The Pensacola Journal

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COMPEL THE LOBBYIST TO BE REGISTERED AND TAGGED.

A few weeks ago, in answer to the contention of a contemporary that legislative lobbying should be prohibited at the state capital, The Journal undertook to show why no such law could or should be passed.

If it were a matter affecting only the professional lobbyist who goes there to corrupt legislators and to corruptly influence legislation, such a law could and should be enacted. But, as there is no way of confining its operations to the professional lobbyist, a law prohibiting lobbying would apply as well to the honest representative of an honest measure as to the gang of political pirates whom it seeks to shut out, and its unfairness is therefore at once apparent.

Governor Folk, of Missouri, however, seems to have hit upon a plan that appears perfectly legal and that, withal, possesses the merits of both practicability and fairness. He has issued an order requiring lobbyists to report to him on their arrival in Springfield and providing that they may stay in the town but thirty-six hours when they must leave. They must, in effect, register, just as they would at a hotel, and register off when they get ready to leave.

This plan is unique, but it ought to prove effective. Under the laws of Florida, the governor probably has no such power, but there is nothing to prevent the legislature from passing a law which shall provide for the proper registration and tagging of the lobbyists as they arrive.

Suppose that when a person who has business in connection with the work of the legislature arrived in Tallahassee he were compelled to register before an officer provided for that purpose, state his business there, receive a "lobbyist" badge to be worn in plain view at all times, and then report at the end of each day as to just how many and what members he had seen, stating number, time and place, and being specific on the point as to the measure or measures in which he had sought to interest them. Just suppose this. Wouldn't it put a sort of damp blanket on the hopes, aspirations, and operations of the ancient and reprehensible profession of lobbying? We guess rather.

To the plain, honest everyday citizen who goes openly and honestly to the state legislature in the interest of some honest measure which he wishes to become a law or in opposition to some dishonest measure which he would like to see defeated, such a requirement would not prove either burdensome or disagreeable. He is there for an honest purpose and he therefore has nothing to conceal. They might tag him all over with "lobbyist" badges and it would neither hurt his feelings nor injure his influence. It might, in fact, really serve the purpose of an introduction to the members of the legislature whom he wishes to see.

But the "professional" lobbyist would be labelled for the entire session and his "profession" would be shorn of its most effective accompaniment—the privilege of doing in the dark what he would not be allowed to do in the daytime and what no honest man would do either day time or dark.

At any rate The Journal submits the suggestion to Governor Broward and the next legislature and it leaves the matter in their hands, for action either good or ill.

THE STREET CAR COMPANY ADOPTS SOME GOOD RULES.

The new rule which the street car company has just put into effect, prohibiting passengers from riding on the front platforms of their cars is a good one, and it should be rigidly enforced. The company's other departure, that of providing gates for the front ends of the cars so as to prevent passengers from getting on and off there, is also a very commendable thing.

These two departures constitute two things which should have been done long ago, but the fact that they are being done now is a matter for which the street car company is to be commended.

With the proper kind of fenders in use—and The Journal trusts that the company will soon adopt that kind—and with the enforcement of other precautions to keep passengers from standing where they should not stand, and from getting off on the wrong side of the car, the possibility of serious accidents will be reduced to the minimum.

It is possible that a certain class of fool passengers who always try to take privileges which they have no business in taking, and who usually get angry when the rules which the rest of the public observes are applied to them, may give the conductors some trouble in enforcing the new rule. This, however, should not deter the street car conductors from doing their duty and enforcing the rules. The majority of the public will approve their action whether the small few do or not, and the danger to human life will be lessened just in that degree in which the rules are observed or enforced.

The Tampa Tribune says there are six candidates for harbor master in Tampa, but if Governor Broward will appoint Robt. McNamee, everybody will be satisfied. Mac must have a special and personal stand-in with "everybody" down there.

Without disparaging in the least the merits of any other Florida paper, the best weekly paper issued in the state, in The Journal's opinion, is the Bartow Courier-Informant which now appears in a new dress throughout and which contained in last week's issue ten pages of interesting reading and artistically displayed advertising matter. The Courier-Informant recently installed a linotype and it is, so far as we have noted, the only weekly in the state possessing so extensive an office equipment. Editor Fitzgerald and Business Manager McBride are getting out a paper which is a credit to the state.

