

SOUNDS DOOM OF FADS IN SCHOOLS

Crusade of The Evening World, Backed by Parents and Educators, Leads to Appointment of a Committee to Report on the Essentials.

The war against the fads and fancies of the course of study in the public schools which has been waged by students of education, men of business, school teachers, school principals and one or two Commissioners of Education and the parents of school children through the columns of The Evening World during the last six weeks is beginning to bear fruit.

A committee composed of five members of the Board of Education and nine members of the Board of Superintendents, and known as the Committee on Economy, has had the matter in hand for nearly two weeks, and has practically finished the task of saying what is essential in the present curriculum and what is not essential.

The Secret Leaks Out.

The existence of the Committee on Economy was discovered by accident to-day by a reporter of The Evening World, who learned that it will file a report in ten days. What that report will be is a question, but one thing is said to be certain, and that is that every phase of the opposition to the present system of education will be treated.

It was upon the motion of Commissioner of Education Abraham Stern, who ever since he entered that office has been fighting for the essentials of education—the three R's, reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic—that the committee was appointed. Mr. Stern's plan for the relief of existing conditions comprehends the routing out of all the fads and fancies and the use of time along such economical lines, especially in the elementary grades, as will give every child in the city an opportunity to go to school.

Mr. Stern's Plan of Reform.

In the beginning of the crusade against the course of fads and fancies, with its medium of essentials sufficient to enable it to support the designation of curriculum, Mr. Stern told through The Evening World how he could give every child of school age three hours and a half a day in the elementary grades. "That," he reiterated to-day, "is sufficient time for any child to spend in school in its earlier years. He can be well drilled in the essentials, and when school is out he will have time for play and time to prepare himself for the next day. And at that there will not be a child crowded out of school or compelled to submit to the system that is composed of what is called 'half time'."

Commissioner of Education G. J. Higgins is a supporter of the Stern plan. He knows by personal experience that there are too many fads and fancies in the schools and that conditions cry out for a simplification of the system.

Had to Aid His Daughter. "Why," said he to-day, "before my

daughter graduated from the grammar into the high school there was not a night that I did not spend two or three hours with her, going over her lessons of the day. If I had not done so she would still be in the grammar school. I am afraid. She would come home in a whirl and with only a hazy idea of arithmetic and of English and geography. How the child stood it I don't know, and how the children who haven't parents at home to help them with the lessons they ought to know ever graduate is a mystery to me.

