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PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1915.

If you wish to die of old age, do not make your physician your heir.

We Have Stopped Sliding Down Hill FF ALL the freight trains on the Pennsylvania system east of Pittsburgh had passed by a single station during the first 14 days of May a man standing beside the track could have counted 7544 more cars than were moved in the same period last year. The average daily increase in the movement of cars amounts to 539. As 321,192 freight cars were moved in the first half of May last year the gain is seen to be only about 214 per cent. This is not large, but the significant fact is that there is a gain. Business is reviving, although there remains much to be

How much must be done before we return to normal conditions is indicated by the conditions at Lewistown Junction, the most nearly central station of the system. In the first two weeks of May, 1912, the daily average of cars passing that station was 5684; in 1913 It rose to 5879; but last year it slumped more than 1000 and fell to 4854. This year it has risen to 5232. The increase in the number of cars has been entirely in the eastbound traffic, while the westbound business has decreased. A still closer analysis of the returns would show why the eastbound business is growing, but all that the country cares to know is that the lowest point in business depression has been passed.

Not a Fair Weather Navy

THE efficiency of the Atlantic squadron, reviewed in New York harbor yesterday, does not depend upon weather conditions.

It may be pleasanter in a sunny day for the spectators to watch the maneuvers, but they must have reflected, as they stood in the rain, that great battleships are intended for the service of the nation in fair or foul weather.

Deplorable State of Portugal

Conditions in Portugal have long been so unsatisfactory that revolution was inevitable. President Arriaga, an incompetent visionary, has been at the head of a Government which was absolutely incapable of governing. The reports say that anarchy prevails throughout the country today, on account of the revolution, but anarchy has been the rule for many months. President Arriaga has fied, and Joan Chagas, the head of the revolutionists, who proclaimed himself a dictator on Sunday, was shot on Monday, and the rioting continues.

The Monarchists, who are planning to restore Manuel to the throne, are as likely to succeed as any other faction. If they have a leader who is calm and courageous, and possessed of the slightest knowledge of statesmanship, they can make Manuel King

Portugal is in as great need as Mexico of a strong hand at the helm, for the masses are ignorant and have no comprehension of what government means beyond paying taxes and serving in the army. The political class is composed of adventurous self-seekers and what we would call here grafters, who go Into politics for what they can make out of it. The country certainly is in a deplorable condition.

## Words of Wisdom

WITH the means of fighting the world possesses at present, with whole nations engaged in mortal combat, disaster is certain for those who in time of peace failed to prepare for war.-General Joffre, in a lecture to the Society of Former Pupils of the Polytechnic Institute of France in 1913.

Not Even Congress Can Do the Impossible

TP THE steamship section of the Panama L Canal tolls act had been framed primarily in the interest of the public instead of growing out of bostility to the railroads better results might be expected from its enforcement. But the men who wrote the section assumed that it is a crime for a company to own and operate railroads and steamships feeding the same territory. The Interstate Commerce Commission, therefore, had no discretion when it was called upon to order the sale of the steamships owned by the railroads. The plea of the railroads for fair play was not heeded, because fair play for the railroads was not the purpose of the The commission rules that the shipment of freight from the West to the Atantle seaboard by an all-water route has been made impossible by railroad ownership f bonts on the lakes, that if the boats sold independent steamship men can get the trade which belongs to them and that the public will be benefited by the water commetition.

They had such a theory in New York a few years ago, when the Legislature forbade any corporation with a capital in excess of \$50,000 to operate boats on the Eric Canal. This law was passed in the interest of the man who owned one or two canniboats and enerated them himself. It was said that the grain could be shipped from the West more heaply if the competition of the little boutmora with the sigantic railroad corporawas made possible by statute. They rest that it is not possible for a pigmy to with a gignt, whatever the law may the confract. This law, intended to ere the business of the great canal, ally destroyed that business. Now eres is tering to do what New York ed to do, and is palog the methods which and notice New York tried them, And the

Interstate Commerce Commission, instead of reluctantly enforcing the law, is going at it with the enthusiams of the sciolist who thinks it possible to do the impossible.

The Time to Stand by the President THE people of the United States do not I want war with Germany; the people of Germany do not want war with the United States. These two facts every patriot should remember, particularly during the period of stress likely to follow the receipt of Berlin's. reply to our note.

