

THE ARGUS.

Published daily at 1624 Second avenue, Rock Island, Ill. (Entered at the postoffice at Rock Island, Ill., as second-class matter, under the act of March 3, 1879).

BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

Rock Island Member Associated Press. Full Leased Wire Report.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Telephones in all departments. Central Union, Rock Island 145, 146 and 147.



Tuesday, April 18, 1916.

Rock Island—From River to River.

Norway, Sweden, Holland and Denmark have lost 203 ships since the war began. Neutrality isn't even its own reward.

An exchange remarks that the young man who serenades a girl with a mandolin these days is wasting time—the modern girl has a better ear for an auto horn. However, unless the price of gasoline goes down there will probably be less auto horn music and more string instruments.

In the death of George W. Peck of Wisconsin, creator of "Peck's Bad Boy," the nation loses one of its keenest humorists, although he has done little in this line in recent years. There was a time when pretty nearly everybody was familiar with the pranks of Mr. Peck's "Bad Boy" and the notoriety which he won with his humorous writings made him governor of the Badger state.

Exports of war munitions for February were \$50,000,000. The last call for money on the Anglo-French loan came a few days ago with the first interest payment. Four hundred and eighty million dollars balance on foreign exchange was used up in six months besides sales of American securities owned abroad. Exports of all merchandise from New York alone the last week in March were \$78,000,000—more than for the six weeks of 1914 that preceded the war.

California has a great head for business. It has made itself the greatest country in the world for outdoor travel and is getting the travelers by scores of thousands. Europe may spruce up after the war but it will not be able to get back the people who have had a taste of the California way of going it. California is doing it as a business. Ten millions of the tourist and the sojourner for climatic attractions have made Los Angeles a city of 600,000, with prospects of a million.

It is not improbable that the status of affairs between the United States and Mexico will have more or less weight in determining Germany's attitude on the submarine crisis with this country. Actual war with Mexico would give us a handful of trouble, with our small military equipment, and Germany would take immediate cognizance of such a situation. This is one of the reasons, no doubt, why President Wilson does not care to be stamped into an open break with Mexico. Critics of the administration's "slowness" in dealing with Carranza should bear in mind that there is liable to be more involved in war with Mexico than the mere task of whipping a broken, starving nation.

THE COUNTY DEMOCRACY.

One of the most interesting, most largely attended and most thoroughly in earnest meetings the democratic county committee has ever held was that which assembled at the Rock Island house yesterday afternoon in response to the requirements of the primary election law. The committee at the outset placed the stamp of its approval upon the executive staff which served so faithfully and with so much distinction during the past two years. All the old officers, Thomas A. Pender of Rock Island, chairman; Marx Harder of Rock Island, secretary, and John H. Coburn of Moline, treasurer, were reelected with enthusiasm and unanimity upon Dr. R. C. J. Meyer's motion. Delegates were selected to the state and congressional conventions and resolutions adopted with a rising vote and mid cheers, praising the national administration of President Wilson and pledging support in his reelection, commending the state administration of Governor Dunne, and all other democratic state officers, including the local members, John Day, of the state board of equalization, and Representative W. C. Maucker, heartily endorsing Congressman Clyde H. Tavenner and urging his re-election and reelection and complimenting State's Attorney Floyd E. Thompson and Coroner R. C. J. Meyer, and placing them before the people as worthy of reelection.

EXPENSIVE BUSINESS.

There is an almost unanimous judgment among the newspapers of the state that the primary law for the election of delegates and committee men and expressing preferences for president is very unsatisfactory. It is too cumbersome, ponderous and expensive for the results achieved. It has involved the people of the state in an expense of hundreds of thousands of dollars and accomplished

nothing that could not have been done equally as intelligently and well, if not better, without costing the taxpayers a cent. But what should be done about it is the next question. Some want the whole primary system abolished and a return to the old method of naming candidates and party officials, while others merely object to the provision with reference to the choice of delegates and would leave such choice to party conventions. It is certain that the opportunities for the control of parties by a minority of interested politicians are quite as good under the primaries as under the old system. And it can at least be said that delegates chosen by conventions were more apt to be thoroughly representative of the party and were of just as high standing in every way. And as for expressing preferences for president, what does it all amount to? Everybody knows that the Chicago convention will nominate the republican candidate and nobody is any nearer making a guess as to who it will be since the primary. As for President Wilson, who was unopposed among the democrats, the primary has given us nothing new. There are too many unnecessary and expensive elections and if the next legislature can revise the laws and cut out a few, it will be a service to the people.

PAR VALUE OF A LIE.

