW YOUR PORTLAND

This year's tax levy of 4.3 mills, which means 4.3 per cent on the value of property as fixed by the assessor, includes increases in all but two particulars. The levy for state purposes will be 7.75 mills, as compared with 4.71 mills last year. The elementary school levy will be 1.25 mills for levy for such purposes, was made last year.

The county school fund calls for a levy of 1.39 mills as compared with 1.39 mills last year. The levy for general county administration will be 5.8 mills as compared with 5.1 mills last year. The levy for the fire department of the public library will be drawn from a levy of 0.78 mill as compared with 0.74 mill last year. The levy for the fire department remains the same as last year—0.3 mill. The Port of Portland levy also remains at the same figure—1.40 mill.

The levy for the city of Portland jumps to 13.14 mills this year as compared with 11.81 mills last year. The levy for the city of Astoria is far above previous levels. This year it will be 2.05 mills; last year it was 1.25 mills. The school district No. 1 shows an increase of 8.80 mills this year as compared with 8.80 mills last year.

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The next article will show the various valuation methods upon which the levies are based.

requiring such use of speedometers, on every locomotive at least one speedometer. George William Wright.

A TAXPAYER'S COMPLAINT Portland, Dec. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I am paying over \$60 a year for five-room house, very cheap house, only to keep up a large number of unnecessary city and county em-ployees, all paid 50 per cent higher wages than they are worth. Why not put Or will the small home owners be put out of existence? Such a course will be disastrous to the community. Small Home Owner.

Letters From the People (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be signed by the writer whose name in full must accompany the contribution.)

SPEEDOMETERS FOR ALL Suggestion That Locomotives As Well As Autos Be So Equipped Albany, Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I have a suggestion that in the interest of the safety of the traveling public and in justice to those charged with the actual operation of the locomotives, speedometers should be placed on every locomotive, that engineers might plainly see, and comply with the maximum rate of speed when they travel through incorporated cities, most of which have ordinances governing the speed of railroad trains passing through. It is also equally important, when making time as scheduled by railroad officials, that the speedometer be so placed for the use of the engineers, regardless of city ordinances. The time has arrived that the city as well as railroad engineers and conductors can justify demand it. It would not be amiss to have speedometers placed on every automobile and on every truck. The next legislature, soon to convene, should enact the foregoing suggestions into law. Congress should also be petitioned to pass like national enactments.

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