We are convinced that the Government has no intention whatever of sending American soldiers to European battlefields, even if Germany's answer, which is improbable, should be a curt refusal of our demands. We have other ways of holding Germany to "strict accountability," ways just as effective as armed strife could possibly be. We have a navy amply able to protect our trade and vindicate our neutral rights on the high seas. It is not probable that the President has even considered an active war. We are fortunately so situated that we can enforce our position and exercise our rights without recourse to such a savage method.

It is easy enough for all Americans to say they are with the President now. The whole nation is always behind such a note as he sent. But the time to stand behind the President will be a little later when his course may not have in it all the elements of popularity, and he will be acting from a knowledge of conditions far greater than that which the mass of citizens can possibly have. There are unfortunately many bitter partisans abroad in the land, and most of them are voluble critics. The President should be able to depend on the moral support of the great mass of common-sense Americans as he strives to guide the ship of state through the threatening narrows into a peaceful harbor. The test of his statesmanship will be his success in vindicating our rights sturdily while at the same time avoiding an open break with any

Let no American, by foolish criticism, interfere with any delicate negotiations looking toward that end.

An Unenviable Distinction

T THE recent celebration of the 50th A anniversary of the National Temperance Society, it was said that when the society was formed the liquor interests were in practical control of liquor legislation in every State, but that today they are in the saddle in but two, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

If the distinguished citizens who have done their utmost to keep this great Commonwealth linked up in an unenviable partnership with the littlest and the most backward State in the Union are proud of their achievement none envies them their taste.

A Look Ahead

ONLY the creators of fashions are supposed to know what the women will be wearing next winter. After they have decided, the buyers of the big stores learn, and now and then the secret transpires through the all too inadequate descriptions of the proceedings of the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association.

The Style Committee of the association has just made a report from which the curious may learn that the jackets of suits will be long or short, buttoned low or buttoned high or buttoned any way that pleases the fancy, and that separate coats are to have set-in sleeves or semi-kimono sleeves, as suits the wearer, and that the materials to be used are broadcloths, worsteds, poplins, cheviots, gabardines, whipcords, serges, tweeds, plushes, velvets, velours and novelty pile fabrics. Skirts are to be wide and narrow and long and short. There is much other interesting information contained in the important document, but the general conclusion to be drawn from it is that the ladies who wear the costumes will be as charming in them as in the styles which they were last winter.

It Will Be a Great Birthday Celebration DATRIOTS from different parts of the country are already looking about for hotel accommodations here during the Fourth of July celebration, yet the celebration is seven weeks away.

The idea of observing the national birthday at the scene of the birth appeals to the imagination of the people. They only need to be invited to come here in thousands every year from every accessible State. A few States were represented last year, but this year either the Governor or some one chosen by him will come from nearly every Commonwealth in the Union.

The President, of course, is expected to follow the example which he set last year and stand once more in Independence Square. to read to the people a lesson in patriotism.

Winston Churchill's popularity is not increasing very rapidly in the Opposition

The Governor apparently thinks that it is better to have a poor law regulating cold storage than to have no law at all.

So much worse things are happening in Europe that the massacre of 6000 Armenians by the Turks seems like a trivial incident.

The full duty of a sailor or a soldier was described by the President when he said that it is not to formulate policies, but to

support them.

When Huerta moved his family into a rented house he found that their appetite was so good after living at a New York hotel that he had to order 42 steaks to feed

It is a great deal better to find work for men on the railroads because of increasing husiness than because of a fool law requiring the employment of more men than are

New Jersey, by preventing the pollution of water supply, has reduced the typhoid fever death rate from 22 in 100,006 inhabitants in 1900 to 9.6 in 1913. But even this record is surpassed in Pittsburgh in the districts supplied by filtered water.

Of course the Republican candidates should have the first place on the ballots if the predominant party in the State is to have precedence. The determination of the General Assembly to bring this about by changing the law is based on common senseDISCOVERIES IN DEMOCRATIC POETRY

America Is Told There Are Three Great Poets in This Country Today-What Are We Going to Do About It?

By LUCIEN BLUPHOCKS

"BUT you Americans," say our foreign should you expect to have good poets?"

