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Their Place of Business

To 58 Queen Street, on April 1st

Next Door to Irwin & Co.

Thanking the public for their Liberal Patronage during the past seventeen years, they will do their best to retain the same at their new stand.

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New Designed Prints.

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That he has opened the above Saloon where first-class Refreshments will be served from 7 a. m. till 10 p. m., under the competent superintendence of a Competent City or Country Cook.

THE FINEST BRANDS OF —

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Choice Table Delicacies, with the Finest Refreshments Served Hot, and will be added to from time to time.

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15 ft. lengths; 14 lbs. to the yard

Just received per "Duke of Abercorn," from Liverpool.

For Sale by W. L. GREEN, or G. W. MACFARLANE & Co., Agents for Jas. Fowler & Co.

Hawaiian Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1884.

OPIUM IN HAWAII!

AN INVESTIGATOR ELUCIDATES.

Read in Fort Street Church, Wednesday Evening, May 7th, 1884.

One of my earliest recollections is of the discussions, frequently renewed relating to the use of opium in the Islands.

When I would ask what it was all about I was told by my father of the opium war in China, by which the drug was forced upon that people against the will of the government, and how pernicious were its effects and influence upon the mind and physique of mankind. My boyish interest was excited and whenever in my reading I found anything about opium it was eagerly devoured. The thought grew into a conviction with me, boy as I was, that opium was a subject of importance in Hawaii. That much interest in the subject was felt at that time is shown by the fact that legislation was attempted for its control. Its importation was not prohibited, and the duty collected was simply that of a drug. Physicians were allowed to keep it. There is no doubt that it was imported by a number of individuals besides druggists.

The lack of comprehensive and reliable statistics in former years, as well indeed as at the present time, prevents a thorough showing of the opium question for the country, but so far as possible information has been collected from various sources—chiefly from reports made to the Legislature of the Kingdom from time to time.

The earliest statutory provision appears to be the Act of May, 1886, the preamble to which reads:

Whereas, disorders and serious riots are of frequent occurrence from the use and abuse of opium, and other poisonous drugs, and whereas there is danger of the pernicious habit of using opium being acquired by His Majesty's native born subjects from the example of the Chinese, etc.

The Act then provides that the importing, selling, vending or furnishing opium or any preparation thereof, except by licensed physicians as medicine, shall be prohibited by fine. The license was fixed at $40 per annum to physicians.

This law was enacted shortly after the first considerable influx of Chinese into the country, and it is undoubtedly a fact that to them Hawaii owes the vice of opium using. Those early Chinese had the name of being a very bad lot, and it is probably true that they came fairly by the reputation. The preamble to the Act indicates the fact that they soon acquired an evil notoriety in the matter of opium at least. The Hawaiian with his sociable nature and readiness to acquire any new thing, soon became addicted to the use of the drug, and then, fact added to the passage of the law.

In spite of the prohibition however, the use of opium continued.

It was not very difficult it was said to procure opium on the ground of necessity, and the old question, which is with us now, as to the relative values of prohibition and high license was constantly discussed.

The result of this was that when the Civil Code became the law of the land, May 17, 1859, the foregoing Act was repealed and the Minister of the Interior was authorized to license duly qualified physicians and surgeons at forty dollars a year to import and sell opium, and other poisonous drugs, but it was provided that such license should not authorize the holder to sell or furnish opium or preparations thereof or other poisonous drugs to Chinese or Coolies, except on prescriptions. (Civil Code, Sec. 85, et seq.)

This remained law a little more than a year, and whether or not it very much obstructed the importation of opium, is shown by the fact that in 1859, opium to the value of $12,143 was imported and paid duty.

In August 1860 the importation and sale of opium was licensed, by act of the Legislature.

Two permits for Honolulu and one for Lahaina which at that time was a place of considerable business, were prescribed. They were to be offered at auction to the highest bidder at the upset price of $2000 each. The licenses permitted the sale of opium to Chinese only. They were to be delivered only on the execution of a bond (title penal sum of one thousand dollars, not to sell or furnish opium to any person except Chinese. Physicians and surgeons were permitted to prescribe opium, the rest of the community were inhibited on pain of fine or imprisonment, not to deal in the deadly stuff.