According to the Atlanta Constitution, "the time has come for the West and South to come together in support of democratic policies." Perhaps so, but let us hope those "democratic policies" will be quite different from what they were in 1896.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Let us also hope that the support which the ticket receives in 1908 will be "quite different" from that which the so-called democratic papers like the Advertiser gave it in 1896.

The Journal's circulation statement for January will be published Wednesday morning, February 1, and it is going to make people open their eyes. Get ready for it.

The Journal would rather live in Pensacola than in an other city in the state. Ten years from now it would rather live here than in any other two cities.

The Tourists Club is a good thing. Give it a lift.

VOX POPULI.

A. GREENHUT PROPOSES REMEDY FOR WATER CONSUMERS

Editor Pensacola Journal:

Every few days, for a number of months, I have seen an article in The Journal about the waterworks. I agree fully with Mr. Bliss as to the desirability of a better and a cheaper service, but I do not think he has yet hit upon the proper method of mending the existing evil.

The water company secured a charter from the city and whatever rate was agreed upon the company has a perfect right to charge—no more and no less. No other company, having a valuable and profitable franchise from the city, would do different.

Wherein, with all the newspaper articles so far written, has there been the least change effected? So far as I can see, none. Now as to the cause of all this trouble and the remedy.

The city council years ago granted the franchise and left the consumer unprotected. If you go to the water company with a complaint you are told that the company is simply charging you its regular rate. The difference to you individually is so small that you cannot afford to hire a lawyer to find out for you whether or not the company is charging you an exorbitant or an illegal rate, and you find it cheaper to pay the rate charged than to pay a lawyer or go to law.

But the city council should have provided from the beginning an officer whose business it should be to inspect all meters, and all complaints that come to him for investigation. In fact it should be his duty to see that only such rates are charged as the water company is allowed to charge according to law, and his duties should extend to similar inspection in connection with the gas company and the electric light company as well.

The people of the city will not complain about the cost of such an officer providing he is a good man and is not selected on account of some political pull. Such an officer, who discharged his duty impartially to the citizens, the water company, the gas company, and the electric light company, would be a valuable man to the whole city.

A. GREENHUT.

Wisconsin Wants Information On the Results of the Primary System.

The Journal has received the following letter of inquiry which it has read with a great deal of interest and which it believes will be of sufficient interest to its readers to justify an answer through the columns of the paper. The letter is as follows:

Wisconsin Free Library Commission,
Legislative Reference Department.
Madison, Wisconsin, January 21, 1905.

Editor Pensacola Journal:

The subject of direct nominations has been a prominent issue in our state for some years. In order to obtain accurate data concerning the results of the laws in the various states, I have been requested by a legislative committee to submit the following questions to representative men throughout the country:

Where direct nominations are made in your state—

1. Are better candidates nominated and undesirable men defeated?
2. Is the vote at the primaries larger than under the old system? Does the country vote turn out better than formerly?
3. Are small minority nominations common occurrences?
4. Does the town dominate the country in the nomination of candidates?
5. Does it prevent men of small means from obtaining the nominations?
6. Do the people vote intelligently upon candidates for nomination to minor offices?
7. Do you think that it has weakened the political parties?
8. Is there a desire for its further extension? If so, to what offices?
9. Are you opposed to the direct nomination of United States senators?
10. Do you think state party platforms a necessity in state politics?
11. Do you consider direct nomination of candidates preferable to a legalized caucus, or to a direct-vote-for-delegate system?

