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TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 9.

Back to Parliamentary Government.

Sir Robert Borden, prime minister of Canada, is in broken health because of over-work and is and has been out of the country for a long while. He wanted to resign because of ill-health, and because of the constitutional practice that calls for the premier's residence at the capital, at the head of the government, leading parliament.

But, tho Sir Robert recognized what constitutional necessity called for, his colleagues seem to have persuaded him that he can still be away from the head of affairs. Meantime, the long-promised reconstruction of the government has not taken place. At least half a dozen ministers, or ex-ministers, are mentioned as among the possible successors to the chieftaincy, and caballing is going on. This should end at the earliest moment.

The Farmers' party is forming a new and growing wing of the opposition in the house. Things will become still more demoralized if parliament does not get back to recognized responsible and parliamentary government, and a crisis will develop.

The Unionist party and the Unionist government owe a duty to the country under the circumstances. What should they do? We do not know. But a prime minister in good health, at the head of affairs at Ottawa, is what the constitution and the people require. A party in office that does not perform its constitutional functions is in grave danger of losing its usefulness and of going the way of many predecessors.

The Government's Chance.

There is a vacant office, that of registrar of West Toronto. The fees are nearly $12,000 a year. It was absolutely a political move, when the registrarship of the city was divided, to increase the patronage of the then government. There is no reason now why the extravagant condition so created should be continued. Consolidate the two offices and devote the surplus fees to more useful purpose.

Another foolish thing, in connection with registration, is being perpetrated in Toronto by the county of York. It has just bought a site adjoining the registry office of the county, in the central portion of the city, and will start building an extension. This is being done notwithstanding the fact that the city built the finest registry office in Canada only a short time ago, and offered to let part of it to the county on reasonable terms. Perhaps the county could save a little money by maintaining a separate institution. But the documents would not have the same safety, and it is absolutely unnecessary for any further expenditure in building, or, for that matter, maintaining a separate registrar.

Let the Farmers' government at the session opening today introduce a bill consolidating the three Toronto and York registrarships into one, save the proposed addition to the county registry office in the city, and fix the rental the county pay the city for accommodation in the city registry office. One official can do the work better than three; one building can do it better than two. It will be much more convenient for the public, including the legal profession, to have these offices under one roof, with the most modern equipment and methods. There is no good reason why a registrar should be paid more than a premier. Provision can be made for any official who has to retire, and save money.

The most active work of registration in connection with Toronto is in the township of York, practically a part of the city. The same thing is becoming true of the more populous sections of the townships of Scarboro and Etobicoke. All these should be concentrated in the city office, money saved, the public conveniienced, and a tribute paid to the movement for economy, efficiency and improved service. What is needed is co-ordination that will avoid the recurring farce, moving from county to city office the documents and books, as each annexation to the city occurs.

Let Mr. Drury and his attorney-general make a big clean-up in this whole question and show that the Farmers can do some things better than the old line parties knew how to do them in the past. To waste a single dollar of public money on unnecessary buildings and on luscious emolument in these days is a public crime.

The Massey Final.

The Commission That Didn't has held an inquest on itself. It has delivered a verdict on the scheme of a survey of the provincial system of education, to be paid for by the Massey Foundation, which also was to have named the commission for the government. Never before was a post-mortem statement issued by a corpse—in this case a composite corpse, for the names of all who were to have appeared before us in the guise of government appointees are on the message from the grave.

The Commission That Didn't has not yet discerned that it is contrary to the genius of responsible government for private bodies to pay the expenses of government-appointed commissions, which are authorized to explore a public department, with a view to turning it upside down.

The signatories bow themselves off a stage on which they were never invited to appear. They point with one hand to a minister of education who, they say, changed his mind. With the other they direct attention to the bureau of municipal research which has made surveys, tho a private body. The bureau never appeared in the shape of a public body, as was the intention in this other case. The simple fact is that the private body misconceived its function, and the minister of education saved the government from doing likewise. Enough said.

Good for Raney

There may or may not be a case against the Hamilton wholesale grocers, whom the attorney-general has haled before the board of commerce to answer charges of keeping up prices by improper combination. The attorney-general before the law is the King's policeman. He has much discretionary power about initiating civil and criminal proceedings. Hitherto with regard to some matters, especially in which he is the first punitive instrument of Dominion statutes, he has been apt to look the other way.

