

LIBERALS ARE UNDISMAYED.

Dominant Opposition Note in the Budget Debate.

Mr. D. C. Ross Bespeaks Spirit of Aggressive Optimism.

Mr. McDougall Refutes Some Conservative Allegations.

Toronto, March 10.—That Provincial Liberalism is alive, dominant and hopeful was the message of the Opposition speakers during the continuation of the budget debate in the Legislature yesterday. Messrs. D. J. McDougall and Duncan C. Ross both took occasion to allude in terms of aggressive optimism to the immediate outlook, and bespoke their confidence in the future. "The Liberal heart still beats strong," declared Mr. Ross amid the enthusiastic applause of his colleagues.

Mr. McDougall (East Ottawa), who resumed the debate, proclaimed the loyalty of the members to their leader and their absolute confidence in the cause and its eventual triumph.

THE INCREASED EXPENDITURE.

In opening Mr. McDougall congratulated the Premier upon the honor recently bestowed upon him by the King. This honor was not a party tribute, and all Ontario united in congratulatory comment that the leader of the Province had been thus honored. He also expressed the gratitude of the House towards Quebec for its hospitable entertainment of Ontario's representatives at the tercentenary celebration. "But," continued the member for Ottawa, "while our hearts may be in the clouds, our feet are still upon the ground." He had to come down to finances, and when he reached that practical plane the possibility for further congratulatory comment was at an end. He was surprised that under the leadership of Colonel Matheson the expenditure had been bounded up to such great proportions.

The revenue, declared the speaker, had not been keeping pace with this increasing expenditure—and this despite the fact that the good roads account had been transferred to capital account to "escape the full penalty of figures that would not lie." The largely increased receipts from succession duties—which, the speaker reminded the House, was a legacy left by the Liberals—and other sources should, in his opinion, enable the Minister to make ends meet without any bookkeeping devices.

Passing on, Mr. McDougall referred to the wiping off of the "Soo" loan guarantee, and traced the history of the initiative negotiations and enterprise. He quoted the present Premier and other Government members who when in Opposition had condemned the guarantee. He was glad all these opinions had been amended, and now all was rosy.

FUTURE OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

Mr. McDougall paid a compliment to the zealous and constant work of the Labor member for East Hamilton. He hoped the time would come, he said, when Labor would have a larger representation in the Legislature. "As to the future of the Liberal party," Mr. McDougall went on, "we have no fears. We know that the Liberals generally will rally round the little band of Liberal representatives in the Legislature. We are loyal to our able leader." Opposition applause.—"And we propose to do our duty to the great party we represent as an Opposition."

"On behalf of our party," concluded Mr. McDougall, amid Liberal applause. "I congratulate our leader upon his magnificent fight. He travelled, he length and breadth of the Province and fought the fight practically alone. It is not his lot now to wear the laurel wreath of victory, but the exchange will be made four years hence, and it will be the reward of pluck, perseverance and valor." (Opposition applause.)

DEFENDS THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. T. H. Lennox (North York) opened amid Government plaudits, by alluding to Mr. McDougall's statement that the Liberal leader went out to fight the campaign practically alone. "He might have added," observed Mr. Lennox, "that he returned from the fight practically alone." (Government applause.) Mr. Lennox described the Government record as "a record of progress, honor and business methods." Under it it was easy to account for the increased expenditure in grants to the public schools, the aid to agriculture, the development of the Province and the administration of its affairs. Mr. Lennox repudiated the statement that the Government was successful because it was following in the steps of its predecessors. "That's just what it's not doing," he declared, amid Government applause. There were changes in the Crown Lands, Provincial Secretary's and Education Departments.

Mr. Lennox concluded by alleging that, although the expenditure had been increased, no outlays had been challenged by the Opposition.

A MUNICIPALITY OF SERVANTS.

Mr. Duncan C. Ross (North Middlesex), who followed, opened by twitting the Province's Treasurer for his visit to the North riding of Middlesex prior to the election and the failure of his efforts to hold the riding, even after the redistribution efforts made to create it a safe Conservative seat. One cause of the increased expenditure which lent itself to criticism, Mr. Ross pointed out, was the multiplicity of civil servants that the Government had gathered around it. The increase in the amount of business done for the Province had not warranted the doubling of the number of messengers in the House, and the crowding in of other appointments not needed.