Well, there are two answers. First, that "we Americans" do care for poetry, of some sort, and, second, that we have good poets. The latter being a fact doesn't need argu-What it needs is example, and an Englishman has just offered us three of the

This Englishman is John Cowper Powys. professional critic, lecturer and University Extension "shocker." He has shocked more people from his platform than "Billy" Sunday could convert in a week. And recently he shocked a New York audience by telling them that he had discovered three great poets in America. (The newspaper account of this doesn't state whether the audience was shocked because there were only three, or because there were as many as three.) However, the three chosen are Edwin Arlington Robinson, Arthur Davison Ficke and a man named Masters, whose first name Mr. Powys didn't know.

The first and greatest of these, because he is the greatest American poet, was once highly praised by Theodore Roosevelt, and later by Alfred Noyes, the English poet. Neither "boost" has given Mr. Robinson half his deserts in the way of intelligent appreciation. Partly this is due to the difficulty in following his thoughts; sometimes his expression, often his feeling, is obscure. But when you have once found it, it is worth the

Form and Substance

The other two poets chosen by the English critic are more direct, and Edgar Lee Mas ters is the more direct of the two. No two men could be more different in every respect. Mr. Ficke chooses to bind his thought in the straightest and soberest chains. His latest and most impressive book is a series of fifty-seven sonnets.

It may not be quite fair to Mr. Ficke to judge him by his latest brief work; the only excuse is that it is so much better than his other poems. If you want a man with a message to America you do not want Mr. Ficke. If you want a man who understands human beings, particularly in their relations to each other, and most particularly in the most fascinating and important relation of all, which is love, you do want Mr. Ficke, The "Sonnets of a Portrait Painter" deal with the unhappy love of a man for a woman. The story is very slender; the emotions are full and true. You know that the painter has loved honestly, and if he isn't as direct and as simple as most people, why, you must admit that some men aren't as simple and direct as others, and let it go at that. What is more likely to be true is that 'the painter" of these sonnets expresses what we all feel, but cannot express ourselves. Every man who has been in love knows exactly the feeling that his beloved s something higher and more beautiful than all the rest of the world. So every man will appreciate what this poet means when he

You, the bright madness lightening the curse Of reason's dull reign in the univers

It is that way with everything Mr. Ficke has done. He has expressed something which would be useless if it weren't exactly what the world has always felt. To read his book is easy enough. But one has to go through a vast variety of experiences to understand it.

Spoon River Folks

The "Spoon River Anthology" of Mr. Masters is absolutely different. The author has aken a little town in the Middle West, Spoon River, has taken its people, who are sleeping "on the hill" and has let each one speak his own epitaph, to take the place of the meaningless words carven on their head-

First, just by way of example, there is the story-poem of Hod Putt. This is what he says of himself:

Here I lie close to the grave Of Old Bill Piersol, Who grew rich trading with the Indians, and

Afterward took the bankrupt law And emerged from it richer than ever. Myself growing tired of toil and poverty, And beholding how Old Bill and others grew in wealth,

Robbed a traveler one night in Proctor's Grove. Rolling him, unwittingly, while doing so, For which I was tried and hanged. That was my way of going into bankruptey. Now we who took the bankrupt law in our respective ways Sleep peacefully side by side.

That is the beginning. You go farther and with each turn of the page you come to a real character, and usually to a real tragedy. Doc Hill, known to all Spoon River for his kindness, tells why he gave himself to his people. His wife hated him, his son went to the bad. When the people came to his funeral he was glad.

But oh. dear God, my soul trembled, scarce To hold to the railing of the new life When I saw Em Stanton behind the oak tree