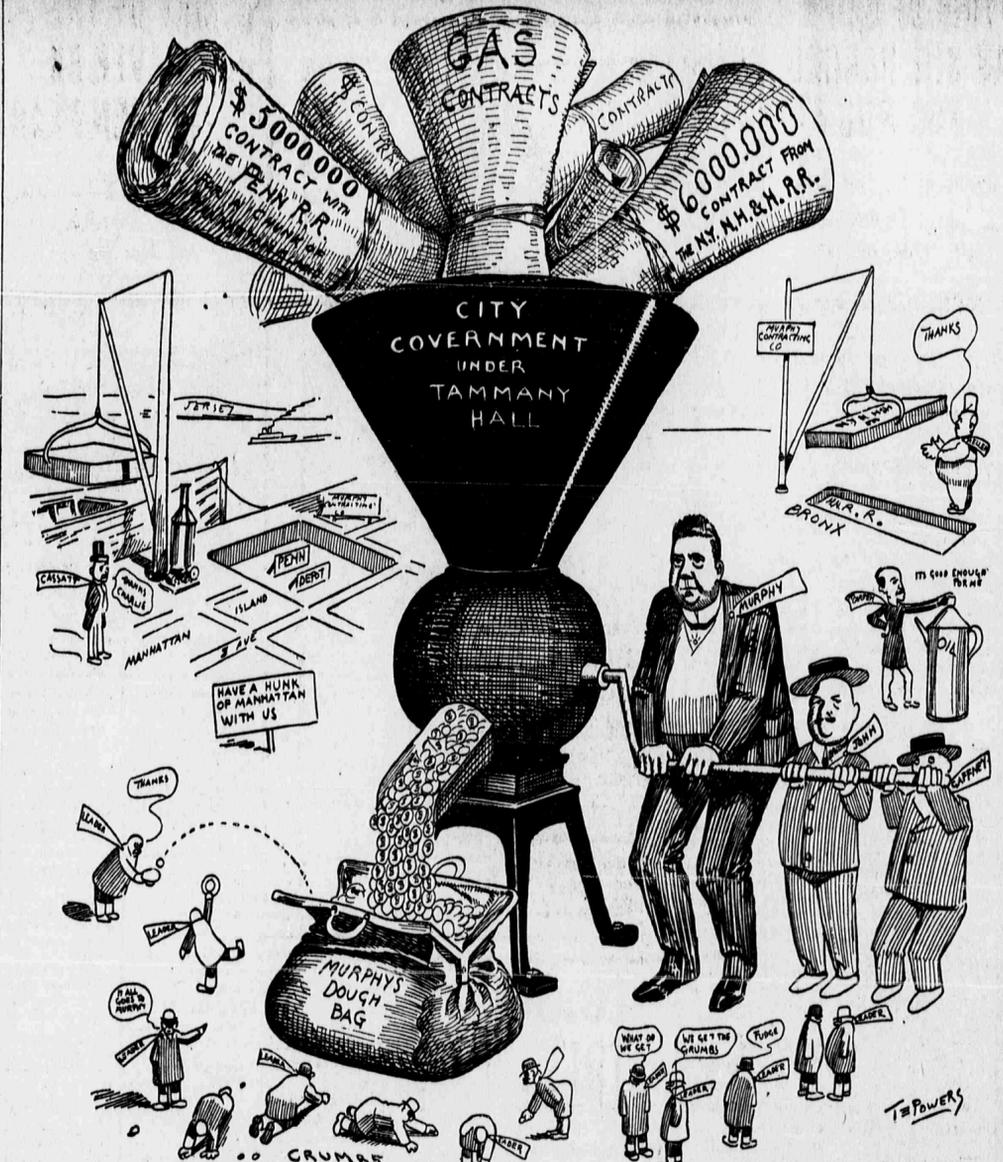
"It isn't the fault of the teacher and it isn't the fault of the child that the records should show an amazing percentage of school-children of this city to be illiterate. It's the fault of the fads and fancies and the system. The children are the victims of cramping. And what are they crammed with? Nothing of any use to them or anybody else. No sooner are they through with the time allotted to one fad than they are marched into another room to be crammed with another. So the day wears round. There are so many things to be done that their young brains are not able to comprehend them all.

Not Through, He Says. The consequence is that they get a smattering of everything without a comprehensive grasp of anything. They lose the essentials besides, because there is no time to teach them the essentials. The schools take care of the non-essentials and the parents, if they take an interest in their children, must see to it that they get the essentials. I am one commissioner who will welcome a change.

"You needn't take my word for this. Go to the schools and ask the business men and employers in every branch of activity who are seeking employees with an education. They will tell you, as they have told me, that the output of the public schools is a disgrace to the city. Go over to the east side and the ignorance of the children who have gone through the grammar school will astound you. You will find big boys and girls who can't spell the name of the street they live in. English with them is an unknown quantity, while they do arithmetic with their fingers. They don't know how to write a simple letter. Is it their fault? Not a bit of it. They are simply products of the system."

ALL'S GRIST THAT COMES TO HIS MILL

(By T. E. Powers.)



Does the receipt by Charles F. Murphy's brother's firm of the \$6,000,000 New York, New Haven and Hartford contract for developing the Bronx lines of that road explain why the Port Chester Railway was unable to get a franchise from the Board of Aldermen?

NOT QUITE DOWN TO ZERO WEATHER

New Cold Wave Strikes the City and Carries the Temperature Downward, but There is a Prospect of Speedy Relief.

TO-DAY'S TEMPERATURES.