Continuing at the evening sitting, Mr. Ross dealt in detail with the Florence Mining Company's claim. As to its merits he offered no opinion, but it was a dangerous and improper practice for the Government to usurp the right of fair trial of the merits of any case. Passing on to the question of railway taxation, Mr. Ross advocated an increase. To his mind the corporations did not yet pay their fair share of taxation. In reference to university affairs he held, with his leader, that its financial conduct should be passed upon by the people's representatives.

Dr. Preston (Lanark)—The people passed upon it.

"Ah, the election again," responded Mr. Ross. "The Conservatives should remember they are now upon the crest of the wave, are, upon its very

summit. But the higher the crest the greater the fall when the wave breaks. And I say in all seriousness that they cannot continue to increase the annual expenditure by \$3,280,000 in four years and hold the confidence of the people in the face of what they promised."

"It has become a habit," concluded Mr. Ross, "to commiserate this 'little band,' as they call it. They need not bother about the little band. The Liberal heart still beats strong, and we have no fears for the future." (Opposition applause.)

MR. MCKEOWN'S VIEWS.

Mr. C. R. McKeown (Dufferin) followed on behalf of the Government. He alleged the Opposition criticism to be "all generalities." The expenditure on education had increased threefold, yet not one item, he claimed, had been challenged, because, he said, the money had been spent in raising the standards. Mr. McKeown declared that the Conservative party had not changed its position in relation to the "Soo" loan guarantee. Accepting conditions as he found them, the Provincial Treasurer had handled the negotiations with great skill. As to the three-fifths clause, the speaker said that the temperate people themselves were not of one mind. In Orangeville, the Methodist minister, a Conservative, was opposing the clause, while the Presbyterian minister, a Liberal, declared it to be a good thing in the cause of temperance. Mr. McKeown praised the Government for its enforcement of the license laws.

"It was not lack of expenditure that prevented them carrying even more riders," said Mr. James McEwing (West Wellington), referring to the boasted Government successes at the general election. In his own riding he had heard a prominent Conservative declare that if they had had \$500 more they could have beaten McEwing. "This Government," remarked the member, amid Opposition applause, "seems to have a strong faith in special expenditures."

Mr. McEwing declared that while there had been no justification for much of the expenditure, one branch of Government work had been overlooked in the lavish outlay, that of agriculture. The member for Wellington advocated the appointment of a commission on weeds. Some general scheme to combat the development and spread of noxious weeds was necessary to the protection of rural Ontario. It was from a financial standpoint, Mr. McEwing claimed, much more important to the farmers than the proposed forestry schemes.

Mr. W. S. Brewster (South Brant) moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. William Proudfoot (Centre Huron) will follow Mr. Brewster on the Opposition side to-day. It is not expected that the debate will be terminated before next week.

Hon. A. J. Matheson introduced a Government measure "to regulate means of egress from public buildings." It is an amalgamation of two bills passed last session dealing primarily with moving picture theatres. As local conditions vary greatly in these theatres, the bill vests the regulation of the same in the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION.

Mr. Elliott (West Middlesex) will ask for an order of the House for a return showing exactly what has been done by the Hydro-electric Commission in connection with the Niagara power transmission line. Mr. Elliott desires exact information as to the specific terms upon which tenders were called for, and for copies of the tenders themselves, as well as the contracts which have been concluded, and the order in Council validating these contracts.

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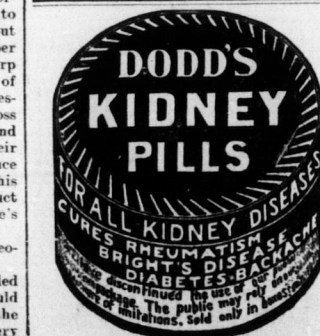
Dr. Hamilton's Pills are harmless; they contain no mercury—nothing but selected vegetable extracts known for their health-giving, tonic properties. To keep the system in a clean, healthy state, to insure pure, rich blood and permanent strength, nothing compares with Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butterbur; they are good for the young and old, weak and strong, for men, women and children, too. You'll never get another such health-bringer as Dr. Hamilton's Pills, which cost 25 cents per box or five boxes for \$1.00, at druggists, or by mail from N. C. Polson & Co., Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., and Kingston, Ont.