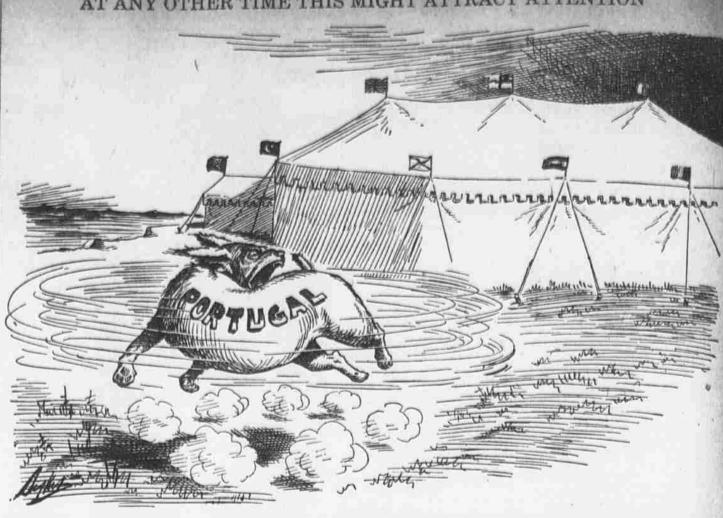
At the grave. Hiding herself and her grief.

Country Town Ambitions

This may not be your idea of poetry, but you cannot resist the feeling it brings up in you, because the feeling behind it is so true. The gallery of these portraits is, perhaps, the finest composite picture of life in a country town of the United States that was ever made. There are great ambitions and little ones: Margaret Fuller wanted to write novels like George Ellot, but she married Slack, the rich druggist, and bore him eight children, so she had no time; Albert Schirding wanted to be County Superintendent of Schools, failed and died, but the reason which he himself can tell is that he was joalous of his children's successes while he was a failure. And Jonas Keene, whom Albert envied, envies Albert because his own children were failures while he was

There are darker things than this in the book of Spoon River. There are little stories of bitterness and of hate, of immorality, of falsehood and of infamy. And there are a few touches of humor. But the bast thing in the book is that it is the record of real life, American in many ways, too Ironical, too bitter, perhaps, but so intensely expressed that you can't help living through the experiences set down. And if those experiances are not of the highest, are not the most beautiful thing in the world, the author leaves it to you to avoid everything he has written about and make your own life better,

AT ANY OTHER TIME THIS MIGHT ATTRACT ATTENTION



## BETWEEN GIOLITTI AND SALANDRA

After Italy's Cabinet Crisis, What?—Solution of the Problem Now Remaining Depends on King Victor Emmanuel's View of What the Constitution Demands of Him.

By ADALBERTO CAPORALE

DOR the last few months Italy has been I facing the most serious problem with which she has been confronted in the last quarter of a century. The country has to decide now, in a few days, whether she will join the Allies in the war against the Teutonic empires, thus becoming a party to the Entente and assuring for herself a place and a voice in the future congress of peace, where the map of Europe will be rearranged, or remain neutral throughout the present war, thus becoming perfectly, if not dangerously, isolated, renouncing every advantage that would come to her from the defeat of Austria, and forfeiting all her previous efforts to acquire a predominant influence in the Balkans and in the eastern Mediterranean and to conquer for her manufacturers the Oriental markets coveted by the Hapsburg monarchy.

The failure of Signor Marcora and of Signor Carcano to form a new Cabinet, or their refusal to take on their shoulders the responsibility of power at a time when the people are crying for war and when every step has been taken, with the sacrifice of hundreds of millions of dollars, in the accomplishment of the army and navy's preparation for the third national war, and the unmistakable signs of a revolution, which would spread through the whole country should the Government abandon its war policy, are clearly a defeat of the neutralists, and, what at this time counts more, a defeat of Signor Giolitti, who, having never been very popular, has become now a much hated man in

Giolitti's Influence

The King, who has never been willing to deviate from his constitutional duties, has nd that no other man but Signor Salandra can control the situation, and has succeeded in keeping him in the office of Premier. That was the only possible solution of the serious situation brought about by the former Premier, Giolitti, in whom the German Ambassador, Prince von Buelow, had found his strong ally in his efforts to keep Italy out of the war through concessions which would never definitely solve the burning question of the Adriatic. But the solution of the ministerial crisis, with the Salandra Cabinet retaining power, means war at an early date. notwithstanding the opposition of Signor Giolitti, who, unable himself to assume again the Premiership, suggested to the King the names of two men who probably would have blindly followed his advice, Signor Giuseppe Marcora and Signor Paolo Carcano, two of his lieutenants in the Chamber of Deputies.