2 o'clock A. M.	10 above zero
4 o'clock A. M.	8 above zero
6 o'clock A. M.	5 above zero
8 o'clock A. M.	5 above zero
10 o'clock A. M.	9 above zero
12 o'clock Noon.	11 above zero
2 o'clock P. M.	16 above zero
4 o'clock P. M.	18 above zero

Tingling ears and cold noses are still in fashion, with the mercury flitting desperately with that low-down fellow zero. At 2 o'clock this morning thermometers that could be relied on registered 10 degrees above zero. At 4 o'clock the mercury had fallen to 8 degrees above, and at 6 o'clock it registered only 5 degrees above. From that time on the temperature continued to moderate. According to the local weather forecaster there is hope ahead. Here is what he predicts for the next twenty-four hours: "Fair and moderating to-night. Friday fair and warmer; fresh to brisk southerly to west winds. After a few hours of thawing out yesterday afternoon and the early hours of this night another cold wave is coming into Manhattan, the Bronx and Westchester. This time it is to be more to add to the pack of discomfort the weather has been causing since the first snowstorm in early December. The cold has already affected the food supply, and prices have advanced in poultry, vegetables and fruits. Trade in the harbor has been impeded, and the rivers are choked with ice which will become thicker to-day. The suffering on the east side is increased in intensity and quantity, and as long as this spell lasts will not abate. There has been no chance for a rest from the cold or the bitterness of the season."

STEAMER FAST AGROUND.

Passengers of Orizaba, Ashore on Australian Coast, Taken Off. PERTH, West Australia, Feb. 16.—The Orient line steamer Orizaba, with passengers and mails for Sydney, N. S. W., is ashore off Garden Island, twenty miles off of her course. The vessel is fast aground and has considerable water in her hold. The British cruiser Katoomba has gone to the Orizaba's assistance and tugs are taking off her cargo. The passengers and mail have been landed.

Garden Island, or Buache Island, is situated off the coast of Perth County, West Australia, five miles from the mainland, between which and Garden Island is Cockburn Sound. The Orizaba is of 3,225 tons net, she sailed from London Jan. 13 for Sydney.

BABY'S BODY IS FOUND ON STEPS

Dismembered, It Had Been Put in Four Packages, Which Were Then Inclosed in One Large Bundle.

The dismembered body of an infant about two weeks old was found in a package at the head of a stairway leading to the cellar of No. 298 Broadway street, Jersey City, yesterday, but the contents of the package did not become known until last night.

Mrs. Emily Spurrier, the landlady, found the package and carried it to the cellar and placed it in an ash-can. When her husband returned from work last night she told him about it and he investigated.

The head had been severed and the arms and legs at the shoulders and hip joints. The head was in one package, the torso in another and the four extremities in the body taken to the Morgue. An investigation was made in the neighborhood and all the recently born babies that could be learned about were accounted for. The police believe that the body was carried into the hallway by some passerby.

STEVE BRODIE II. IN CAFE FIGHT.

Locked Up with His Dog, on the Complaint of a Dentist. Steve Brodie, twenty-four years old, of No. 112 West Forty-third street, who says he is a son of the late Steve Brodie, of bridge jumping fame, was arraigned in the West Side Police Court to-day charged with assault. He was arrested in his cafe at No. 154 Broadway on the complaint of Orrello Peters, a dentist, of No. 151 Broadway.

According to Peters, he went to Brodie's cafe on Tuesday night and was drinking with several persons. They threw dice, he says, and accused Brodie of palming the dice to win. Brodie, he alleges, jumped from behind the bar and knocked him down and kicked him in the head. Peters said he was rendered unconscious and carried to his home.

When Brodie was arrested he had a bulldog which he said was his mascot, and insisted that the animal be locked in the cell with him.

A FAMOUS ADVENTURE.

Don't forget to read "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" in next Saturday's Evening World, Feb. 18. This is the second story of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes," the greatest detective series ever written.

JAPANESE WIN NEW VICTORY

Russians Driven Back at Various Points in Attempts to Weaken Oyama's Lines—Big Forces Engaged.

TOKIO, Feb. 15.—The following despatch was received this morning from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in Manchuria:

"In the direction of the Shaikhe River our artillery Feb. 14 bombarded Chienyang and set fire to that village. The enemy's artillery in the neighborhood of Sanchuan Mountain replied.

"During the night of Feb. 14 a section of the enemy's infantry attacked Waitao Mountain, and at dawn Feb. 15 a battalion attacked Waitao Mountain, but the Russians were entirely repulsed.

"In the direction of Chitaitau in the morning of Feb. 15 800 of the enemy's cavalry advanced into Santsakou from Shengtsiangmen, three miles northwest of Chitaitau.