This remained the law of the land until 1874. But the expectation of those who believed that an revenue of at least $8000 a year would be derived from the sale of licenses were sadly disappointed. The Chinaman, with his rare ability for combination and respect for Chinese obligations, bid $2000 for the first license, put up and nothing further was offered; as a result of this, but $2000 a year was received by the Government for seven years. In the eighth year or 1868, the two great clans, the Pioon and Hak Ka, fell out and bid against each other and the license sold for $2,362.75. After this the licenses—sold for Honolulu only—brought enormous figures, the biennial periods ending respectively March 31, 1870, 1872 and 1874 showing receipts of $18,538, $22,248 and $46,734, no license was sold for 1876, that for 1873 brought $13,288, in spite of the fact that the prohibitory law of 1874 would soon go into effect.

Under the license law of 1860, the Government assumed a competentive for the privilege of selling a drug so poisonous and deadly that on no account could it be sold or furnished to any but Chinese, the sum of $127,716, besides the considerable amount received as duty on its importation.

The large amount bid for the license, again aroused public discussion and in 1874 when the bill to amend the license law by permitting but one to be sold and that to be put up at the upset price of $20,000 was under discussion, where the Legislative Assembly, the interest was sufficient to procure the signing by a very large number of citizens and residents, of a vigorous protest and petition. This was placed before the Assembly, and in defiance to an undoubted public opinion, a very stringent prohibitory act was passed and signed by the King. It is singular that the other statute enacted at the same session was also signed and is now in the volume of laws of 1874, though it is clear by repeated by the last clause of the prohibitory statute signed one week later. This law been matter of learned action and was cumbersome in its execution. Section 1 absolutely forbids the importation of opium or any preparation thereof, or its sale, furnishing, etc, under pain of not over two years imprisonment. Section 2 compels the Board of Health, giving it authority to import and use opium etc, for medicinal purposes.

Section 3 makes the possession of opium or preparations, an offense punishable by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than one year. Section 4 punishes physicians who sell, prescribe or furnish opium to persons in the habit of smoking or otherwise using the same, by a forfeiture of all opium in his possession and by fine of not less than $25 nor over $100.

This law is now amended by the Act of 1880, which inflicts fines ranging from not less than $50 to $500, besides the said terms of imprisonment, one half of the fine to go to the informer. The object of this amendment as will be conjectured is to eliminate the reporting of offenders in the expectation of reward.

Thus the law stands to-day. How long it will stand remains to be seen. A considerable and perfectly honest, intelligent and patriotic portion of the community believe that the use of opium, which cannot be absolutely restricted, can best be kept in check and regulated by stringent license laws.

The business of dealing in opium is very profitable, and no effort has been or will be spared in the future to procure the repeal of the present law and the re-enactment of a license Act. This influence has been felt every session of the Legislature since 1874. Simon Kaai has fed it, has introduced the bill and twice has been victorious in the passage of the Act. In every case his argument has been the infamous one—that opium could by the law be sold only to the Chinese and that therefore no Hawaiian could get it and be killed, so far the Chinese, well——

Mr. Kaai has gone. It may be said that the soul of Chunky should tenderly be drawn about him. He was a man of natural ability. He might have stood to-day the leader of his race. His power swayed and controlled them, but he chose to prostitute himself to evil. He was the recognized champion of opium license, and no doubt its paid champion. The Chinese to-day, to the writer's knowledge, are offering large amounts to procure the passage of license laws.

The present session of the Legislature sees a bill to provide a license and repeal the prohibitory statute—introduced by Mr. Lilikalani of "gatling guns" and "Na lay torpedo" memory. His great learning (?) and eloquence (?) displayed in his manifestoes of 1882—may possibly assist him in securing the passage of this bill. It provides for a license to be sold at the upset price of $30,000, to authorize the sale of opium to Chinese only, and prescribes a multitude of penalties for selling or furnishing to the Hawaiian, or for violating other provisions of the Act, which is long, cumbersome, and after all its verbiage, only creates anew, the right to sell opium.