But, what is the real attitude of Signor Giolitti toward the intervention of Italy in the European conflict? The question is justified by the recollection of a statement made by the former Premier in a recent session of the Chamber, while the foreign policy of the Salandra Cabinet was being discussed. Glolitti said then that Austria had asked Italy in 1913, nearly one year before the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, whether Italy would give support if Austria declared war on Servia. At that time Giolitti, who was Premier, was in Piedmont, and the Austrian request was telegraphed to him by the late Marquis Di San Giuliano, who counseled a response in the negative. Giolitti answered that Italy could not support Austria in a war against Servia; that if Austria wanted to declare war she could do it at her own risk, while Italy would retain her full freedom of action; she could not approve such a step. This statement, which was quite unnecessary and also an utter condemnation of the Austrian policy, as well as a revelation that Austria had prepared for war against Servia long before the assassination of the Archduke in Serajevo, was considered in political oircles in Rome as an attempt of Giolitti to counterbalance the popularity acquired by Salandra with his utterances in favor of the realization of the national aspirations of Italy, a popularity which menaced Giolitti's leadership in the Parliament and his reputation of being the high protector of the Government. It is not impossible that Giolitti, seeing the uselessness of his efforts to retain the upper hand in face of the national policy followed by the Salandra Cabinet, decided to withdraw his support and compel Salandra to resign.

However, Giolitti's influence and power in Parliament is not broken, and it is possible that Signor Salandra, whose resignation was prompted by his conviction that, being opposed by Giolitti, he could not count any longer on a large majority in the lower branch of the Parliament, obtained from the King, before accepting his request to remain in office, the promise that the Chamber of Deputies will be dissolved.

This step seems, indeed, necessary if the Salandra Cabinet is to be left free of any outside and undue influence on its war policy. The present Chamber was elected in November, 1913, after the new electoral law, extending the right of suffrage to the illiterates, had gone into effect, and while Giolitti was at the helm of a Government that had brought to an end the war with Turkey and had acquired a certain degree of popularity. The result of the general elections was a Giolitti Chamber. It is still a "Giolitti Chamber." The former Premier retains his leadership, and can, if he chooses, overthrow the Cabinet, as he did in the case of the Sonnino and Luzzatti Cabinets during the last Legislature, when he had also a majority of followers in the lower Chamber.

The King's "Constitutional Scruples"

Therefore, a peculiar situation has arisen in Italy since the extensive military preparations were begun by the Salandra Cabinet, soun after General Zupelli, who was then assistant chief of the General Staff under General Cadorna, assumed the portfolio of War and was allowed more than \$200,000,000 to carry through his and General Cadorna's plans of preparation for intervention. The Chamber of Deputies, ruled by Giolitti, is presumably ready to follow his advice for continued neutrality, while the country, in its great majority, favors war against Austria. The Chamber, elected by the people, is not the expression of the will of the nation, but of Giolitti's will, that is, of the man whom the nation now calls traiter. How could Signor Salandra appear before such a Chamber after having declared war on Austria without running the risk of being overthrown by a vote of distrust and compelled to leave office in an exceedingly critical time. when the result would be the breaking of the continuity of policy and action which is so necessary in time of war?

The King alone, who has the constitutional right to say the last word, could solve the serious puzzle, and he saw that the will of the nation had to be followed instead of that of the Giolitti Chamber. But, is It possible in a democratic nation like Italy, is it constitutional to rule against the will of the Parliament? King Victor Emmanuel, whose respect for the Constitution no one has ever doubted, cannot continue such an impossible situation without endangering his reputation of the strictest observer of the Constitution Hence the only solution will be the dissolution of the Chamber, a step which will receive supposedly the hearty approval of the country, since it knows now that Giolitti's influence must come to an end, being no longer in accordance with the supreme interests and the national aspirations of the Italian people.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir-I have read with no little interest and pleasure the article in the Evening Ledonn of Tuesday. May 11, 1915, on page 4, under the heading, "President's Audience Tense, Expect ant and Thankful."

While numerous other items in the Eventuo Lericars covered the details of the President's visit and his message, the poetic conception of the writer of the above, and his handling of the theme, carry one far beyond the procaic. Arti-cles of this calibre help to make the Evening LEDGER so interesting and successful, and both the writer and the EVENING LEDGER are to be congratulated. S. W. BROWN, JR.