Mr. Raney is changing all that, as a statement made to the board at Hamilton by Mr. Roebuck, his representative, shows.

The board of commerce was instituted in July, 1919. The Hamilton case is the first that has been brought before it by any attorney-general. It is also the first aggressive action since 1910 that the attorney-general of Ontario has taken against combinations in restraint of trade. There has been plenty of reason for activity, but Mr. Raney's two predecessors would probably have said there was no cause—such are the distinctions an ultra-legal mind can make.

The onlooker at the Hamilton investigation cannot pronounce judgment, but on what has been disclosed he can feel himself to be in the position of a grand juryman, who is entitled to return a true bill.

The Big Six Indians.

Some are born to the franchise, some achieve the franchise, and now some are to have the franchise thrust upon them. When the Indians of the Six Nations reservation in Brant county are told that they are to be given the full rights of Canadian citizens as a reward for their share in the war, they say they want none of this sort of citizenship, for they are already a nation—an ally of Britain, and not the fellow citizens of such late comers as the gentry who govern at Ottawa. During the war they protested against being conscripted to fight for Canada, tho they willingly fought for Britain, their ally. They produced a treaty in support of their contention, and it was found that Canada is a country in which a scrap of paper goes.

In the park around the county offices at Brantford is the statue of Joseph Brant, the great Indian chief, after whom the city is named. It is a monument to an ally, and not to a barbarian inferior. The inscription records the faithfulness of the Six Nations to treaty obligations entered into with their British ally.

How is this international affair to be dealt with? Can the minister of external affairs handle it? Will parliament try to force the unwilling nationalists to become Canadian citizens? It is clearly a case for reasoning together, and for the public to know exactly what the situation is in a most interesting territory on the banks of the Grand.

Some Hope From Hides.

Cheaper shoes are in sight—a long sight, perhaps, because by some vast law of commercial psychology, prices soar instantly on a rise in raw material, and they stay up several months after the cost of raw materials comes down. Hides prices have been halved. Last July what are called extreme country hides were selling at 60 cents a pound. Lately they have dropped to 25 cents. A year ago western city calf skins brought a dollar a pound. They have fallen to fifty cents.

Perhaps about the time of the next general elections, if things go on descending at this rate, it may be possible to buy a good pair of shoes for something less than what used to be paid for a year-old steer. When hides advance the price of footwear goes up with spring-heeled, seven-leagued boots. When hides drop the cost of footwear comes down as if shoes were lighter than air. But shoes may be cheaper, if hides do not get dearer. Hope is a poor substitute for leather, but at least it is not taxed, and is not subject to the worst discounts of exchange.

MOVE HEADQUARTERS

Brantford, March 8. — (Special.) — Secretary Oscar Clemens of the Holstein Breeders' Association is moving from St. George to this city, and this is taken as an indication that the headquarters of the association will be established here.

A STREAK OF HARD LUCK

THE GLOBE ROBIN, TO BILLY KING: Juist as if the cald wasna bad enough, Wullie, here's yon Crerar laddie diggin' up a' our fesh-worms.

A Plea for a Return to the Principles of Responsible Parliamentary Government

W. F. Maclean, M.P., in the House of Commons Reviews the Situation at Ottawa and Places the Responsibility for a Return to Constitutional Practices Upon the Unionist Party.

The World herewith publishes in full the official report of the short speech made by W. F. Maclean, M.P., in the House of Commons at Ottawa on Thursday, March 4, dealing with the absence from the house and the country of Sir Robert Borden, the prime minister.

Sir Robert Borden had told his colleagues and the country that his doctors had advised him that he must resign; later on his colleagues persuaded him to withhold his resignation and take a further trip abroad. Still more recently it has been announced that Sir Robert had told two of his colleagues who met him at New York a week ago on his return from Europe, that he would try and hold on; that his health was some better, and that in the meantime he would go south for a time longer and return to Ottawa before the session is over. A caucus of the Unionist party is to be held at Ottawa this week to hear the report of the two ministers who met Sir Robert and to deliver a message from him. But early in the year Sir Robert, acting on the advice of his doctors, had deemed it necessary for him to resign, as much on his own account as what he considered to be the constitutional thing to do in behalf of the country.

