

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1910

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.

TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

AT 81 QUEEN STREET,

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.

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Editor & Proprietor

Please send in your subscriptions. The year is nearing its close and we need the money to meet our obligations. Please don't delay.

A Severe Attack.

Seldom has Sir Wilfrid Laurier been so severely handled by the opposition as he was during the naval debate which broke out on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. This sort of treatment was not relished by those who sit on the government benches as in the past they have been apt to regard the premier as above criticism, and on a pedestal so high that he could not be touched by the weapons of the opposition. The "fighting spirit" of this session has changed all this. For instance Mr. T. W. Crothers of West Egin took Sir Wilfrid to task in a very drastic manner for permitting his followers from the province of Quebec openly to favor the creation of a Canadian navy because it would be a step forward in the race for the independence of Canada. But these men have learned their lessons from the lips of Laurier himself, for it was the man who now leads the government who once declared "Canada would never consent to Imperial federation even on commercial lines alone because the consequences would be the participation of Canada in British wars, and Canada would never consent to this. I hold out to my fellow countrymen the idea of independence. Is there a Canadian anywhere who would not hail with joy the day when he would be deprived of the services of British diplomacy? I am ready any day whether I am charged with annexation or not to take a Yankee dollar in preference to an English shilling. I have again and again repeated that the goal of my aspiration is the independence of Canada."

With these expressions of opinion to back them up it is any wonder that the rank and file of the government supporters from the province of Quebec look upon the naval policy of the government as a weapon with which Canada can secure the independence which is according to Sir Wilfrid Laurier the goal of his ambitions. The House of Commons rises on the 16th inst for the Christmas vacation, and will not meet again until January 10. So far nothing has been done to justify the calling of an autumn session. The government is not ready to submit its measures to parliament and the Senate has already adjourned owing to a lack of employment. This is the most unbusinesslike administration that has ever adorned the treasury benches. Its disregard of the public interest is colossal, and it knows not its own mind from one day to another. The Ministers do not pull together. Each man is playing his own hand. And the inevitable result of all this is that the public suffers in the long run. If the signs which have already made their appearance this session can be taken at their face value, the next appeal to the people will sweep the present band of incompetents from power. Sir Wilfrid Laurier assured the House glibly a few days ago that all the promises made by them in opposition had been faithfully carried out.

What about the famous Ottawa platform of 1893? Where is the plank "the land for the settler and not the speculator"? What has become of the "free trade as it is in England" cry? Where is the promised reform of the Senate? What of the solemn determination of Laurier when in opposition that if he was returned to power there would be economical administration of public affairs? The lands have been handed over to the spoilers. The Senate is still unreformed. Graft and unbusinesslike methods, to say nothing of maladministration have been permitted to run riot through all the great spending departments of the government. Investigation has been blocked, and as for free trade as it is in England that has turned out to be nothing more than the idle vaporing of a dreamer. Looked at from any point of view the record of this government entitles it to the condemnation of the people. And that condemnation will come as surely as the sun rises in the east.

The lid stays on. The work of the Public Accounts Committee is to be done under conditions as onerous as technical rules can make them. The House of Commons has willed it so at the bidding of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Pugsley. Vote 98 to 78; majority 25. A very low majority, nearly a record in fact, and much annoyance is felt on the part of the premier at its small size. The most discreditable thing about the Parliament Buildings is the Railway Committee of the House of Commons. Next to it in point of dishonour stands the Public Accounts Committee. Its practical use is to block investigations. One of the technicalities which is of great value to the blockers is this; that the House refers to the committee, the accounts of the year last past, and of that year alone. Few transactions are completed in the accounts of one year; to make the investigations complete the developments of earlier years often must be scrutinized and the moment that is attempted the ever ready blocker objects that the transactions of the earlier year are beyond the scope of the work of the committee. Houghton Lennox moved that the accounts for the two years last past be referred to the committee.