Philadelphia, May 14,

THE CURIOSITIES OF HISTORY To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir-In an interview in New York, which ap Sir-In an interview in New York, which appeared in your paper, Mr. John W. Griggs, exGovernor of New Jersey, is reported as having
said with regard to the sinking of the Lusitania: "In neither case was the action in accordance with the usage in warfare; not only
in modern times, but in the Dark Ages. The
barbarians of old regarded neutrals as absolved
from punishment. They did not slay women
and children who were not in arms against
them."

Of what purpose are such utterances? Any person of ordinary education must know how false the above statement is. Leaving aside ancient history, which is replete with tales of barbariam on non-combatants, modern history records that Cromwell's soldiers in Ireland mur-dered in cold blood hundreds of men, women and children-tossing babes from one bayonet to another. Cromwell packed numbers of hu-man beings into a tower and then cremated them slive in it. them alive in it.

As another illustration of curious history wording I quote a letter by Herbert Welah to Ambassador von Bernstorff. In the letter there is this passage, "Our statesmen of the 18th century struggled for constitutional libisth century struggled for constitutional liberties against a British King. He was of German blood and partly by Hessian soldiers he sought to subject his transatiantic colonies to the lyranny of a personal will so autocratic that, as you will remember, it finally ended in madness." One would suppose from this that the Hassians were a private bodyguard of the King's, paid for out of the family pures. Had the British Parliament nothing to do in the matter of sending mercenary soldiers to this country? It is generally agreed that King Charles I lost his head because of trying to make Parliament subservient to his will. The

object of the statement is obvious-to put the odium of the hiring of Hessians on a man of German blood. But what purpose in the end does such history writing serve?

Florence, N. J., May 13.

ANOTHER COMMENDATORY LETTER To the Editor of the Evening Leager.
Sir-Permit me to congratulate you on that
two-column editorial summing up of the German-American situation which appeared in the
Evening Ledger recently. It was certainly a
masterful effort.

S. H. To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Nashville, Tenn., May 15.

GOOD FOR THE CHILDREN

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir-The Scoville article in Friday's Evening
Ledger is charming. More such would be of
help to children and to ignorant grown-ups. I
have sent three papers to three families of ANNA THORPE WETHERILL Philadelphia, May 17.

NOT DR. STOBBE'S SENTIMENT To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir-In the Evening Ledger of May 7 there appeared under the heading "Consul Shows Joy at Sinking of Liner," a story of one of your reporters in which I am pictured as having cheered and displayed great joy when receiving the news of the sinking of the Lusitania. Similar expressions were ascribed to some of the officials of the Consulate. The story was copied by a great number of other newspapers. I wish to inform you that on May 7 I left the office at 12:30 p. m. (when news of the sinking of the Lusitania had not yet reached this cour-try) to attend a charity festival at Ogontz, Pa, and did not return to the Consulate until 10 a.

m. the next morning. This ought to be sufficient proof that the story written by your reporter is a pure invention. I did not see any reporter, neither on May 7 nor May 8.

I further want to emphasize (although I am sure that every educated man will take it for granted) that all the officials of this Consulate. whenever asked by any reporter, expressed their heart-felt sympathy at the loss of lives in connection with the sinking of the Lusitania This fact has especially been pointed out in articles of other Philadelphia papers. \* \* \* I should feel obliged if you would publish this

statement in your paper, so that those of your readers who did not at once realize the story to be false will be convinced that the interview ascribed to me is not warranted by any facts at all, but is a pure invention of your reporter, who alone is responsible for it.

DR. GEORG STOBBE, German Consul.

Philadelphia, May 15.

[The reporter inexcusably erred in mistaking a subordinate officer of the Consulate for Doctor Stobbe. A correction was published in the EVENING LEDGER of May 8. The elation shown by this subordinate officer and the clerks, it is fair to say, was based on the information then given them, that no lives had been lost in the sinking of the Lusitania.—Editor of the Evenino Ledger.

SPRING

Buttercups and daisles-Oh! the pretty flowers! Coming ere the springtime To tell of sunny hours. While the trees are leafless, While the fields are bare, Buttercups and dalsies Spring up here and there. -Mary Howitt.

AMUSEMENTS

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