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, for I assure you that your answers to the above will be of the greatest assistance to the state legislators, I remain,

Your truly,

C. McCARTHY.

The Journal will undertake to answer the above questions in the order in which they are asked, beginning with No. 1 and proceeding through the entire list. Before taking them up, however, it may be well to explain that the first test ever given of a general primary in Florida was that of 1904 when every democratic candidate from United States senator, national delegates, and governor down to justice of the peace and constable, was nominated by a majority vote in primaries held throughout the state on the same day. Where no candidate received a majority vote, the two receiving the highest vote made the race in a second primary and the one receiving the majority was declared the nominee. The democratic party was the only party which utilized the primary system, and as a democratic nomination in Florida is practically equivalent to an election the test was all the more complete. Now to the questions:

1. In a general way, we would say, yes, though it might not be possible, in this state at least, to cite illustrations. But regardless of the kind of candidates nominated, we understand that the object of the system is to give the people what a **majority of them want**, and the primary as conducted in this state accomplishes that object.

2. The vote is larger and the country vote is equally as large, in proportion to the voters, as that of the city.

3. All nominations in Florida must be by a majortiy vote.

4. Not unless the town contains more voters than the country.

5. No. In fact, men of small means have a better chance to obtain a nomination under the primary system than they do under the convention system.

6. Yes, to an exceptional degree.

7. It has weakened ring rule, but as only one party utilizes the primary system in this state, it is impossible to say what its effect on the parties would be.

8. It is already extended to all offices, both elective and apppointive, and the people are thoroughly satisfied with it.

9. No. We are in favor of it.

10. We cannot say, from experience, whether state platforms are necessary or not, as the nominees of the primary in this state have only just assumed office. In our judgment, however, state platforms are not a necessity.

11. We consider the direct nomination of candidates preferable to any other system, because it gives the people what they want. In this state, the men nominated for United States senator and for governor belonged to opposing factions in the party, yet each received a majority vote in the primary. These men, entertaining as they did, opposing views on many state issues, were nevertheless the choice of a majority of the members of the party, but the nomination of both would never have been possible under a caucus or convention system.

It may also interest the writer of the above letter to know that the question of whether or not the primary system should be continued was submitted to a vote in the primary and the vote in favor of continuing the system was carried by a tremendous majority. The people of Florida seem to be entirely satisfied with the system and now regard it as a permanent institution, with such changes and improvements as experience may prove to be best.

Coming Navies of the Powers of the World.

(Jacksonville Times-Union.)

When the ships of war now under contract or provided for have been built, the United States will take place next to France as a naval power, England still being an easy first. Our secretary of the navy is asking congress for the wherewithal to outstrip France and stand next to Great Britain, assuring us we shall not need to go higher because "England is the one power with which war is practically impossible." Why? We stand now below Germany in sea power; can any man give reason why we should desire to outstrip Germany or France unless we are to accumulate a power greater than England's too? What quarrel with Germany or France can be logically foreseen? If we indulge in theories, why may not a conflict with England be supposed as well as with either of the others?

There was a time when England, at war with the continent of Europe, placed unendurable resriction on neutral commerce and our protests led up to war. England is again "isolated," and like causes produce like results. It is true that so much is changed that war with England seems impossible; is it not so with every other power provided we do not change our policy toward them? How can we be brought into conflict with Germany or France or Russia? We think the theorists would be sorely puzzled to concoct conditions to warrant the supposition without proposing some radical changes in ourselves. Have we need to make changes? Mr. Garfield started out with the proposition that we should provide for the veterans of the Civil War who needed aid, promising they would soon die out and fifty millions per annum would be the height of the burden. There are more names on the lists than the nation had soldiers and we pay three times that sum, while the increase is constant and consistent—being, indeed the only incident in this connection can be foreseen; will it be so with our navy? Is it not already true that not even England could safely attack us? Are we proposing to attack?

Secretary Morton says he can propose no better plan for guarding our commerce than by building a navy second only to that of England, with which war is inconceivable. But how could Germany or France or Russia hurt us if we merely protect our coasts and deny them the food with which they expect us to supply them? Why not enter into an agreement with England which would safeguard our commerce? Why not join with England in guaranteeing the adequate policing of the seas. What power or powers would dissent from such a proposition? Is not France and Germany and Italy already starving themselves to feed their naval armaments? Is not even England overtaxing herself for such purpose? Would not all be willing to join in some equitable arrangement by which the necessity for such burdens could be obviated? If Mr. Hay be such a diplomatic power and able to do so much for the peace of the world, might he not accomplish something along those lines for his people at home as well as for China? Or are all the diplomats playing a game to set on foot these great armaments by way of getting the last possible dollar from the people?