Mr. Filipo, of N. Kona, moved the rejection of the bill, but withdrew his motion at the request of Mr. W. O. Smith, who thought the matter should be carefully considered before such action was had. Mr. Smith is no friend to free opium and his motion, in the writer's opinion, is intended to more effectually kill the measure. The bill is now in the hands of a committee, and will be brought before the House for action at an early day. It ought to be printed and circulated freely in the community that all might see and understand its terms and intent.

The King has vetoed the bills which have twice passed the Assembly and each time in response to the strong protests placed before him by the community. It is said that the last time, his veto was in consideration of the declaration by Chinese young men that many of them could not resist the use of opium if its use were licensed, while they are able to keep from it by the help of prohibitory statutes. His Majesty is deserving of all praise for this action which is understood to be contrary to his own views of public policy and was a yielding in favor of the immoral side of the question. The Chinese form now a very large minority of the population, and Christian civilization demands that their rights and needs receive protection as well as those of the rest of the community.

What were the numbers of the Chinese in 1860 is not certainly known, as they were counted with Hawaiians at some places in the census of that year. In 1866 there were about 1200, of whom 570 were in Honolulu and 500 on Oahu. In 1872 their numbers had increased to 1840, one-third of whom were in Honolulu and about half on Oahu. In 1878 began the influx of Chinese which has kept up till the present time in greater or less volume and the census of 1878 shows 5800, of whom 1300 were in Honolulu and 2200 on Oahu. The census to be taken next December will probably show not far from 20,000, with from 6000 to 8000 in Honolulu.

If therefore prior to 1868, it paid to sell opium to less than 1500 Chinamen at a cost for the privilege, of $2000 dollars per annum, and after 1868 to 1875 to net over $500 at a cost from $15,000 to $20,000 a year, it is natural to suppose that the right to supply the demand of from 12,000 to 15,000 Chinamen to-day is worth much more, and this fact is appreciated by those who want revenue—from legitimate sources if possible—but revenue at any rate.

The use of opium was not confined to the Chinese during the days of license. The vice spread among the native and some others. It is estimated that when the prohibitory act went into effect not less than 500 to 1000 natives had acquired the opium habit. Its allurements were even more powerful with them than with the Chinese and the consequent ruin and death so far reached. What its effects have been can never be known in the absence, not of reliable, but of any vital statistics in most parts of the Kingdom. It is believed to-day that not more than 50 to 100 natives are opium users. The great decrease in the habit is due not so much to reform as to the prohibitory law. It can not be had as it once could.

The old law prohibited the sale to natives. It did not prevent them from visiting the frequent opium dens and partaking with the Chinese, of the drug, for which they paid, not the holder of the license, but the proprietor of the den. The Hawaiian, however, got all he wanted of the drug at any and all times. He merely handed his "bapaha" to the Chinaman, who bought of the dealer, and simply delivered his purchase, and exactly the same thing will occur again. These places do not exist to-day as they did in former years. They cannot, for the danger of detection is too great, and the Chinaman who would furnish opium to the Hawaiian, well knows that his victim after enjoying the deadly trance caused by its use, will report to the police for the reward proposed. Why should he not? His moral sense is destroyed. No spark of honor which might induce the protection of a fellow, guilty only as the informer, is remains in the breast of the degraded smoker. It is not necessary to picture these opium dens, for probably all bearers of this paper know from the vivid pictures so often drawn, of the appearance of the opium taker. It was the unpleasant duty of the writer to visit many of these places in the line of duty as his successor of Honolulu in 1867 and 8, and the scenes there witnessed must not be forgotten while memory lasts.

Those who would witness the effects of opium using can do so to-day by stepping into the Police Court, where the miserable wretches with their startling faces and look of death are frequently arraigned to answer for the offense of having opium in their possession. The punishment of imprisonment is a merry, yet a merry full of horror to those whose use thereof is evident; for the two or three months of deprivation is a terrible ordeal.