The government objected, and after a debate which lasted all the afternoon voted down Mr. Lennox's motion. The Liberals did not seem to like the subject much. It was noticeable that E. M. McDonald quitted the House soon after the discussion began, though he was on hand for the vote. When the division bells rang there was a small attendance of Liberals and a full one of Conservatives. Sir Wilfrid Laurier seemed much annoyed. In moving his motion Mr. Lennox depicted the system of premeditated and organized opposition to investigation which had characterized the last ten years. One objection which the government might make was that the opposition could come to the House when occasion rose and obtain the additional powers. This was illusory; the rules prevented this. The matter could not be discussed unless the committee reported, and the Liberals on the committee took care that no report was made until the matter was disposed of. Then, as the investigation had been closed, there would be nothing for the House to deal with. The government had built a wall higher than Haman's gallows, thicker and stronger than those of the Laurier tower, and behind that wall covered the North Atlantic Trading Company, the Robins Iriga don Company, the Adamsons,

the Burrowses the Pearsons, the Lodges, the McAvity—Mr. Lennox's list was longer still. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that Mr. Lennox complained that the public accounts committee was unable to scrutinize the expenditures of one year, and his remedy was to give it the expenditures of two years. He admitted that the public accounts committee was unsatisfactory, and that in particular its numbers should be reduced, but he held that the time to reduce its numbers was after a general election. The present arrangements had obtained since confederation. He suggested that the House might authorize the investigation of specific transactions through a period of years. After this exiguous defence Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved an amendment, that when ever the public accounts committee reports that an entire transaction should be examined, the House would receive the recommendation favorably. W. R. Smith, of Algoma, described how close to the chairman of the committee sat a minister such as Mr. Pugsley, ready to give the wink to some one of the eminent lawyers when to raise some technical objection. The Premier and his ministers, as the responsible parties, were guilty of making poor fellows who came before the committee perjure themselves; some men were bamboozled by the cross examination until they were afraid to open their mouths, some were civil servants whose bread and butter depended on the answers they gave. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier wanted to have the proceedings a Donnybrook fair the opposition would have to fight the matter out. But they would rather do their work without unseemly wrangles. Mr. Haggart said that in former years the committee was not bound by such technicalities.

Mr. Blain gave a new turn to the debate by dwelling on the government's fondness for dealing with middlemen as instanced by its dealings with Morgan and Merwin, by its subtarget gun and many other cases. This, after some further discussion, brought Mr. Pugsley into the debate. The Minister of Public Works vowed that no middlemen were employed in his department. What about the Sawdust wharf? Mr. Pugsley declared that the \$5,000 paid for that wharf was fair and reasonable, and that the man who sold it had owned it. There had been no rake off, he said. Mr. Chowen brought up the Lymburner purchase of belting. Mr. Pugsley tried to defend this and so Mr. Rhodes put on record the evidence (briefly.) Some belting was bought under a plea that it was a rush order. A middleman was paid \$831; a competent authority swore that the government or any other purchaser could have got it for \$293, so that the rakeoff was \$538.

Dr. Reid added the dredging contracts in New Brunswick. For example John E. Moore, president of the St. John Telegraph Company, was given a dredging contract at 90 cents a cubic yard before the tenders were called for and the difference between 30 cents a yard and 90 cents, where to buy the Telegraph. Geo. McAvity, of St. John, a recognized middleman, was getting contracts at his own prices from Mr. Pugsley. Mr. Borden made a telling speech after which Sir Wilfrid Laurier admitted that the Lymburner case was impressive. After Mr. Loggie had defended Mr. Moore's 90 cents dredging rate, the vote was called and resulted as already stated. From the strictly ministerial point of view the 9th was the first time that the House did any