SMUGGLING GOES ON

Chinese Still Being Passed Over Into Canada.

Niagara Falls, Ont., March 9.—From a semi-official source it has been learned that the smuggling of Chinese from Fort Erie to the United States still goes merrily on. Although the Canadian officials have no jurisdiction in the matter, they are working in conjunction with the United States secret service men in an effort to secure evidence that will convict the smugglers and put a stop to the traffic.

It is rumored that a successful smuggling expedition was held last night, but no details could be learned.



THE MILITIA ESTIMATES.

Sir Frederick Borden Replies to His Critics.

Halifax and Esquimaux Garrison Cost Money.

Central Organization Necessary to the Efficiency of the Force.

Ottawa, March 9.—On account of the criticism evoked by the decrease in the militia estimates for the current year, the annual statement by the Minister of Militia and Defence was anticipated with more than usual interest. Sir Frederick Borden had his opportunity to-day, and he replied to his critics at considerable length and with some vigor.

The occasion gained in importance from the fact that it was marked by perhaps the most comprehensive and instructive survey of the military situation in Canada that has ever been submitted to Parliament. Realizing the necessity of having the position of the militia clearly set before the people, Sir Frederick had prepared a memorandum dealing in detail with the organization and equipment of the militia force and the policy of the department generally, and printed copies of this document were distributed among the members, who were thus able to follow the Minister's statement with a fund of valuable information in their possession. The principal points in the memorandum which Sir Frederick emphasized in his speech were as follows:

THE EXPENDITURES.

"That the expenditure on the militia service for 1908-1909 shows a decrease of \$46,813, as compared with the 1907-1908, in which year the financial effect of the transfer of Halifax and Esquimaux was first fully felt, while the estimates for 1909-10 show a still further decrease of \$636,275.

"That while the total expenditure for annual drill of the active militia rose from \$699,724 in 1904-05 to \$1,075,000 (exclusive of the cost of the Quebec celebration) in 1908-09, and is for the year 1909-10 estimated at \$860,000, the increase in cost has been accompanied by a large increase in the number of both men and horses trained, namely, from 32,000 men and 7,892 horses in 1903-04, to 47,300 men and 8,300 horses, in 1908-09.

"That the increases in the votes for clothing and necessary provisions and supplies, transport and freight, and warlike stores, are directly consequent upon the increase in the numbers of the active militia and of the permanent force, due in the latter case to the garrisoning of Halifax and Esquimaux, and to additional requirements of the active militia."

"That the increases in the votes for engineer services and maintenance of military properties are directly due to the increased number of military rifle ranges, buildings, and properties in charge of the Militia Department."

AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.

"That the increase in the numbers of the permanent staff of the militia force at headquarters and in the military districts has been in accord with the views of all the general officers who had served in Canada during the past seventeen years has been largely forced upon us by the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from Halifax and Esquimaux, and is absolutely necessary if the militia force is to be able to take the field and maintain itself there, and, lastly, is closely proportionate to the increase which has taken place in the militia force."

"That the increase in the cost of the permanent force is (outside the higher rates of pay granted in 1904) due to the additions to its establishment rendered necessary by its having to provide garrisons for Halifax and Esquimaux, when transferred to Dominion control; by having to provide instruction for a largely increased establishment of the active militia, and by having to provide for the organization of the subsidiary services required to enable the militia force as a whole to take the field."

"That, further, no reduction is possible in the permanent force without either seriously weakening the garrisons of Halifax and Esquimaux (which would be contrary to Canada's undertaking to the empire), or rendering the force incapable of fulfilling its duty or of neglecting the instruction of the active service militia, and organizing it so as to enable it to take the field in case of need."

"That, further, the expenditure on the permanent force is \$51,000 less for pay and allowances than it was in 1907-8, and the vote on capital account is indispensable if the militia is to be properly armed for war, and if rifle ranges are to continue to be provided, and that this vote is likely to be required for several years to come."