The reports of the Supreme Court to the Legislature make a significant exhibit as to the offenses connected by name with opium.

For selling opium without license, 4 convictions in 1864-5, 1866-7 2 cases, 1868-9 8 cases, 1870-1 20 cases, 1872-3 38 cases, 1874-5 53 or a total of 126 cases. This makes no account of smuggling cases, of commitments for insanity, or for the many other charges directly or indirectly traceable to the use of opium. In the report to the Legislature of 1878, the Chief Justice says that 107 complaints under the opium laws had been filed, and that there had been 87 convictions, besides which most of the 116 smuggling cases had been for opium. Of these 107 complaints, 75 were for the possession of opium under the then new prohibitory law.

In 1880 the Chief Justice says that there were 132 cases of possession of opium, 19 for selling opium, and 38 for smuggling opium, a total of 178 cases. In 1882 the Judiciary report states that 615 cases have arisen under the opium statute. It further shows that it is evident the strict law against its possession is valuable as tending to restrain the native population from its use. The report to the present Legislature shows 427 cases for possession of opium, 21 cases for selling opium and 22 cases for importing. Since 1876 then the enforcement of the opium laws has involved the trial of not less than 1400 cases. But it cannot be argued from this that the law should be repealed on the ground of expense, as the heavy fines collected, never of prosecutions. Several vessels have been seized for smuggling opium, and one has been confiscated, it appearing that the officers were concerned in the offense. It is thought to-day that a large part of the smuggling carried on now is by the lumber vessels which are supposed to possess peculiar facilities for hiding it. The report of the Attorney general to the Legislature of 1882 calls attention to the ease with which opium can be smuggled and to the impossibility of preventing it by means of searches, as it would impose an intolerable burden on commerce to compel an examination of every article of merchandise.

The custom house statistics show that from 1860 to 1875 $170,589 worth of opium was imported. It paid a duty of 15 per cent. Since 1875, under the prohibitory statutes, 3632 pounds have been seized as it has been smuggled into the Kingdom. Opium is smuggled constantly. It is brought into the Kingdom in such quantities that its price to-day is only about $15 a tin. Though this may be for the poorer qualities brought from the Coast and Victoria. It is said that good Hongkong opium is to-day worth $20 a tin. Two tins are about one pound. It is the impression among the officers of the Government that smuggling is now conducted by a powerful ring numbering in its midst many names unsuspected by the community. Under the old license, opium was smuggled in considerable quantities and the holders of the licenses could not stop it any better than the Government. Nothing for or against license can be argued on the question of smuggling.

The question for our law makers to decide is this:

Will you have the Government derive a revenue from the importation and sale of opium, knowing that to license it will largely increase its use, and will bring within its influence a large number of people, chiefly Hawaiians, who are now exempt?

Are the premises upon which the foregoing proposition is based, sound? Will more people be exposed? Are the effects of opium injurious to the body or mind or both?

Let us see what evidence is offered upon these points.

The vital statistics for Honolulu, (I find less than $50, fully pay for the expense none for other places,) for the past four years place opium as the cause of death in eleven cases. Here it is credited with being the direct cause. How many more are owing to that cause indirectly can not be known, but in all probability more than eleven.

Mr. David Dayton says: "I have been in the Police service ever since there was an opium law in the country, and from my twenty five and more years of experience, I say unhesitatingly, if you want to sow death broadcast through our streets, let the sale of opium be again licensed!"