business. The ministerial idea is that the House of Commons is a tiresome crowd which is necessary to the passing of estimates. When estimates are being passed it is working, when they are not being passed it is not working. Well, on the 9th the House got into supply and passed some estimates. Two interesting things cropped up during the estimates. First came that hardy annual, the question whether the deputy minister of justice should do private practice. It was Major Sharpe who raised the question. "I have not made it my business to inquire," said Mr. Aylesworth, but he added that he had noticed that Mr. Newcombe had taken two or three Supreme Court cases. "It has not in the least impaired Mr. Newcombe's usefulness," he observed. "But," expostulated Major Sharpe, "the deputy minister of justice is constantly required to report on cases in which the government is concerned. Obviously it would hardly be proper if he were called upon to make such a report on a case in which he had previously acted as counsel." Mr. Aylesworth's rejoinder was to ask if Major Sharpe would prohibit a deputy minister who happened to be a medical man from attending a patient who called him at midnight. He was sure that Mr. Newcombe had so delicate a sense of honor that if there were the remotest chance of a clash with public interests the private brief would go. Major Sharpe cited the fact that last summer Mr. Newcombe acted before the Privy Council for the Bank of Montreal in the action between that bank and the liquidators of the Ontario Bank. The Bank of Montreal has large transactions with the government and might easily have an important dispute upon which the deputy minister would be called upon to deliver an opinion. Mr. Foster asked how could a man serve two masters. And if the deputy minister of justice were free to take outside practice would not all deputy ministers have the same right. According to Mr. Aylesworth's doctrine, all deputies would be subject to suspicion. Whether it were well founded or unfounded, Secondly, the militia estimates elicited a very interesting statement from Sir Frederick Borden. Henceforth the militia department proposes to build its own small armories. Heretofore it has had this work done for it by the public works department. Behind this announcement is an important piece of policy.

Part of the business of the militia department is to work out a mobilization scheme. An essential feature of any mobilization scheme is decentralization, that is to say, that in every regimental district there should be the full number of rifles, suits of clothing, equipment, etc., necessary to turn out the local regiments at war strength without troubling headquarters. Obviously such articles cannot be stored unless there are proper storehouses, and the militia department has had the utmost difficulty in persuading the public works department to erect these storehouses. Each storehouse would be a small, cheap affair and there must be a great many of them. But did the public works department—the Pugsley department—see itself erecting little cheap armories? Not much. And so Sir Frederick Borden explained that his department needed a great many little cheap buildings, whereas the public works department loved to erect ornate expensive structures. It was a curious declaration of independence by one department as against another department.

Just by way of preparation to this, Mr. Houghton Lennox caught Mr. Pugsley in a direct and complete misstatement of the facts. On Tuesday 6th, when the work of the public accounts committee was under discussion, Mr. Lennox happened to say that Mr. Pugsley had helped to block that committee in its work. The following colloquy occurred: Mr. Lennox—"Does the Minister forget the sub target gun case, where a lawyer of the government party was chairman, and where prominent lawyers of the government party were engaged in the matter, where a minister was assisting and two other ministers were assisting as well? It was about as glaring a case, as barefaced a case of blocking as ever occurred in any deliberative assembly. Mr. Pugsley—"I can tell my Hon. friend that he is entirely mistaken. I have a very good memory. So far as I recollect I had nothing to do with the investigation of the gun target case." Next afternoon as Mr. Lennox arose with the

documents in hand, he had the official report of the public accounts committee to show that at a meeting of the committee which discussed the sub target gun, there had been a heated argument in which Mr. Pugsley had borne a prominent part, and in which he had moved the adjournment of the committee. This was complete proof that Mr. Lennox had been correct. What rendered the affair more noteworthy was that heated recriminations had passed between Mr. Lennox and Mr. Pugsley. The minister had sneered at Mr. Lennox's qualifications as a lawyer, and the former had replied: "I at least know how to be true to my client"—a reply which for some reason cut Mr. Pugsley and moved him to protest. As Mr. Pugsley must have remembered this rencontre, unless he were peculiarly indifferent to attacks upon his honor as a professional man, and as a public man. "It was not an occasion of a sort which would escape the memory of a sensitive man."

Mr. Pugsley blandly admitted that the incident had occurred and put forward a reason to explain why he had asserted that he had not been present on the occasion in question. New Brunswick dredging contracts had been under review earlier in the day on which this tiff had occurred and this explained his presence at the committee.

Conference of Premiers.