IMPERIAL GENERAL STAFF.

Sir Frederick Borden touched upon the new scheme for the organization of an Imperial General Staff, the general idea of which he explained by references to the resolution passed at the last Imperial Conference and the despatches from the Imperial War Office. The point he chiefly emphasized was that the principle of local autonomy would in no wise be affected by the scheme, the Dominion Government through the Militia Department retaining absolute control of the staff. Then Sir Frederick defended the arrangement which had been made with Nova Scotia, and which, he hoped, would be carried into effect by the other Provinces, with respect to the supply of instructors of the permanent militia force to the normal schools for the physical training of teachers, claiming that a uniform system of physical training would not only be a preventive of tuberculosis and other diseases, but would prove of immense advantage in other respects. Turning to the criticisms which had been made in respect to the estimates, he declared that he had been condemned more for reducing the estimates than he had ever been for increasing them.

"Do you refer to the Globe?" inquired Mr. Foster.

"Like my hon. friend, I am interested in that organ," retorted Sir Frederick Borden, who proceeded: "I had not intended to refer specially to the Globe, but the Globe has referred to the estimates in a way that is not very creditable to its intelligence, and I am very much surprised. It seems to suggest that it would be the easiest thing in the world to make a saving of half a million dollars or so by striking off that amount from the permanent force or from the

headquarters staff or district staff, or in some other way, but that the annual drill must go on, without having the slightest notion apparently that a staff and a permanent force are the very vital part of the whole of our militia system, and that it would be absolutely impossible to carry on our system without such a staff or permanent force. The organization of the militia is not a haphazard matter. It is a matter which has been thought out patiently and carefully, and as a result of the development during the last forty years, I have inaugurated no new system, but new things have been added to make the system which already existed more nearly perfect, and I think that has been accomplished. And yet critics who know absolutely nothing about the subject, and who appear to me to act as if they did not want to know anything about it, in case they would not then be in a position to make criticism, tell the Militia Department and the expert officers, who are men of the greatest ability and experience, that they should take half a million dollars off here, or half a million off there, and not off some other place. No man who knows what he is talking or writing about would make such an absurd suggestion," he declared.

THE ANNUAL CAMPS.

The impression that there would be no annual camps this year was altogether wrong. There would probably be the same number of annual camps this year as usual, but the number of men to be assembled in those camps would not be as large, the intention being that a certain number of regiments should train at their own headquarters. Sir Frederick Borden then directed the attention of the House to a memorandum which had been prepared by the department, and proceeded to refer to some of its principal points. After stating that some supplementary estimates for the annual drill might prove to be necessary, the memorandum went on to state that, supposing the same number of active militia should train in 1909-10 as trained in the present financial year, and at the same camps, there would apparently be a shortage on this vote of \$215,000.

IN CASE OF WAR.

The standard of defence aimed at was the power of placing in the field a force of 100,000 men, properly organized in the first line, with the necessary equipment and machinery for raising an additional force of 100,000 men in the second line. Deducting from the total those troops who would be required to garrison places like Quebec, Halifax and Esquimaux, to hold certain important points, and to perform other special duties, there remained for the active defence of the country in the field a total force of about 90,000 men, of whom at present some 80,000 belonged to Canada east of the great lakes and 10,000 to the west.

Mr. Foster asked if that meant that if war broke out 90,000 men could be at once placed in the field fully equipped with guns, ammunition, etc.

Sir Frederick Borden said it could not be done to-morrow, but it was expected that in the very near future it would be possible. He paid a warm tribute to Sir Percy Lake, to whom, he said, the credit of bringing the militia to its present position was chiefly due, and claimed that the policy which had been pursued was good in the main, and that the country was getting full value for the money expended on the militia. The cost was less than a dollar per head of population, and he believed that it would not be necessary to increase that amount to maintain the standard of efficiency.

COLONEL WORTHINGTON.

Colonel Worthington congratulated Sir Frederick Borden on the organization of the imperial general staff, and suggested that the leader of the Opposition should be taken into the confidence of the Minister in regard to matters of imperial defence. He thought more attention should be given to rifle-shooting.

