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Criticism Too Late

NOW is the time for all good men . . . That appears to be the rule these days among certain Social Credit backbenchers of the B.C. Legislature in their bitter and often thoughtless condemnation of the Aluminum Company of Canada development in central B.C.

Now, at this late date, when the huge epoch-making project is on the road to completion, they think is the time to start their criticisms.

These good men, many of them for the first time in the public eye, feel it is time they said something of which they hope the public as well as big industry will take notice.

They cry about the Tweedsmuir Park flooding, about homes practically expropriated from settlers, and about the dangers of the Nechako dam breaking apart.

No doubt, that in some of the criticism there lies some truth, yet if these individuals now making latter day complaints of prior arrangements feel so strongly, they might have spoken up when the public was first acquainted with Alcan's plans.

But today, with projected completion of the first stage of the giant aluminum industry at Kitimat only a year or so away, it would be well for complainants to be on sure ground before pointing out to an industrially-conscious B.C. people that Alcan is little better than an ogre.

It is unlikely that a group of amateur engineers planned the Kenney Dam or designed a reservoir of water which can produce a million and a half horsepower of electricity. And the way is being opened for thousands to have new homes in the greatest single development of B.C. resources.

Parliament Hill

By Edward T. Applewhite, M.P., Skeena

It was with real interest that I noted that the film "Highway 16 (Prince Rupert to Prince George)" was shown in the Library at B.C. House, London, England, on the afternoon of February 11 (admission free). I hope a goodly number of Londoners were there to see for themselves something of the grandeur and beauty of Central B.C.

A couple of days ago I was down in Department of Transport (Air Services) offices. The hope was expressed there, (voluntarily, as a matter of fact) that it would not be long before engineers and surveyors could be at work on Digby Island. Of course the item in the estimates under which this work would come has not been passed yet—but it will be; and in any event the money would not be available until April 1, the new fiscal year. But what encouraged me was to learn that this subject is

actively before certain of the departmental officials, and they take a genuine interest in it.

Some things I fail to understand. I am here in Ottawa, meeting scores of MPs everyday. Now many professional columnists write about the time and energy spent here discussing or forecasting the next federal general election. I have seen or heard very little of that. From what little I do hear, I gather the Liberals expect no difficulty in returning with a clear majority though one, twenty to forty less than they have at present. What Conservatives I have met, seem to feel the same, although they estimate a greater reduction in the majority. Both the pro-Drew and anti-Drew sections seem to assume that Mr. St. Laurent will be our next Prime Minister.

I have had forwarded to me here, the letter which many of you will have received from F. E. Anfield, Commissioner, asking for support for the Prince Rupert District Boy Scouts Association. May I be permitted to add my voice to those of the Association; in urging every one to help this excellent work.

I have started the ball rolling in an effort to have a federal public building in Terrace. At this time, in my opinion, all that is urgently needed is that the government acquire a site, while suitable property is still obtainable. The new post office lease has still some years to run—but it is not a bit too early now to plan and prepare for the public building which will be a necessity by the time that lease expires.

In connection with the 1953 budget there has been an attempt to tell the little man that he has not received anything. Joe Dechene, MP for Athabaska, pretty well knocked that argument on the head in a speech which he prefaced by saying he was not a lawyer and has been rather pleased about that lately. At the time J. M. Macdonell, opposition financial critic, was attempting to prove the point, Mr. Dechene happened to be reading a document Macdonell had written and presented to the legislature of Alberta on March 17, 1953, when he was representing the mortgage associations of this country. Then, Dechene said, Macdonell wished to keep the farmer in bondage until doomsday—so Joe was not too impressed with this sudden interest in the "little man." In cold fact, an examination of the budget resolutions, will show a fair measure of relief—as great as is safe in our present situation—distributed through all strata of society.

MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today

Boat service after April 1 promises to be quite satisfactory as Prince Rupert will have a boat from the south on an average of better than one a day.

Dr. W. T. Kergin and family have returned to the city after an absence of six months spent in eastern Canada and the United States.

30 Years Ago Today

Fire broke out in the St. James Hotel causing an estimated \$5,000 damage.

Charles F. Gray, former Mayor of Winnipeg on a visit here said Canada needs Prince Rupert as a grain port owing to the congestion at Vancouver.