The conference of provincial premiers, or their representatives to consider primarily the question of representation in the Federal House met at Ottawa on Friday in a room of the Senate. After a general discussion it was unanimously decided to postpone further consideration of the question to a future date to be decided upon. Sir James Whitney was elected chairman of the conference when its members convened Friday morning. Others present were Sir Lomer Gouin and Hon. Tascherer and MacKenzie, representing Quebec; Hon. J. J. Foy, Attorney General of Ontario; Premier Hazen and Hon. Mr. Fleming, representing New Brunswick; Hon. A. K. McLean, Attorney General and acting premier of Nova Scotia; Premier Huszard, of Prince Edward Island; Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. Colin Campbell, of Manitoba, and Hon. Walter Scott representing Saskatchewan and incidentally the views of Alberta. The reason for the meeting is the desire of the Maritime Provinces to protect themselves in the matter of Federal representation and if this is to be done action must be taken before the next census is taken and the distribution based thereon adopted by Parliament. At the time of Confederation on the basis of 65 seats for Quebec, Nova Scotia was assigned 19, and New Brunswick 15 seats. Prince Edward Island came into the Confederation in 1873 and at that time was entitled to 6 seats. Owing to the steady growth in population of the other provinces the Maritime Provinces representation has steadily decreased until now New Brunswick has 13, Nova Scotia 13, and Prince Edward Island 4. These numbers are likely to be further decreased after the next census unless it can be agreed to fix a minimum representation for the Provinces by the sea. The representatives of these Provinces would be pleased with an agreement which would restore them the number of members they had at Confederation, but failing that would be content, if it was agreed, that there shall be no reduction in the present representation.

Buffeted by the Waves.

Limping like a lame duck the three masted St John schooner Catherine, Capt. McLean, 29 days from Turks Island, worked her way into Boston harbor on the 8th, following a long and tempestuous passage. Near Bermuda, great seas constantly swept the decks, carrying off the fittings and imperilling the lives of the crew. Some of the standing rigging was carried away and three sails split. When Captain McLean rounded Cape Cod he expected his trip to be over, but on the 7th he ran into a violent northeaster and in the snow-storm the Catharine struck the outer ledge of the Graves, off Boston. The vessel pounded heavily but a change in the wind and a big breaker threw her into deep water. The entire keel was torn off and she was otherwise damaged.

MARRIED.

O'LEARY—DOIRON—In St. Bernard's Church, Concord, Mass., on Nov. 29, Rev. M. J. Flaherty, P. P., officiating, James J. O'Leary to Miss Mary J. Doiron, formerly of Charlottetown. McLELLAN—WOOD—At Charlottetown, on the 23rd ult., John R. McLeLLan to Gertrude N. Wood. McDONALD—LEGERRE—In St. Patrick's Church, Roxbury, Mass., on Nov. 24th, Rev. Father Walsh officiating, Alphonse McDonald, of Grandman, P. E. I., to Miss Josephine LeGere, Montreal. KENNY—FITZPATRICK—In the Sacred Heart Church, East Providence, on Nov. 24th, Rev. Joseph Shuren officiating, William J. Kenny, of Morrell, P. E. I., to Miss May E. Fitzpatrick, of Providence. MCKENZIE—IRVING—At Murray Harbor, on Nov. 30th, John E. McKenzie to Miss Lucy A. Irving. McLEAN—McDOUGALL—At the home of the bride, Orwell Cove, on Nov. 30th, 1910, by Rev. J. W. McKenzie, Katie McLean, daughter of James McLean, to Herman McDougall, New-town. McCAHERN—McLEOD—On the 6th inst., at the home of the bride, George, daughter of Finlay McEachern, Newtown, to Mardock E. McLeod, of Ugg, J. W. McKenzie officiating. McCABE—BREHANT—At the Baptist Church, Alexandria, Wednesday evening, Dec. 7th, 1910, by the Rev. Z. L. Fash, M. A., B. D., Harold McCabe, Vancouver, B. C., and Ethel May Brehant, Alexandria, P. E. I. JONES—JENKINS—At the Baptist Parsonage, Charlottetown, Thursday evening, Dec. 8th, 1910, by the Rev. Z. L. Fash, M. A., B. D., Alexander Roy Jones, Hazelbrook, and Georgia Margaret Jenkins, Mount Herbert. LAMB—PURDY—In Dawson City, on October 12th, by the Rev. Arthur Ross, Miss Ida Purdy, daughter of E. Ira and Mrs. Purdy, city, to Albert E. Lamb, formerly of New Brunswick. TREMERE—MOLYNEUX—At Hamphire, on Dec. 7th, by Rev. Hugh Miller, Pope Alexander Tremere to Anna, Edpa Molyneux, both of Hamphire.