"Another force of cavalry advanced south along the right bank of the Hun River Feb. 14 and passed the night in the neighborhood of Chenchawatu. It was placed outposts in the vicinity of Kawangtau.

"Before the arrival of our detachment despatched to dislodge the enemy, his forces began to retreat north. Our detachment quickly pursuing toward Helukou inflicted some damage. The enemy's artillery taking up a position in the neighborhood of Wangchawopeng covered his retreat. The enemy's strength was about ten squadrons of cavalry and artillery."

ODELL CLIPS BARNES' WINGS

On Eve of Departure for Europe Former Governor Designates McKnight as "Boss" During His Absence. Former Governor Odell will sail on the steamship Princess Irene Saturday for Naples. He will be accompanied by his wife and youngest daughter, and son Bryan. During his absence, the political affairs of the Republican State Committee will be looked after by the former Governor's private secretary, McKnight. McKnight is an experienced politician, and his designation as "boss" during his absence is a recognition of his position.

RUSSIANS AND CHINESE CLASH.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 16.—A telegram from Sabetun reports that a fatal affray has occurred between Russians and Chinese at a village forty miles northwest of Sabetun, where a party of Russians went on a foraging expedition. The villagers seized the Chinese interpreter with the Russians, and a fight ensued, during which a Chinaman was killed. The villagers killed the interpreter and fled.

Many people would learn to dance if they were not bashful. An advertisement inserted in World Wants will secure the best private instructor. Read the Wants to-day.

FOUR DEAD, SCORE HURT IN SUBMARINE BLOW-UP.

Crew of British Vessel Scattered by Explosion of Gasoline and Rescuers Injured in Second Crash—Some Badly Mutilated. QUEENSTOWN, Ireland, Feb. 15.—Four men were killed and a score injured in two explosions of gasoline, on board the new submarine boat A5 in the harbor here early to-day.

The first crash occurred while the crew were charging the tanks with gasoline, the eleven men aboard being hurled in all directions.

A number of the crew of the British gunboat Hazard volunteered to go to the rescue of the submarine boat's crew, but hardly had they got on board the submarine when a second explosion took place and all the rescuers were more or less injured.

Lieut. Skinner, an officer of the submarine boat, subsequently died of his injuries.

The other two killed met death instantly.

Some of the injured were badly mutilated.

Lieut. Good commanding the "A-5" sustained terrible injuries about his head and face, it is believed he will recover, but his eyesight is destroyed. The interior of the submarine boat is on fire which delays a complete examination of the vessel.

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J. F. CARROLL IN DODGE CASE

Called Before Grand Jury to Testify in Divorce Case—Counsel Says He Knows Nothing About It. John F. Carroll, Richard Croker's right-hand man when the Squire of Wall Street was boss of Tammany, was called before the Grand jury to-day to testify in the Dodge-Morse divorce case. He went to the Criminal Court Building accompanied by his counsel, Philip Brit. He was in the Grand Jury room ten minutes, and when he came out his lawyer said:

"You can state for Mr. Carroll that he knows absolutely nothing about the Dodge-Morse case, either before or after."

"Mr. Carroll is a bosom friend of Charles W. Morse. He met and accompanied the Joe King when he arrived here from abroad."

DETECTIVES RESCUE FOUR FROM FLAMES.

Fire was discovered to-day in the cellar of the five-story tenement house at No. 15 Manhattan street, directly under the wine and liquor store of Arthur Levy. The house is directly opposite the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street station and as the house filled rapidly with smoke and the tenants began to run out in a panic, Detectives O'Meara and Hays ran over to assist and calm them. After they thought everybody was out they started through the house and on the rear fire-escape of the second floor found Mrs. Catherine Van Etten, her two children, Samuel, aged nine, and Robert aged three, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Sarah Van Etten, who is seventy years old. The old woman was threatening to jump, but the detectives led the entire family to the street. There the women faintly and an ambulance surgeon was summoned. They were returned to consciousness and by that time the fire had been extinguished.