Mr. Maclean's Speech.

Ottawa, Thursday, March 4.—In the house of commons this afternoon, in the debate on the address, Mr. Maclean said:

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity in making my first address in this very fine chamber to appeal for a return to parliamentary government, to parliamentary practice, and to parliamentary responsibility for the conduct of our public affairs. Partly because of the war no doubt we departed from a parliamentary government and from parliamentary responsibility, but I think the time has come when an effort should be made to return to former well established principles, and, in the first place, I hold the Unionist party and the Unionist government responsible for the maintenance of those principles.

I have always been a supporter of Union government. I pointed out early last session, when opportunity presented itself, that to deal with the war it was necessary to have a union of parties, and that it had been necessary in some measure to depart from the practice that had hitherto obtained in this country. But now the war is over, and to my mind it is high time we got back to the observance of the rules of parliamentary government that have obtained not only in the mother country, but in all the dominions, and which have proved to be the only foundation of democratic government.

Prime Minister Must Be Leader.

I regret to say, Mr. Speaker, that the departure which has been made in this country is most pronounced in connection with the office of prime minister. Most of all the prime minister must be the actual leader of his government, and he must lead one at least of the houses of parliament. That has always been the practice, and I regret that owing to the illness of the prime minister he has not been able to lead this house for many months, and there is not much prospect that we will soon return to the old practice. On behalf of the people of this country, irrespective of any party, I say that it is time we discussed for a moment what constitutes parliamentary government, to see if it is not in the interests of the country to come back to it, and particularly to come back to it in connection with the office of the prime minister.

Not only must the prime minister lead the house and the government, but he is also responsible for something else: He must select the ministers of his government and he must see that those ministers are elected. We have reached a hiatus when that is not taking place, and the responsibility is on the Unionist party—the party that won the war and has a very creditable record to its account. Therefore as a friend of Union government and as one who has supported every proposal made by that government in this house to win the war, I shall call attention to what I think ought to be done to recover our position.

The main thing I wish to call attention to is that we must come back to the old practice. I regret that the prime minister is away. I regret that he saw fit to offer to resign his position because of overstrain due to his strenuous labors of the past few years, and he has my fullest sympathy. But the government of the country must go on, and the Unionist party must vindicate its position and carry on the government of this country on established lines or something will happen.

Now, what is to be done? I am waiting to hear from ministers of the Union government to tell us what they propose to do.

Mr. Copp: They do not know.

Waiting For Ministers.

Mr. W. F. Maclean: I am waiting to hear when they intend to resume parliamentary responsibility and to have a prime minister in the house who leads the government, who selects his ministers, who sees that those ministers are elected, and who can make an appeal to our fellow-countrymen who live in the province of Quebec. There never was a period in the history of this country heretofore when that appeal was not made and the government of the day was not able to get support from the province of Quebec and also from some of the western provinces. It may be all very well to trifle with this question and attempt to "put it over" and to suggest this and that artifice, but in doing that you get away from the question of responsible government. Let us come back to responsible government; and will the house bear with me when I say this: That I am making no personal comment or criticism on the right hon. gentleman who has led the house so successfully as head of the government, and who has made a great place for himself in the history of the conduct of this war. But the King's government must go on, and it must do so under parliamentary rules and practice. We are getting away from them. The prime minister is not here, and he has not done what the Unionist party have been promising for two years now, ever since they came into office. When they first had Union government formed, we were promised that later on there would be a reconstruction of the government. Why is that reconstruction not going on? There is some reason for that, and probably it is owing to the absence of the prime minister. If that be the case, I say that the responsibility is on this Union government to correct what is wrong and to try to return to that responsible government that we have had in this country in the past, but that we do not happen to have at the present moment as we ought, especially now that the war is over. The people want responsible government. I have been out in the country; I have met the people; I have read the newspapers;

A Significant Warning.

I have heard discussions at various public meetings. I saw what took place in Ontario recently when there was an absence of responsible government there, when not even a caucus of a party was called to see what sort of a policy the Conservative party would have in the provincial election that took place there. And what happened? That party disappeared in a night, because it had failed to call together its friends and the people of Ontario in general to discuss the welfare of the country and the program under which it proposed to appeal to the people. The same thing may happen in the case of the Dominion if we do not come back to parliamentary practice and if we do not have in this house a responsible prime minister leading the house, forming his government, having his government elected, and seeing that all the country is fairly represented in the administration that attempts to carry on the affairs of the country.