At home to-day, we the richest people on earth, are paying interest on a debt so huge that all the money of the earth would be insufficient to pay half. Is it good business to run in debt? Have we any excuse for this condition? Shall we never see the day of payment dawn? "I am an expansionist," says Mr. Morton. But shouldn't we lift the mortgage off the home farm before we buy more land?

RUSSIA'S POLICY OF SUPPRESSION.

Savannah News.

There is no reason to doubt that the Russian government will quickly restore order in its cities and suppress any movement in the direction of a revolution. Russia has a million or more well armed fighting men, and the indications thus far are they will remain loyal. With such a force it is practically impossible for the people, though they number more than a hundred million, to make revolutionary headway without arms, ammunition or leaders. But that the people are sullen and have lost the faith they had in the Czar there is no doubt. They will await their opportunity to strike for larger rights.

In the meantime it is probable the Czar will pursue a policy akin to that pursued by Nicholas I more than eighty years ago in putting down an insurrection. The latter shot to death the more aggressive of the insurgents and sent the more moderate of them to Siberia. The dispatches say that the prisons are being filled with those who have been prominent in the present disturbance in St. Petersburg, some of whom are of considerable prominence. It may be that some of them will be shot and others will be imprisoned.

According to Mr. White, ex-minister to Russia, the Czar isn't likely to have much to do with deciding the manner in which the insurgents shall be dealt with. He is pictured as being "without strength of character or proper education and hopelessly unfit to grapple with the situation." If that is the sort of a man he is he will be used by the bureaucracy to deal with the unfortunates who have been arrested in such a manner as it thinks will shut off the possibility of trouble in the future. The desire for a voice in the government among the Russian masses, however, is stronger now than it ever was before, and it is certain to grow in intensity. Whatever may be done with the leaders in the present trouble therefore it is certain that the desire for radical governmental reforms will not die out. It will become stronger, and the Czar will have to make great concessions at no very distant day.

Eminent Japanese are of the opinion that the present outbreak will not operate to bring an end to the war between Russia and Japan unless the workmen in the ammunition, gun and other factories on which the government depends for supplies for the prosecution of the war strike. In that event Russia would have to consider the advisability of making peace.

THE FORT MORGAN RAILROAD PROJECT.

Mobile Recorder.

The New York Tribune has received a special telegram bearing a Sioux City date, which says:

"After years of effort Sioux City promoters, including a score of leading men, have interested capitalists of Philadelphia and St. Louis, and secured contracts with the Rock Island and Louisville and Nashville roads for establishing a new deep water harbor on the Gulf of Mexico. It will be at Fort Morgan, Ala., to which the railroads mentioned are being extended. A low lying peninsula twenty miles long incloses a great harbor over forty feet deep throughout. This peninsula has come into the possession of the capitalists interested, who will establish wharves and terminals. The port will compete for the business of both Mobile and New Orleans, asserting greatly superior advantages because of deeper water and larger area of it. Millions are back of the movement."

In some quarters it seems this information is received with confidence, while in others it is taken with a bit of salt. However that may be, it is an indication that the gulf ports are attracting attention even in the far North and West, and certainly augurs well for the future of this territory. More and more every year it is coming to be realized that the product of the great middle country must find its way to the outside world through these ports because this is the natural route, affording as it does quicker and cheaper transit to foreign markets.

Naturally, it will be supposed that Mobile, and even New Orleans, look upon this movement at Fort Morgan with a jealous eye, but not so. The improvement at that point proposed could not be made without first doing the very thing that is necessary to make Mobile the greatest point of exportation on the gulf coast—cutting away the outer bar to a depth of 35 feet. And should this be done, and a real impetus given to Fort Morgan by the construction of a branch road to that point, and the erection of warfage, etc., it would never grow to dimensions sufficient to really effect the business of Mobile, with her other railroad lines, her river connection with the coal, iron and cement sections, and convenient location for the reception of the thousand and one other articles that will be required for exportation.