He says: During the last few years when opium was licensed, its use spread very rapidly among the natives, and when the prohibitory law went into effect, I think that not less than one thousand of them had acquired the habit, and it affected and ruined them sooner than the Chinese, but I think I am safe in saying that where there used to be twenty five native opium users, there is not more than one to-day. It was a common thing during those last years, on going the rounds in the morning, through the lower parts of Honolulu—Punaluu, Kikihale, Kapalama, etc.—to find a person on the floor dead, from the effects of using opium, and sometimes it was a native. The Chinese could not smoke or eat all that which was sold. It stands to reason that the holder of the license would sell all he could—and he will do so again. Large quantities of opium were sold by the licensee to people who went all over the country, from Hawaii to Kauai, peddling it, and it was sold and furnished to natives—and it will be again. The Police Court room would be foul with the breath of the opium using crowd who collected. It was not uncommon to have to give a prisoner a dose of opium before he could be arraigned in the morning, he would be so exhausted from the lack of the stimulant over night. But since the present law went into effect that necessity has arisen but a few times. If it is again licensed it will surely hasten the death and extinction of the Hawaiian race. Prisoners in those days frequently had to be dosed at the jail for two or three months, to cure them of opium before they could go to work. The opium using class furnish a constant and steady stream of criminals, they are burglars, thieves and the perpetrators of other crimes. The recent cases in the Supreme Court for burglary and larceny are all from the opium using class. This class having very largely decreased does not now furnish the same quota as formerly. The use of opium seems to act as an incentive to various crimes. This testimony was endorsed by Mr. Parke, Marshal of the Kingdom, whose experience extends back to 1850.

Several old opium users have been interviewed by the writer within the past week and their evidence concurs, that to again license the sale of opium will be the worst thing that can happen to the native Hawaiian. The suggestion that under the proposed law the native cannot get opium is scouted as absurd. The old law is cited and the fact that although prohibited, natives got all they wanted, and more and more of them were becoming opium users. "We cannot get it to-day as we could then," one said, "it can be purchased but with such danger and risk, that we don't like to try it, and so very few natives use it." Opium takes away a man's strength. He becomes a lazy fellow and will not work, and he cannot do the same work as a man who does not use opium. One man said: "I used to be one of a gang of laborers on a plantation, and several of us smoked opium—we were a miserable crowd—we never had more than a single shirt to our backs, and we never could work like the other men. Once a man—an opium smoker was seen trying to break a woman's finger to get her ring which he wanted to get opium with. The men used to sell and pawn every thing they had for opium.

Several of the leading Chinese of the city; men who have no connection with the Chinese or any other Church, but who are old residents, who have had experience in business, under license and under prohibition, and who have a practical acquaintance with various phases of industry in the country, were interviewed.

They say: "If the Government want to make money out of opium they can make a great deal, and probably more by selling licenses to everybody anywhere, who will pay a thousand dollars for one, and it would bring in a revenue of from $40,000 to $50,000 a year." A great deal of money can be made by the holders of the licenses. Of course the man who has a license will, as a matter of business, sell all he can, any one would, it would not be good business conduct to do otherwise. But no doubt the free sale of opium is a bad thing for the plantations. The rice growers are now troubled with the opium smokers, they number about four or five in a hundred, but if opium could be freely bought, the per centage would rise very high. The opium user does not earn his wages and is a bother, they are turned off, but go to other places and are employed and then the discovery is made, often after a debt is incurred, that they are opium users. If the Government wishes to have regard for the physical condition of the laborers in the country, it will not license opium. The use of opium is a great detriment to the value of labor. The great increase in the demand for opium to-day does not arise from its being used more by individuals, or by persons who never before used it, but from the fact that the number of Chinese in the country has vastly increased. Even the Chinese who use opium but not habitually, are not as likely to use it, or become slaves to the habit with prohibition as with license. If a license is again issued opium will be used in mercantile transactions, as liquor and cigars are to-day; a hoped for purchaser will be invited to partake of a whiff of opium, where now he is asked to have a cigar or a glass of wine. The unanimous opinion of these Chinese gentlemen is, that the opium user is a pauper and must at some time or other become a public charge.

Others were interviewed and the testimony agrees with the foregoing in all its main features.