FIGHTS TO END LIFE BY POISON

In Central Park Member of Produce Exchange Defies Would-Be Rescuer and Swallows Carbolic Acid. Isaac Reisman, a young produce dealer and member of the Produce Exchange, killed himself in Central Park to-day by drinking carbolic acid. He had fought to accomplish his purpose as John Coleman, of No. 151 East Ninety-sixth street interfered and struggled to get possession of the acid.

"Go away and don't bother me," cried Reisman, "this is my last day on earth. Get out, I don't want you hanging around. Can you let a man die in peace?" Coleman walked away and hid behind a tree. A few minutes later Reisman got up and drew a bottle of acid from his pocket.

"What are you doing?" shouted Coleman from behind the tree.

"None of your business," retorted Reisman, putting the bottle to his lips. Coleman jumped forward and the man grappled. The produce dealer and desperado, fought himself free and swallowed the acid. He died before an ambulance arrived. He leaves a widow and six children. Despondency over business reverses is assigned as the motive for his suicide.

SILK WOVEN FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT.

Material for Her Inaugural Gown Sent from Paterson to Washington to Be Made Up. PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 15.—The silk which is to be used for the inaugural gown of Mrs. Roosevelt has been shipped from this city to Washington, where it will be made up by skilful modistes. The silk is of heavy brocade with a background of a pretty blue, through which at various intervals is woven the figure of a dove. The filling is of gold tinsel, and the effect is very charming.

The pattern has been destroyed, so as to give to the President's wife an exclusive costume at the inaugural ceremonies.

The silk was woven in the mills of the William Strange Company, in Madison street. James Robertson, one of the oldest employees in the mill, had the honor of weaving the sixteen threads.

Once before Paterson had the honor of weaving the silk for the dress of a President's wife. This was in 1864, at the first inauguration of President McKinley, when the material for his wife's inaugural gown was woven at the Hamill mill.

NOT ROBBED AT WALDORF-ASTORIA.

Mrs. Riekman's Friend Lost Watch but She Denies Saying It Was Stolen at Hotel. Mrs. M. F. Riekman, of No. 19 East Forty-first street, who was reported to-day to have been robbed of a \$200 watch in "Peacock alley" at the Waldorf-Astoria, when seen by an Evening World reporter to-day said that a mistake had been made as to the place and person robbed.

Mrs. Riekman, her daughter, Mrs. George Kavanagh, her son-in-law, Mr. Kavanagh, and an unmarried daughter, went to the Lyceum Theatre several nights ago. Mr. and Mrs. Kavanagh live in Philadelphia and were guests at the Waldorf. At the theatre Mrs. Kavanagh discovered that she had lost her watch. It could not have been stolen from her while on her way to the theatre, as her wraps were not disturbed and had been closely fastened about her.

Mr. Kavanagh advertised the loss of the watch and returned with his wife to Philadelphia. Mrs. Riekman said she had made no statement about a friend of hers being held up and robbed near the Waldorf.

At the Dog Show. (From the Louisville Courier-Journal.) The fair young thing seemed somewhat perturbed. She appeared to be looking for something. "Can't you find the kennel you wish?" asked the young man gallantly. "If not, I shall be glad to assist you." "Oh, thank you so much," she murmured brightly, "and will you please tell me where they are exhibiting the ocean grayhounds?"

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MEDICO-LEGAL SLUICEMACHINE? PATRICK TALK BOSH-JEROME A DIVERSION?

Report Cannot Possibly Get Before Appeals Court, He Declares. IT IS NOT ADMISSIBLE. In It Committee Declares that Age, Not Chloroform, Killed William M. Rice. PRISONER'S OWN SCHEME. Has Spent His Two Years in the Death-House Studying Science, Becoming Expert in Poisons.

When the report of a committee of the Medico-Legal Society, which has been investigating the death of William M. Rice, showing that the aged millionaire was not murdered by Albert T. Patrick and Charles F. Jones, was shown to the District-Attorney to-day he laughed at it. The case of Patrick, who has been for two years in the Sing Sing death-house, will be argued before the Court of Appeals early in March, and something has been said about counsel for the condemned lawyer using the substance of the Medico-Legal committee report in his argument before that tribunal.

"The report," declared District-Attorney Jerome, "has no more bearing on the present status of the Patrick case than would the opinion of a Park Row sandwich man. I haven't read it. I have so little interest in it that I shall not read it."