Colonel Scott Hughes emphasized the importance of the training of officers. He did not see why there should not be a depot both on the Atlantic and Pacific for the manufacture of guns and ammunition.

Dr. Daniel commended the scheme of physical training in schools, and hoped it would be adopted by all the provinces. Mr. Glen Campbell advocated the organization of mounted infantry in the western provinces.

A WORD OF PROTEST.

Mr. Robb (Huntingdon) entered a word of protest against the undue development of the military spirit of the House, and his constituents would disavow on any system that would tend to create a military aristocracy. He suggested the abolition of the canteen at the annual camps.

On the item of \$2,300 for gratuities, Dr. Borden asked what thing was being done for Trooper Mulloy.

Sir Frederick Borden said the Patriotic Fund Association was taking up the matter, and would meet next week with reference to it. He believed it would be decided to give a certain amount to Trooper Mulloy.

Dr. Reid—Is it likely that he will get anything?

Sir Frederick Borden—I think it is. That is my expectation.

Items amounting to over \$3,000,000 were passed before the committee rose.

JUSTICE CASSELL'S REPORT.

Mr. Borden asked what action the Government proposed to take on the report of the Justice Cassell.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said the matter was at present engaging the attention of the Council, and he expected an answer next week.

Replying to Mr. Borden, Hon. Mr. Fielding stated that the agitation with reference to the G. T. P. would be placed on the order paper immediately.

Mr. Sexsmith introduced a bill to amend the adulteration act by protecting farmers against the sale of worthless stock feed.

Mr. Stewart (Hamilton) introduced a bill to amend the criminal code by giving power to the police to search persons for concealed weapons.

DEATH REPORTED.

An old offender that hung for years. Nothing touched his stony heart but Putnam's Corn Extractor, and out he came rosy, stem and branch. All corns cured just as quickly when Putnam's is used; try it.

ACID EXPLODED IN FIRE.

Fierce Blaze in Premises of London Engraving Co.

London, Ont., March 9.—A fire which started early this evening in the premises of the Roberts Engraving Company gutted a part of their plant and the flood of water required to put out the fire, which burned fiercely, did some damage to other floors in the building, and some slight damage to the offices of the Free Press, next door. Several cans of acid which exploded made the fire a dangerous one for the firemen.

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SENATE REFORM A DEAD ISSUE.

Senator Ross Says They Had Better Drop the Subject.

No Demand For Senator Scott's Plan of Reform.

Country Not in Favor of Any Change at Present.

Ottawa, March 9.—In the Senate to-day Hon. Geo. W. Ross in a carefully reasoned speech on the question of Senate reform discussed the proposal of Hon. R. W. Scott for a two-thirds elective Senate.

Senator Ross, in an exhaustive review of the arguments advanced by the ex-Secretary of State, maintained that there was no popular clamor for any change in the present system, which was working well; that the proposal of Hon. Mr. Scott was open to many objections, and that any scheme of Senate reform must emanate from the Government, and could only be carried out with the consent of the various provinces which were a party to the Confederation compact. He thought the Senate would do well to drop the present discussion.

In opening he expressed the opinion that there was not the feeling throughout the country for the abolition of the Senate or for a change in the status which some gentlemen in the Senate itself seemed to have evolved. He referred to the fact that the proposals for Senate reform had been debated in the upper House for several years, and the senators had freely expressed their feelings on the question. There appeared to have been no movement in favor of a change in the Senate developed in the country, and he thought that the time had come when the Senate could with propriety cease the discussion of this question unless it came to them in the form of a definite proposal from the Government.

Any change in the constitution of the Senate necessarily involved a change in the constitution of the country. There had been five changes in the constitution since Confederation, and these changes had always originated with the Government of the day. This proposal of Hon. Mr. Scott, not only involved a change in the constitution, but a more drastic change than any previous one. This was all the more reason why, if it were necessary, it should originate with the Government. NOT AN ISSUE IN THE ELECTION.