There are many other questions that I should like to bring up on this occasion. I should like to discuss the question of public ownership of railways. I should like to discuss our future relations with the empire. I should like to discuss what I know or rather what I do not know about the commitments that have been made in connection with the imperial conferences that have been held in the old land. We, the people of Canada, do not know what has taken place there; we do not know what commitments have been made in connection with those conferences, and we have not our prime minister here to tell us what took place at those conferences, altho he was one of the chief actors at them. While the war was a great success, I should like to know whether we shared in the proper responsibility of that war, and I should also like to know something about our position in the league of nations.

Redistribution Next Year.

I hope to be able to discuss that later on. I should like to discuss the fiscal policy of this country. I have heard a good deal about it here today and I heard the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Buchanan) and another hon. member speak about a measure of redistribution that should take place next year. I do not want to see an election in this country until that measure of redistribution has been put thru this house; but when it has been put thru I want to see representation by population as the groundwork principle in that redistribution. We have not had it. I represent in this house about 100,000 people; some time ago I represented many more than that, and my constituency is growing rapidly. We ought to have in this house three votes from that constituency in settling the policy of the country and in maintaining parliamentary and democratic institutions in Canada. You cannot have democratic institutions in this country unless you have representation by population. The United States have that, if it exists anywhere. We must have it here, and I want to appeal especially to my friends from the west who were saying here today, and justly saying, that there should be full representation from the west in this house before we have an election.

For Full Representation.

I want to see full representation for every section of the country, for Quebec, for Ontario, as well as for the west. I bring this up merely because I desire to say that that is another topic that I should like to discuss in this house, but I am going to leave all those questions for another opportunity. The debate is not over, and while it has wandered far afield, and while the leader of the opposition has asked for an election, a proposition which I cannot see my way to accept, what I want to see is a return to responsible parliamentary government, no matter who makes the sacrifice in order that it may come back. Especially do I appeal to the members of the government and to its supporters to see that we come back to a condition of affairs where the prime minister is in the country at the head of the government, where he is reconstructing the government as he promised to do and as the people expect him to do. I say this all the time remembering that he is ill, but nevertheless, the government must go on. In all fairness and in the most respectful way I direct the attention of the government of the day and my fellow-members of the house, especially those who have supported Union government, to try to come back to the principle of responsible government and to show that the Unionist party is able to strengthen itself, to select ministers, to elect them in the country, and to put forward a policy necessary for reconstruction. If we do not do that—and I am going to speak very plainly, and I think I can see what is going on—we shall have cabals in the ministry instead of leadership, instead of a progressive policy. Every one can see signs of these things. Unfortunately those who wish to depart from the observance and maintenance of responsible parliamentary government in this country seem to be ministers of the crown.

I hope the ministers of the crown will realize their double responsibility and come back to responsible parliamentary government, and have the government reconstructed. Let us have a prime minister in his place who will assume responsibility and lead the house and the country in this great duty of reconstruction.

No Attack on Prime Minister.

Mr. H. S. Beland (Beauce): Does my hon. friend suggest that the prime minister should resign?

Mr. W. F. Maclean: I do not make any suggestion at the moment. I say that the prime minister wished to resign and did resign, and probably that is his disposition now, but apparently some of his friends wish to keep him in an irresponsible position.

Mr. John Best (Dufferin): Seeing that the hon. member has attacked the prime minister, would he be good enough to say whether he has attended one-fifth as many sittings of this house as the prime minister during the last five years, during which he has been drawing his full indemnity?

Mr. W. F. Maclean: I have not attacked the prime minister. I have the greatest respect for him. Many a time has he asked my advice, and I have been pleased to give it to him. Many a time I have spoken on the platform with him in constituencies and helped him to elect his candidates. I have not always been in this house as much as I should have been, but I have been in this house a good deal, and whenever I have spoken it has been on a real question. I am speaking on a real question today, one that is uppermost in the minds of the people of this country, and uppermost in the minds of the ministry, many of whom are anxious to lead a way out of the situation. I am not calling for the prime minister's resignation. I am calling for the observance of the principle of responsible parliamentary government. I have heard a good deal around this house and have seen a great deal in the newspapers about this very question. I saw it in the Montreal papers, for instance.