20 Years Ago Today

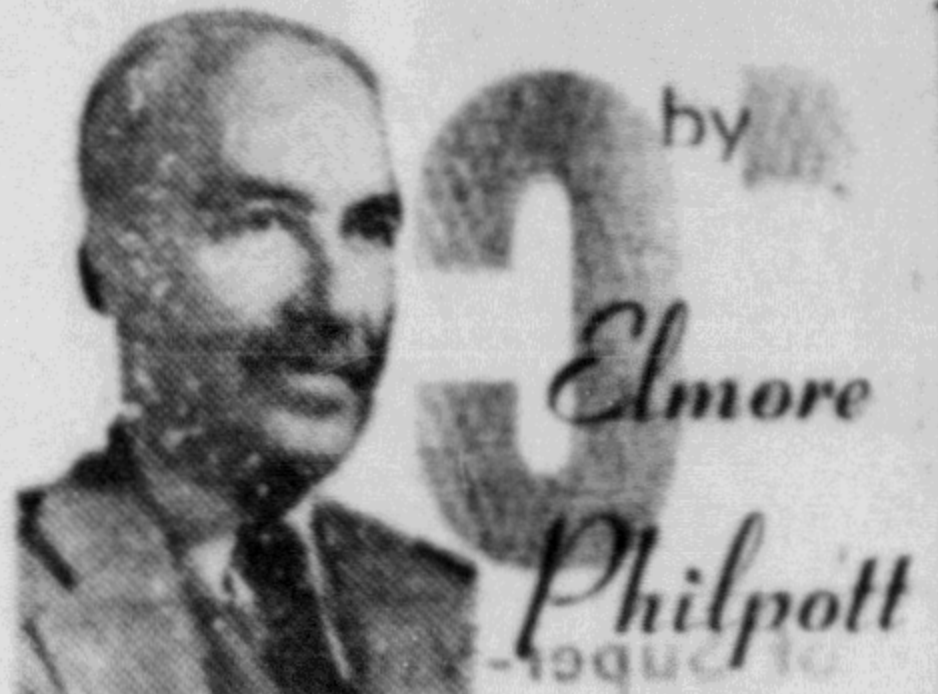
The Big Bay Lumber mill at Seal Cove will reopen and operate steadily for several months cutting box lumber.

Olof Hanson, MP, urged the appointment of a permanent pilot to be stationed here instead of bringing up a pilot from Vancouver whenever a ship needed his services.

10 Years Ago Today

W. J. Scott, Frank Skinner and G. A. Hunter were named to a special committee by the Chamber of Commerce to pursue the matter of the present post office situation.

As I See It



Old Mo Tough Baby

I FIGURE that Persia is the likeliest starting place for that much talked of world war three—if and when.

Right now they are having the fiercest of crises in Persia, or Iran as the folks there prefer to call it. But crises are an old Persian custom.

For the past two years Persia has boiled over with crisis after crisis—but every crisis starts and ends about the same thing—oil.

Over the radio the other evening, Prof. Eccleston of Ottawa, born and brought up in Alberta, gave a talk on his early life. The address chiefly described what was called the short grass region and this was packed with interest. Years and years ago life in the short grass land gave a fellow a start. And incidentally, it must have been so good and short, at a cent an acre.

JUST TWO years ago, when I was out in that part of the world myself, they assassinated the then premier-General Razmara. Razmara stood for a new oil deal with the British in which Persia would get a larger slice of the income from her oil. But three different groups ganged up against him. They were called the National Front. They all favored outright nationalization of the Anglo-Persian Oil company. But beyond that point they had nothing in common. The groups were:

Mossadegh's middle class "liberals," by no means "liberal" by our definition.

The Moslem Brotherhood religious fanatics led by Ayatollah Kashani. They don't know where they are going, but they are on their way. And how!

The Tudeh party, which like the LPP in Canada, is just the Communist party under another name, although Tudeh has the support of many people who do not know or care what Communism is—but only support the party because of clean-out-the-old order idea.

THE LATE BRITISH

Labour government which had a good overall record, made its worst blunder by failing to come to terms with the Persians, in time. No British government would have had a really practical case opposing the principle of nationalization of any other country's natural resource. But for a Socialist government to attempt to do so was plain nonsense. The Persians could, and did, say something like this:

"If you can nationalize your coal, why can't we nationalize our oil?"

For months, while I was a fairly close eye witness, the Persian government was pleading with the employees of the Anglo-Persian Oil company to sign new contracts to work for them. These employees had direct orders from the British (Labour) government not to do so.