DIED.

MANN—At Irishtown, on Nov. 19th, Mary Fraser, relict of the late William Mann, aged 81 years. McLURE—At her residence, City Island, New York City, Nov. 30th, 1910, after a lingering illness, Janie Swan, aged 30, formerly of High Bank, P. E. I., wife of Capt. Thos. McLure. McADULAY—At Cardigan Head, Nov. 15th, Mary Ann, wife of John J. McAulay, aged 65 years. She was the daughter of Samuel McKenzie, of Scotchfort, and Anne McDonald, (born) of St. John's. She leaves to mourn one son and one daughter to cherish the memory of a loving mother. R. I. P. MALONE—In Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 30th, 1910, in the 23rd year of her age, after a lingering illness of a year, Miss Madeline Malone, formerly of this city, but for the last two years residing in Minneapolis. She leaves to mourn besides her mother Mrs. Margaret Malone, three sisters and one brother. R. I. P. BOISNER—At North River, Lot 32, Dec. 1st, 1910, Charles Boisner, aged 82 years. McDOUGALL—In this city, on Saturday, December 3rd, 1910, Elinor Irene, infant daughter of Captain and Mrs. Arch. McDougall, aged seven weeks. McMILLAN—At New Perth, at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Daniel Shaw, on Dec. 4th, Mary Beatty, relict of the late John McMillan, of Alberry Plains, in the eighty-seventh year of her age. FOSTER—In East Boston, Mass., Dec. 5th, James Archibald, beloved husband of Ellen Foster. The funeral took place on Dec. 9th from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Edwin Anderson, 252 East Eagle Street. Requiem Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church. R. I. P. HOWARD—At Cornwall, on the 7th inst., (holding Howard), aged 86. HALL—At 108 Weymouth Street, city, on Dec. 5th, 1910, Park Hall, son of John J. Hall, Traveller's Rest, aged 17 years and 5 months. MURDOCK—At Murray River, Dec. 9th George Murdock, aged 68 years. McFADYEN—At Tigoish, on the 19th inst., Sibill, eldest daughter of A. J. and Mrs. McFadyen, aged 38 years. She leaves her parents, three brothers and one sister to mourn. CAMPBELL—At Campbell's Cove, on Nov. 13th, Evidencia (Betty) Campbell, aged 100 years and 18 days. Although confined to his home for several years, he maintained his faculties until the last, and could recount the events of his youth, or those of a year ago equally well. Possessed of a great memory and a fluent talker, it was always a pleasure to hear him relate the happenings of his younger days, and tell of his pleasures and hardships of the pioneers. He leaves to mourn one daughter-in-law, three grand-daughters and four great-grandchildren, besides a very large circle of relatives and friends. May his soul rest in peace. BRILL—At Charlottetown, on Monday, Dec. 12th, Sarah Whilly, relict of the late Murdock Brill, aged 77 years.

With 542 members of the total House of 670 returned, the standing of parties in the British elections last night was: Liberals 199; Nationalists 58; Independents 9; Laborites 36—302; Unionists 240. There was a pretty good attendance at the market yesterday and prices were well maintained. Eggs sold at 35 cents a dozen, and higher in some cases; butter was about the same as last quotations 25 cents; hay brought from 45 to 50 black oats from 38 to 40; potatoes from 48 to 48; and pork of which there was a large supply brought from 72 to 8.

An Island Doctor Dead.