Hon. Mr. Scott had stated that the time was opportune to make a change in the status of the Senate. There had just been a general election, and that the Government had come back with a strong majority. Senator Ross said that was true, but asked if the reform of the Senate had been made a great issue in the election. It had been advocated by either party, by a leader or by the press. He declared it had not been. Throughout the campaign there had been no such pressure developed, as Hon. Mr. Scott seemed to intimate, on the part of the public or the press, for Senate reform. There had been, he said, a plank in the Liberal platform in 1893, which was a general declaration, something upon which to base a reform of the Senate, if such was desirable, and which no doubt might have been taken as committing the Liberal party to Senate reform. More than sixteen years had passed since that platform had been adopted, and nothing had been done to give it effect. It had been simply a declaration of opinion, which had not aroused public opinion sufficiently to warrant the Liberal party in proceeding further. In view of all these facts Hon. Mr. Ross thought the Senate would only be doing itself justice if it left the question until it was taken up by the Government of the day.

THE ELECTIVE PRINCIPLE.

Hon. Mr. Scott, in moving the resolution, had referred to the proposal to introduce an elective principle into the House of Lords as a reason for the introduction of the same principle into the Canadian Senate. One of these proposals was to elect men from the municipal Councils, and the other was to elect men from the two Houses to the people by referendum. Both of these proposals were rejected by the House of Lords committee, and the only change approved of was that the Peers to represent England should be elected by their fellow-Peers, as in the case of Irish and Scotch Peers. The Canadian Senate, therefore, had no precedent from the Lords. Hon. Mr. Scott had also supported his proposal for an elective element in the Senate by pointing to men of unusual ability who had been elected to the Legislative Council of Canada before Confederation, mentioning the names of Alexander Campbell, David Christie, D. Macpherson and G. W. Allan. These were men of considerable mark, and were returned by election, but he did not know they were more distinguished than the men placed in the Senate under the nominative system, such as Hon. J. C. Abbott, Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. David Mills, Hon. R. W. Scott, Sir Richard Cartwright, and many others.

Mr. Ross did not think the Senate

as at present constituted would deliberately set itself up to oppose any Government measure which was supported by public opinion. Senators had some judgment, and because they were appointed for life it did not mean that they had cast common sense aside. The Senate, for instance, showed independence by throwing out the Yukon railway bill. That was done by a Conservative Senate, but the bill was never repeated. If the Senate was wrong the Commons failed in its duty by not pressing the bill again.

During the three sessions he had been associated with the Senate he had been surprised to see how insignificant the political element in the Senate is. He did not know how men could be gathered together who would discuss bills with greater impartiality and with less political feeling than is shown by the present Senate in dealing with its bills from the lower House.

PROVINCES MUST CONSENT.

He further pointed out that the Parliament of Canada could not abolish or change the status of the Senate if it would, because the Senate was constituted as the result of a treaty, by the Provinces, who joined in confederation, and their approval would have to be obtained before the amendment of the British North America Act could be sought in Great Britain's Parliament. The honor of Canada required that if there was any revision of the constitution of the Senate, it should be revised in precisely the same way that it was formed, by calling all the original parties together and obtaining their consent to any change. He was prepared to consider a proposal from the Government for a change in the status of the Senate, but in the meantime thought that the matter had better stand over for future consideration and for a more constitutional method of bringing it before the people of Canada.

GIVEN THIRTEEN YEARS.

Officer Who Committed Barbarities in the Congo.

Brussels, March 9.—Lieut. Arnold, who gained unenviable notoriety through the accusations made against him growing out of the barbarities he committed on rubber gatherers in the Congo, has been found guilty, and sentenced to thirteen years' penal servitude. He will appeal from the sentence.

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Yesterday's steel storm affected the electric power wires in Toronto, causing for a change in the status of the Senate, and the running of the street cars.

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He further pointed out that the Parliament of Canada could not abolish or change the status of the Senate if it would, because the Senate was constituted as the result of a treaty, by the Provinces, who joined in confederation, and their approval would have to be obtained before the amendment of the British North America Act could be sought in Great Britain's Parliament. The honor of Canada required that if there was any revision of the constitution of the Senate, it should be revised in precisely the same way that it was formed, by calling all the original parties together and obtaining their consent to any change. He was prepared to consider a proposal from the Government for a change in the status of the Senate, but in the meantime thought that the matter had better stand over for future consideration and for a more constitutional method of bringing it before the people of Canada.

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