There is no use crying over spilt milk, or oil.

OLD DR. MOSSADEGH is a tough, grizzled and cunning politician. He is the only head of government I know of who has literally won his major victories in bed. Whenever the going gets too tough the old boy takes to his bed in the parliament buildings, and pulls the "covers" over his head. The "covers" being a loyal bodyguard, and the support of vast numbers of people, outside.

The danger of world war arising from Persia is obviously simple. In a chaotic situation the Tudeh party might take over the whole country, by force.

That might draw in Britain and the U.S. on the one side, Russia on the other.

Russia has, by clear treaty, the right to occupy north Persia if any outsider occupies the south.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Boys are very durable. A boy, if not washed too often and if kept in a cool, quiet place after each accident, will survive broken bones, hornets' nests, swimming holes and five helpings of pie. After a male has grown out of long dresses, it becomes a boy and is Nature's answer to the false belief that there is no such thing as perpetual motion. A boy can run like a deer, swim like a fish, climb like a squirrel, bellow like a bull and eat like a pig. The world is so full of boys it's impossible to touch off a firecracker or strike up a band without collecting a thousand of them.

Another good test of blood pressure is to watch a man being liberal with the money he owes you.

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NO FADING

Vimy Ridge Bill says: "If you think old soldiers just fade away try squeezing yourself into your First World War uniform."

Elbert Hubbard's advice to young men: "Don't get groggy over girls, religion, art or politics. All fair in moderation, but an overdose can be reckoned an overdose."

THAT PORT UP NORTH

It would almost appear as if Vancouver was striving to have the rest of the universe believe it to be a perilous duty to have any business with the port of Prince Rupert, where pilots and pilotage might be concerned. True enough, we still have a few shortcomings, but when one reflects on Prince Rupert's general shipping record since 1910, what we can show is not grounds for criticism but reasons of praise.

A Victoria columnist says the Sacred government will cut civil servants' travelling expenses as well as trim cost of living bonus paid to recipients of old age pensions. It's only a few days ago a fresh uproar was heard in Ottawa about this \$40 old age pension being too small and then some.

When the time comes, nowadays, to dismiss someone of more or less note, he is more apt to be "fired" than formally advised his services are no longer desired. True! To be fired is understandable, but somehow, since you're being discharged in this style, you feel like answering, "The --- you say."

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British Columbia Teachers' Federation

The Governor General, back in Ottawa after a few days in Yellowknife and elsewhere would feel downcast should romance fade from what he's seen of Canada's west. He's already said as much, and this is only the start of his tours in future. As for romance, why of course. Three cheers for it. We've always been full of it.



JOSEPHAT BRUNET, 50, veteran of 30 years with the RCMP, has been appointed to head the security bureau of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Paris. He takes office in April for a three-year term. He is on loan from the RCMP where he has been director of administration and organization at the Ottawa headquarters.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLennan

An atmosphere of cloak-and-dagger mystery is spreading steadily over Parliamentary circles these days with a density which seems to increase rather than diminish as investigation seeks to throw light on the situation.

The goings-on in the Department of National Defence are responsible. First of all there was the mystery of the source from which CCF Leader M. J. Coldwell secured a confidential copy of the now-celebrated Currie report. Now there is the question of the source from which Davey Fulton (PC-Kamiloops) secured access to a still earlier report on Defence Department shortcomings, alleged to have been made back in 1950.

The Fulton case is almost on all fours with the Coldwell case, since cleaned up by the jailing in Montreal of Fred Hensler, the printer with CCF leanings. But there is one important difference which is particularly disconcerting to the government. When Mr. Coldwell disclosed his possession of a first draft of the Currie report, the government was thoroughly familiar with the document and actually had it before it. But in the case of the report which Fulton alleges to exist, the government had no immediate knowledge and could not discover one in its possession at first search. A frantic combing of old departmental files over the week-end is reported to have finally located a copy in the neglected pigeon-hole to which it had been consign'd more than two years ago.

SECURITY LEAD

The Coldwell access to the

Currie report suggested disconcertingly to the government that the CCF had a dangerous pipeline into the Defence Department. The Fulton incident revives the same suggestion in even more disconcerting form. For the Tory departmental intelligence actually was superior to that of the government in the fact that it lit upon a document of which the government itself had no knowledge.