Boston advices bring us the regrettable intelligence of the death of James A. McDonald, which occurred at his home in Charlottetown on the 8th inst. Dr. McDonald was a native of Tracadie in this Province and had lived and practiced his profession in the Bonker Hill district, Charlottetown, since the early sixties. He was one of Charlottetown's most honored and most highly respected citizens. He represented the Charlottetown district in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1866, and was a member of the Charlottetown School Board from 1869 to 1873, and for eighteen years a member of the Boston School Board. He died of pneumonia. Within two months of his death he experienced a general break down in health; but only took to his bed a few days before his demise. The death of his son, James A. McDonald, Jr., a prominent lawyer, just a week previously, was a severe shock to the Doctor. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anne S. McDonald, his daughter, Anna Sprague McDonald, and two sons, Dr. William J. and Dr. Louis Ronald McDonald, both prominent physicians of Charlottetown, and two granddaughters, Mary and William J. McDonald Jr. R. I. P. We regret to learn of the death of Rev. Frank O'Neill, of Baltimore, which intelligence reached here Saturday last. Deceased was but 33 years of age and the time of his demise. No particulars were reached beyond the statement that he died on the 8th of pneumonia. Deceased was a native of Vernon River in this Province and was a son of Mr. George O'Neill with other members of his family removed from the old homestead at Vernon River to Everett, Mass., recently. He was a graduate of St. Paul's College and a bright and energetic student. He pursued his theological studies in the Baltimore Seminary and was ordained for that diocese. He was assigned to duty in the parish of St. Thomas, Baltimore, where he labored until his death. He leaves to mourn his aged father, one brother and four sisters, who will have the sympathy of the community in this sore bereavement. R. I. P.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

The first man to cross East River since the ice formed this season was Thomas McNally who walked from Hickey's to McAnnell's wharves Sunday. As a result of an engine running off the track on the Wetskiwin line and rolling 25 feet down an embankment one is dead, three are in Edmonton Hospital, while a fifth is badly shaken up. All the passengers on the steamship Olympia, ashore on Prince William Sound were taken off the ship, together with mails and baggage on Monday and taken to Valdez, Alaska. The thirty Clydesdale Billies recently imported were sold at auction in this city yesterday. The sale was attended by farmers from different parts of the Province, the bidding was lively and, good prices were realized. The prices ranged from \$250 up to \$400. Joseph Klein who stole a pocketbook containing twenty-one cents from Mrs. Francis Lebowitz at Fourteenth street and Sixth avenue, has been sentenced by Judge Malone to State Prison for ten years. He was warned that if again convicted his imprisonment would be for life. He is thirty years old and lives in Brooklyn. Mr. Calvin Cameron of Head of Hillsboro and Alexander Ferguson of Hampton, returned from Winnipeg Monday night. They had been working at asperiting out report business booming in the west. The cold weather set in before they left, the thermometer going down as low as 27 degrees below.

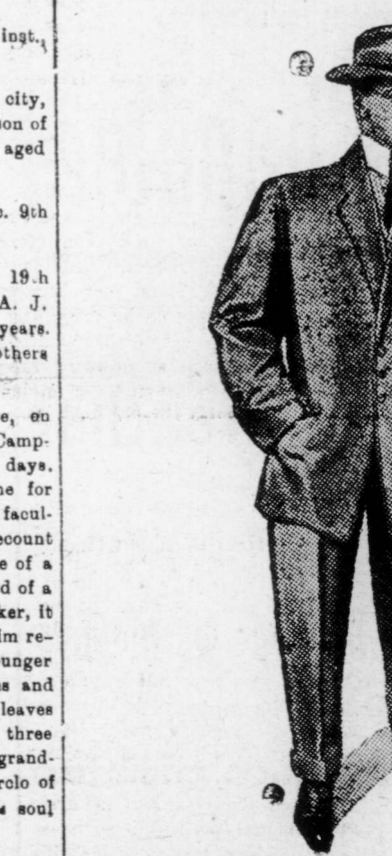
Grand Trunk Railway System

Christmas & New Years' Holidays. Round Trip Tickets will be issued between all points in Canada, also Massena Springs, N. Y., Rouses Pt., N. Y., Island Pond, Vt, and intermediate stations at Single First Class Fare. Going Dec. 24, 25 and 26, 1910. Return limit Dec. 27, 1910. Also going Dec. 31st, 1910 and Jan. 1st and 2, 1911. Return limit Jan. 3, 1911. First Class Fare and One-Third. Going Dec. 21, 1910, to Jan. 2, 1911. Return limit Jan. 4, 1911. For tickets and full information apply to A. E. MARQUETTE, S. P. A., King Edward Hotel, Halifax, N. S., or to J. QUINLAN, D. P. A., Montreal, Que.

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