Mr. J. E. Armstrong (East Lambton): Might I ask my honorable friend whether he was in his seat today and heard the statement of the leader of the government (Sir George Foster) in reference to the absence of the prime minister, and if so, whether he approves of the statement that was made?

Mr. W. F. Maclean: I heard the statement.

Mr. J. E. Armstrong: What objections have you to it?

Mr. W. F. Maclean: The objections will be removed when we return to responsible parliamentary government. That is all I want. We have not had responsible parliamentary government in this country, I must tell the honorable gentleman.

Mr. H. S. Beland: What do you suggest should be done?

Speaks For the People.

Mr. W. F. Maclean: I am calling attention to the situation. Perhaps we shall have a further discussion of it. I am discussing a real question, and I believe I am speaking for the people of Canada today. I am passing no reflections whatsoever on the right honorable gentleman who leads the house. I am simply trying to speak for the people of this country on a matter of paramount importance to them. The disturbance following the war is great, the dislocations are many, and all sorts of new conditions have come into existence. One underlying principle of our constitution is that of responsible parliamentary government, and I say that we have got some way away from that in this house. During the war the country was ruled by orders in council, and very properly so perhaps; other nations had to do it, but now we should return to responsible government and get on with a policy of reconstruction. There is many a minister in the government today whom I would like to see giving most of his time to framing policies of reconstruction to lay before the house. Any such measures will have any little support I may be able to give them. Again I say, I arose in my place here today to ask that the Unionist government come back at the very earliest possible moment to responsible parliamentary government and bring forward the necessary legislation for the reconstruction of the country. I do not think there should be an election, if it can be avoided, until there has been a numbering of the people. That could begin on the first of April next year and be completed thirty days thereafter and a report made on which a redistribution measure could be based and introduced in the following month. Then with a new franchise act and a new redistribution measure let there be an appeal to the people in a general election in 1921.

Houses Built Before Year 1700 Being Destroyed in Montreal

Montreal, March 8.—Twelve houses that were built before the year 1700 are being destroyed in the construction of the new court house for this city. Among them is the old warehouse, used by the Astors two centuries ago, while accumulating their great fortune in the northwest fur trade.

USE CIVIC WOODPILE

Brantford, March 8.—(Special.)—The civic woodpile is being constantly attacked here, thanks to the continued cold weather. In the civic bush at Hartley the wood is being cut and piled there to dry for next winter, thus saving much in freight tolls, as green wood is very heavy.

THE GIRL WHO SMILED THRU

By MARION RUBINCAM

DECISION.

CHAPTER 26.

Perhaps the loneliest time of the day is the twilight hour. At that time people are hurrying about their own concerns, home to dinner—or, if it is in the summer when the days are long, they are at the table—and where there are groups, there is relaxation and merriment. But where there is but one person, that individual is apt to be desperately lonely.

At twilight that day, Alice was alone. She had received a phone message from a neighbor that Lois "had accidentally met a friend and was staying out for supper." Mrs. Fairbanks had fallen asleep in the late afternoon, and Alice had no desire to awaken her, for the simple meal could wait. Meantime, she sat in the living-room, having prepared supper and having nothing further to do until her mother woke up to eat. As for herself, she had no desire for food.

Lois and David, apparently, were staying at the farm for supper. So much she could guess from the message—the word "friend" had been used to deceive Mrs. Riley, who took the message, so she would not know too much. The "accidentally" was put in apparently to deceive Alice.

That must be it. There were a few restaurants and tea rooms in the central part of Farmington, but it was not likely that David and Lois had gone to one of them, for that, in so small a place, would cause gossip. And Alice knew that the housekeeper had lately arrived at the Model Farm.

Of course, it was natural that David should have been delayed out there. Alice's common sense told her that. The work on the place was nearly completed. David was to move out to his quarters there in a few days.

Alice pictured these "quarters," she had seen them being done over, the bedroom with quaint flowered paper; the living-room in cream and blue; the tiled bath made from what had been a huge closet. They were to be her home, too, when they were married. And at the thought of the little place, Alice lost her self-control.