The disquieting aspects of such a situation are clear to even the dullest imagination. Conceivably no great national harm will result from the ability of the two Opposition parties to penetrate the National Defence Department security curtain. But if the opposition political parties are penetrating it so easily, what guarantee exists that enemy agents aren't having similar success in gathering more vital in-

formation? MAJOR ISSUE It's that possibility that the Fulton episode to major importance. Actually, the report which he refers to under the name of a civil servant who is no longer the government's employe, is the point isn't who made the report, but how Fulton learned its existence? That's what the government wants to know, and is determined to find out.



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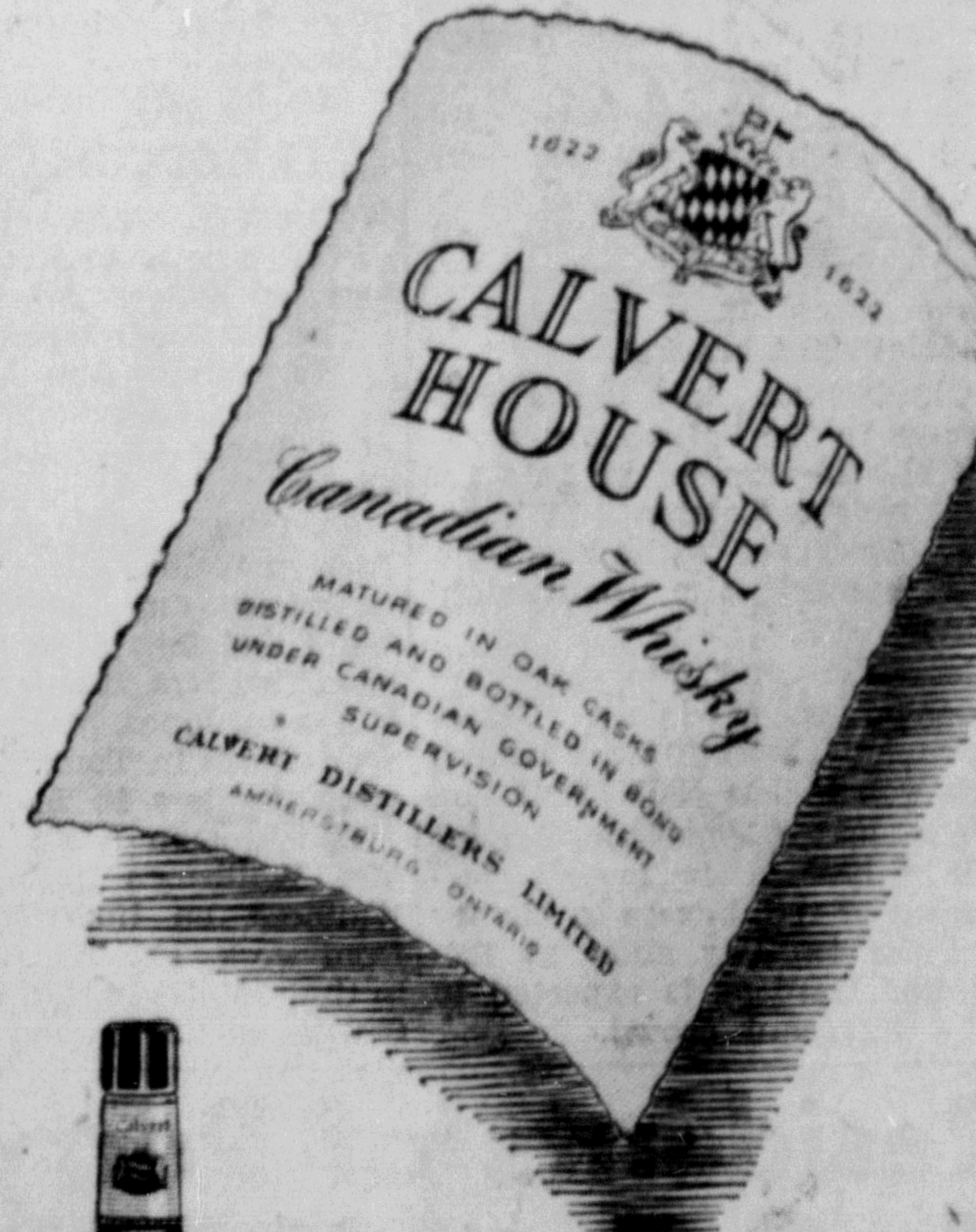
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