It is not improbable, it seems, that there will eventually be something doing at Fort Morgan, but hardly at a date sufficiently early to interfere with the business future of Mobile. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that the Iowa capitalists will conclude really to turn loose some of their cash in carrying this enterprise to a point beyond the paper stage.

CARD OF THANKS.

The relatives of Paul Gray desire to return thanks from the fullness of burdened hearts to the dear friends of Cottage Hill and Pensacola for the generous sympathy and assistance so tenderly expressed over the direful ending of a noble life.

May the tender hand of mercy so freely shown to us be theirs to comfort and sustain in all the vicisitudes of life.

Current Comment From State Papers.

Still Chewing the Rag.

Evidently the Bartow Record and Tampa Herald think they are the whole cheese when it comes to picking out congressional timber. We stated once before that Manatee county hadn't been heard from yet, but that she would trot out a candidate at the proper time that would lower the record in the vote getting line in a free-for-all congressional race.

This rot about putting up candidates of a running kind is all bosh. If the Bartow Record and Tampa Herald really want their particular candidates to win they will have to cut out that running business and inaugurate a system of flying, for when Manatee's candidate hits the track he'll be moving some, "I bound," and if the Bartow and Tampa boys ever get to the wire even on the start off they will have to have wings.

This is simply a pointer, boys, and you can roll it around between your molars until a little later, when we will give you another hunk.—Manatee Record.

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Compulsory Education.

The Record believes that the people of Florida should take an interest in the forthcoming debate of Prof. Sledd and Prof. T. J. McBeath in reference to compulsory education. It happens, many times, that the people do not consider the matter of taxation, when they come to consider the education of a child. The Record would not impose upon the fortunate citizens who happen to be possessed of some property, the education of those who are not so "well fixed" with this world's goods, yet in years to come the people of Florida will realize that we will have one of the best advanced and finest educated states in the Union.

The people should look into this matter of compulsory education, which is just now agitating the entire state, and find out for themselves whether or not compulsory education would or would not be best for the masses. The Record, to speak plain, does not know, but hopes that the individual citizens themselves will investigate this important matter.—Polk County Record.

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'Twas All a Mistake.

Frank Clark has received his certificate of election as congressman from the second district. Let's see. Wasn't there a whole lot said during the campaign to the effect that the gentleman couldn't get the coveted bit of paper even though he should be elected by the people? Seems we remember something of the kind. Maybe, though, it was one of those things called "campaign lies" that we've all heard about.—Madison New Enterprise.

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New Railroad Projects.

The Suwannee Springs & Live Oak railroad has been chartered with capital stock of $20,000, and at no distant day it is the purpose of the incorporators to begin the construction of a trolly line from this city to Suwannee Springs, one of the greatest health resorts in the state. Some years ago Suwannee Springs was much sought by pleasure and health-seekers of both Florida and other states, but owing to the burning of the large hotel and the death of the former proprietor of the property, the beautiful place was neglected until recently, when it was purchased by its present owners, but now it is only a question of a very short time when Suwannee Springs will regain its former popularity. The trolley line will largely contribute to this result. At the meeting of the city council Monday night Col. Frank Drew was granted a permit to build his railroad, the Suwannee & San Pedro, through certain streets of Live Oak. This road has been chartered to Fernandina on the east, and it was to carry the road there that the permit to traverse certain streets was applied for and acquired. The building of this road to Fernandina will guarantee to Live Oak another deep water connection which should prove most beneficial to the city. We mention these two prospective improvements to show that Live Oak is not asleep in the matter of material development, every few weeks brings to light some new enterprise that promises much to Live Oak's already bright future.—Live Oak Crescent.

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Tips For Legislators.

A large school fund, a state bank examiner, a better fish law, an increased appropriation for pensions to ex-Confederate soldiers are some of the measures to which our solons might address themselves assiduously and intelligently. They should also beware of taking a backward step on the present liquor status. Florida has as good laws as any state, but tardiness in their enforcement frequently provokes her citizens to take matters into their own hands regardless of what may follow.—High Springs Hornet.

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Call's New Party.

Ex-Senator Call wishes to resurrect the Whig party. Is this a confession that the principles so forcibly discussed and expounded by Mr. Call in times past, were wrong? It would seem so.—Apalachicola Times.