For it is a queer thing that one may contemplate a big tragedy with little outward sign of emotion, but small things will break up the sternest self-control.

A famous general watched a huge battle from a hill. Hundreds and thousands of men fell, dead or in mortal agony, and he did not weep. On his way back from the lines his horse trampled a little kitten and he cried with the small girl who owned it.

As Alice sat in the living-room with the twilight deepening outside, she was watching the death of her love and her hope of happiness. But she sat dry-eyed, outwardly calm. In fact, she even listened for sounds to show her mother was waking, and she did not forget that the water in the kettle might boil away.

David was everything in the world to her. She had been a different girl from the time she had first met him. She felt she had never really lived before the night of his first kiss—and David was being lost to her, taken away by a blue-eyed, heartless, pretty bit of femininity.

She felt as tho her heart would break. But she sat quietly, staring ahead while the gloom thickened and made of the corners of the room places of dark and distant mystery. And then it was that she thought of the little apartment she and David were to have at the farm—the cretonne curtains she meant to put at the windows, the big couch that was to be in front of the fireplace. And suddenly her eyes filled and she went over to the sofa by the window and buried her face in the cushions and cried—sobs that shook her whole body.

After a time she knelt down on the floor—for there are some emotions which instinctively make a woman drop on her knees—and her crying stopped, tho she still kept her head in the cushions.

"Dear God," she whispered over and over, and it was almost a prayer, "I can't give him up. I can't give him up."

After a time she sat up and pushed her hair back, that had fallen over her face. Mechanically she began putting in the hairpins again. She remembered several of David's criticisms; once of a frock she was wearing—she knew she owned but one pretty dress and that was almost worn out; a couple of comments on her carelessly done-up hair; one time a remark because her nose was red and shiny. She remembered critical looks he had given her that spoke more than words could possibly have done.

Lois would satisfy him that way, at least. He adored pretty girls, daintily, immaculately dressed. And she had been careless—there were always so many other things that seemed more important than manicuring and marceling, and spending hours fussing over one's personal appearance! Yet Lois would not make him happy—.

And again she whispered to herself, "I can't give him up!"

But she knew in her heart that she must.

Tomorrow—A Motherly Talk.

WORLD'S DAILY BRAIN TEST

BY SAM LOYD.

10 Minutes to Answer This.

No. 130.

Each of the sentences conceals the name of a Rhode Island town:

Ten hours' work at the steam anvil, let me tell you, is no child's play.

Grim war rendered the country unsafe for women and children.

He must have the cash tonight or we go out.

Answer to No. 129.

The three weights represented: Littleton, Colorado; Overton, Nebraska, and Fulton, Missouri.

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DUTY IN FUTURE OF THE RED CROSS

Lady Drummond at Congress, Says It Must Supply Moral Equivalent for War.

Geneva, March 7.—Acting upon an appeal by Arthur J. Balfour, as president of the council of the league of nations, the board of governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, in session here today, passed resolutions declaring for the extension of voluntary relief work among the starving and diseased populations of central and eastern Europe, provided that the essentials of food, clothing and transportation be previously assured these peoples thru governmental action.

Lady Drummond of Canada, speaking in the organization section, said that the future duty of the Red Cross thruout the world would be to supply the moral equivalent for war; it would assume a moral role, as well as that of physical educator. Canada, she said, was the first country to follow the American example of organizing a junior Red Cross, which had been such a powerful factor in the development of the American Red Cross.

Instal Fire-Fighting Apparatus In All Kitchener Schools

Kitchener, March 8.—(Special.)—In order better to safeguard the lives of the children in the public and separate schools of this city, Fire Chief Guern, in co-operation with the public school board, installed special fire fighting apparatus in all of the schools of the city today, and gave instructions to principals and teachers in the use of the apparatus in case of emergency.

Do Not Procrastinate

but have your Will properly drawn and executed now.

Do Not Make the Mistake

of nominating one or more individuals as your Executor and Trustee. Without fear of successful contradiction as to its advisability, we conscientiously recommend the appointment of a Corporate Executor and Trustee in preference to individuals. We shall be pleased to confer with you on the subject at any time you may find it convenient to do so.

The Canada Permanent Trust Company

Paid-up Capital $1,000,000

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