Argument on Evidence. "The Court of Appeals will pass upon nothing but the evidence adduced at the trial of Patrick, when he was found guilty of murder in the first degree by a jury of twelve men. The idea that this sort of stuff can be put before the court is the veriest nonsense. The Court of Appeals will confine itself to the evidence and if any attempt is made to introduce this report there will be a surprise party coming to the introducer."

"The Patrick case was tried at length and thoroughly. The jurymen listened to the testimony day after day. They heard Patrick's experts and they were certainly in better condition to judge of the guilt or innocence of the accused than are these gentlemen of the committee who are picking up a case over two years old and solemnly rendering a verdict upon it."

"The Court of Appeals has the power to grant Patrick a new trial. But you may rest assured that this report will have no part in the decision should such a one be reached."

For Public's Diversion. Mr. Wickorham made the main argument. He declared the slot machines, punching bags, weigh-scales and other drop-a-penny-in-the-slot schemes were put in the stations for the diversion of waiting passengers, were in nobody's way and did not interfere with the operation of the road, while the advertising signs were carefully disposed, so that they did not interfere with the quick and easy disembarking of passengers. The attention of Corporation Counsel that the Board had no authority to make a contract which let the lessees do anything beyond running the Rapid Transit road, the lawyer replied by citing many decisions of the Court of Appeals in previous litigation, showing that the Board had all the power. He presented affidavits signed by Frank Hedley and other railroad men to the effect that advertisements and slot machines and the like were a part of the source of revenue of every railroad in the country, and Ward & Gow's affidavit that they were paying \$50,000 a year for the exclusive use of the stations for all these things.

Cited Its First Powers. Mr. Burr contended at the outset that the act creating the Rapid Transit Commission limited the powers of the Commission. It gave them power to adopt and enforce rules and regulations only within the purpose of the act, and not inconsistent with it. Its purpose was the construction of a rapid transit railroad, and the same act provided that the rapid transit railroad, when constructed, was to be considered a public highway, a street, an avenue.

Mr. Burr read from an affidavit that these slot machines and the like were put in the stations for the amusement of the people, but that the Corporation Counsel that the Board had no authority to make a contract which let the lessees do anything beyond running the Rapid Transit road, the lawyer replied by citing many decisions of the Court of Appeals in previous litigation, showing that the Board had all the power. He presented affidavits signed by Frank Hedley and other railroad men to the effect that advertisements and slot machines and the like were a part of the source of revenue of every railroad in the country, and Ward & Gow's affidavit that they were paying \$50,000 a year for the exclusive use of the stations for all these things.

Called Microbe Cultivators. Mr. Burr insisted that under the Rapid Transit act the subway is a public highway, subject to all the same regulations as a street.

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CRIPPLED TUGBOAT IN GRIP OF ICE FLOES. The Mutual Rescued After Signalling by Whistle for Help from Shore. A drifting tugboat, which was afterwards ascertained to be the Mutual, whistling vigorously for assistance attracted the attention of Capt. Wall, proprietor of the Inwood Boat Company, at the foot of Dykman street, North River, Inwood, to-day.

Capt. Wall with a megaphone attempted to communicate with the crew, but for half an hour the high wind prevented his words reaching the disabled tug or his hearing the messages the crew was trying to get to him. Finally he managed to make out that the tugboat's engines had broken down and that the captain of the boat wanted the Maritime Exchange telephoned to hurry help.

Capt. Wall sent the message, also another to the harbor police. A police boat was dispatched to the Mutual's assistance, and one of the Merritt & Chapman Company's wrecking tugs also started in haste up the river. Before either arrived, however, a tugboat put out from the Jersey shore and after hard work managed to get a line to the broken-down tug. The tug was then towed to Fort Washington Point, the ice floes between it and the New York shore making it impossible to bring the Mutual to this side.

At the Dog Show. (From the Louisville Courier-Journal.) The fair young thing seemed somewhat perturbed. She appeared to be looking for something. "Can't you find the kennel you wish?" asked the young man gallantly. "If not, I shall be glad to assist you." "Oh, thank you so much," she murmured brightly, "and will you please tell me where they are exhibiting the ocean grayhounds?"

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