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Teddy Taming Down.

William Jennings Bryan and Theodore Roosevelt met and consulted Saturday. They met as men, not enemies and political henchmen, and at the close Bryan complimented the president on some of the things he advocates, and will hold out for. On the other hand Roosevelt bade his arch enemy, as it were, a cordial greeting, in fact, was more than ceremonious. It is getting to look pretty much like the obstreperous Teddy we used to know is going to settle down, and as he said in his St. Louis address, "Be the president of all the people." It actually does look that way, but then what's in the flesh cannot come out in the skin.—Miami Metropolis.

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Taggart's Change of Front.

Tom Taggart talked too much about the election. He was the ostensible manager of the campaign and he should not have gone into the Bryan camp with such haste. He is meeting a deserved criticism for changing front while still at the head of the party.—Tampa Tribune.

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Illness of Sam B. Russ.

The many friends throughout Florida will be pained to learn that Mr. Sam B. Russ, one of the scholarly editorial writers of the Times-Union, has been confined to his room for several weeks.—Tampa Tribune.

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Will Take Time By the Forelock.

The election of General Gilchrist as speaker of the Florida house of representatives is now practically assured. Four years hence he will succeed Governor Broward and then get married.—Punta Gorda Herald.

The general is too good a fellow to wait that long to select a queen to preside over the governor's mansion.—Tavares Herald.

* * *

A Kick on Folk.

Governor Folk wants to make every man vote, whether he likes the exercise or not. At last we find fault with Folk—the worst trouble with us is that the wrong man votes too often.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

* * *

Aspirations of Gilchrist.

General Gilchrist, the statesman from DeSoto, says he will be elected speaker of the next house of representatives, and some of his friends are grooming him to be Florida's next governor.—Volusia County Record.

* * *

Is Happy Now.

The senate has at last confirmed the appointment of the negro, Crum, to be collector of the port at Charleston. Teddy, doubtless, is very happy.—Madison New Enterprise.

Governor La Follette's Great Victory in Wisconsin.

(Atlanta Constitution.)

The sudden and unexpected precipitation of the railroad question into the national field of legislation has played greatly into the hands of one man, if none other.

This is Governor LaFollette, of Wisconsin.

The governor of the Badger state, having been re-elected for a third term, as the result of a campaign based largely upon the demand for restrictive railroad legislation in his state had been seeking warrant for election to the United States senate at the hands of devoted and willing followers, but so long as the reform he demanded was confined in its scope to local matters, he felt bound to put aside his senatorial aspirations. This he was understood to have done in pretty definite manner.

But when the scene of agitation was transferred from the state capital to Washington, the tip was sent to the faithful that perhaps little Bob's presence at the latter place would be of vast value to President Roosevelt in his crusade. That was the only thing necessary. He touched the button, the LaFollette forces did the rest.

Of course, he might have sent some one of his lieutenants, but the situation in this particular was a little embarrassing. He had, so the claim goes, promised several of these his influence. To throw his support to any one would have meant to show his hand—a rather unpleasant thing for a politician circumstanced as he was. To take the job himself was the happy solution, and the way to do this came most happily—for LaFollette.

Governor LaFollette recently triumped in his candidacy for re-election to the governorship by first defeating the republican machine, winning his nomination over the protest of the councils of the republican party in Wisconsin for many years. Thousands of democrats voted for him and he was overwhelmingly re-elected.

Governor LaFollette's fight has been for the enlargement of the powers of the state railroad commission, he having asked only that the Wisconsin commission be given the same rights, powers and privileges as those possessed by the railroad commission of Georgia and other states. He is in favor of the enlargement of the powers of the interstate railroad commerce commission, believing that it should be vested with the rate-making power, and in this he has the support of not only a large element in his own party, but of the overwhelming sentiment of the democratic party. That this power will, sooner or later, be granted by congress there can be but little doubt, and the sooner it comes the better it will be for all concerned.

In the meantime Wisconsin has honored itself by sending Governor La Follette to the senate, and he will at once take his place among the most prominent and progressive members of that distinguished body.

SANTOS COFFEE

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