It should be borne in mind in considering this question, that the Chinese now form a very large part of the population of the country, and the proportion is likely to become greater. Saying nothing of the inhuman argument that the Chinese are to be permitted to purchase and use this article which is sure to bring ruin and death to so many of them, because they are Chinese, there are other aspects of the case which must be considered. What will be the effect on the community of the mingling of a large body of opium users with the general public. Such a thing cannot be otherwise than injurious to any people. The mere presence of a body of law breakers, of a pauperized class is an injury, the extent whereof cannot be measured, the tone of any community where this class is permitted will of necessity be lowered. Such a class will inevitably add to itself outsiders, who will not only become themselves opium users and paupers, but criminals. It ought also to be remembered that the Hawaiian has not the cunning and secretive qualities of the Chinese, and under prohibition would never hide his violation of the law as do the latter, consequently it adds another reason in favor of prohibition.

This subject has been considered largely from the point of view of Honolulu, but what is true here is true in the country to a greater or less extent. The planters say that under the license law, Monday and part of Tuesday were useless so far as Chinese labor was concerned, as Sunday was taken up with smoking opium, the result whereof being to render the men unfit for work. Under prohibition, although the evil is not cured, yet it is reduced to a fraction of its former magnitude, and only trouble can result from renewing the license. Statements from the other islands are not full enough to permit of the claim that this is the unanimous voice, but it is the opinion of an intelligent portion of our agriculturists, whose interests lead them to careful statements of their views. They have rights also which are deserving of recognition. The native in the country can procure opium as easily as in Honolulu; perhaps he is not as likely to become addicted to its use as in town.

Nothing has been said from the medical stand point. It is pretty well known that physicians in the Islands regard the matter of the chance of opium being easily procured by the natives, with dread and alarm. They believe as they informed the writer in 1876, that free opium would quickly bring the remnant of this race to an untimely end. The general physical, moral and mental effects of opium are so well known as to require no further mention.

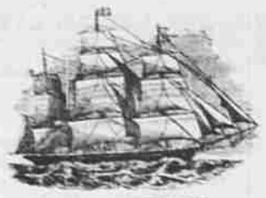
Thanks for statistical and other information here given are due to the Collector-General, the Minister of the Interior, the Chief Justice and others. It is only to be regretted that sources of statistical information are so unsatisfactory on many points. But that must be so until a better system than at present, except perhaps in the Supreme Court and Custom House, shall prevail.

W. R. CASTLE.

Honolulu, May 7th 1884.

General Advertisements.

"Pioneer" Line



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Galv'd Wash Boilers, Galv'd Garden Borderings and Nettings,
Tinned Iron Saucepans, all sizes;
Tea Kettles, Reel Japan Blacking.

PAVING BRICKS, GARDEN TILES

Garden Rollers, Lawn Seats and Chairs,
Garden Stands, Iron Scrapers,
Hat Hooks and Nails, LAWN TENNIS SETS,
Clothes Baskets, Hand Baskets, Work Baskets

Crockery and Glassware,

Fancy Glass Flower Stands, Fern Baskets, etc.

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Fire Clay, Whiting, Chalk, Yellow Ochre,

Roofing Slates

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ZINCS, PAINTS AND BOILED OILS

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3, 5, and 7 yards lengths.

TOPSAIL SHEET CHAINS

Admiralty Test—sizes: ¼, ⅜, ½ and 7-16.

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STATIONERY, IRON BEDSTEADS,
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16ft Lengths, 56lb. and 80lb. per Yard.

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VERTICAL ENGINE

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FRENCH CLARET, of superior quality in casks and cases;
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R. C. MENKOW & Co.'s BRANDY, *, *** in cases;
INLES BOSIN & Co.'s BRANDY, *, in casks and cases;
MELLER FREERS BRANDY, *** in cases;
PALE SHERRY of Best Quality in casks & cases;
IRISH MALT WHISKEY,
SCOTCH WHISKEY, Glen Lossie;
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" " Glen Gray, in stone jugs;
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Established 1862.

Established 1862.

107, 109 & 111 FREMONT STREET

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Is enabled to Largely Reduce the Rates for the Hulling & Cleaning of Paddy.

AMONG THE MANY ADVANTAGES OF SHIPPING PADDY TO SAN FRANCISCO AND HAVING IT CLEANED AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MILLS, THE FOLLOWING MAY BE NAMED:

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