A lie, as passed upon by a Kansas judge, can be measured in money. In a certain court, a man was fined \$2 for gambling and \$98 for lying to the judge. The price of a lie is usually hidden and therefore the uninitiated often expect to profit by untruths. However, only a few of them do. Liars pay, eventually, in lack of the confidence of all those with whom they do business; and thus in a life time, they lose financially many times over the \$98 estimate made by the Kansas judge.

A man's "credit" in his community is his most valuable asset. He begins to establish his credit in his youth. His dealings with the boys in school fix a reputation which will follow him to the ends of the earth, and perhaps determine his success or failure in life. Reckoned so, \$98 per lie carries considerable practical significance. Perhaps the world should be grateful to the Kansas judge for fixing a rate by which the high cost of lying may be determined.

TRAINING BOYS.

The wisdom of universal military training—training, mind you, not service—usually is placed upon the ground that it would give to boys—and young men physical development, discipline and cooperative spirit that could be gained in few other ways. The opposition centers largely on the sentimental view that the training proposed would be given at the most impressionable age of youth and would develop an objectionable military viewpoint in all our young men. It would be all right, many declare, to train men, but not boys.

The fact is, however, that it is the boys who will fight our next war, as they have fought our past wars. It is boys—young men under 21—who always are the first at the front in every war.

The chances not only for their success, but for their lives, depend largely upon their military training. Both bullets and disease find their easiest mark in the untrained soldier. Study these figures. Perhaps they will give you a viewpoint on whom it is that fight our wars, or whom it is that should be trained to protect themselves, as well as their country, in case of war. They show the ages of the "men" in realty boys, who fought in the union army during the Civil war:

Table with 2 columns: Age group and number of soldiers. 10 years and under: 25; 11 years and under: 53; 12 years and under: 225; 13 years and under: 300; 14 years and under: 1,523; 15 years and under: 104,987; 16 years and under: 231,051; 17 years and under: 844,891; 18 years and under: 1,151,428; 19 years and under: 2,159,798; 20 years and over: 681,511; 25 years and over: 46,462; 44 years and over: 16,071.

The training systems of Switzerland and Australia teach their youth as much of how to protect their health and life in peace, as well as in war, as they do of how to meet an armed enemy. And that training, given to boys, is not only added strength for national defense, but added insurance that the boys will live to be men, able to do a man's work in the world.

MOST TRYING PERIOD.

The transition or hobbledehoy period, between boyhood and young manhood, when a youth is no longer a boy and not yet a man, is the most trying time of his life. This is the age when the interrogation point assumes colossal proportions, when every faculty of his nature is asking questions and wondering what the future has in store for him. This is the period which tries him. This is the time when great changes, the meaning of which he cannot solve, begin in his life. He is growing so fast, and his tastes are changing so rapidly, that he does not yet know what he is going to do, what occupation or profession to choose.

While the youth is in this unsettled condition, teachers and parents should exercise great patience in dealing with him, as whatever is put into this part of life is put into the whole life. This is the impressionable stage, when, if he hears a lawyer expatiate upon the beauty of the law, he will think that he is cut out for the bar, and will change his mind next day in favor of medicine, if he hears a doctor enlarge upon the nobility of the medical profession. The lad changes from one thing to another with equal impartiality and lack of judgment. He has not had sufficient experience to see the thorns, the difficulties, the discouragements incident to the different vocations, but he sees only the flowers and the pleasant side of them.

GREAT WAR LEADERS LEARN OF THE PROGRESS OF THEIR ARMS



Emperor William conferring with Gen. von Boehm-Ermolli. Right, Gen. Joffre getting report from Verdun.

These pictures, taken near the battle front, are the latest of Emperor William and General Joffre. The German war lord is seen conversing with General von Boehm-Ermolli, the great Austrian leader, on the progress of the war on the eastern front. The French commander-in-chief is receiving a report from one of his generals at Verdun.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

New York Tribune and Roosevelt. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, (Rep.); The New York Tribune exaggerates, for psychological reasons, the "sense of resentment at what occurred in 1912" it has put aside that it may support Colonel Roosevelt for president. The Tribune put a good deal of its resentment aside in 1914, when it supported Mr. Hinman, the colonel's choice for the republican gubernatorial nomination in New York and bitterly opposed the nomination of Mr. Whitman. It has never forgotten Whitman for winning both the nomination and the election. The activity of the governor for Hughes, which was an issue in the recent election of a chairman of the republican state central committee, may have had something to do with the Tribune's lukewarmness toward the justice. It is in keeping with Tribune traditions, under the rule of the elder and younger Reid, that it should declare for the colonel immediately after the republican state central committee unanimously passed a resolution against him. The Tribune never feels that it is really republican unless it is opposing the republican organization of New York.

An Obsolete Standard.

Chicago Herald (Ind.): A feature of the Illinois public utilities commission's ruling in the Springfield gas rate case that should interest all other companies trying to get lower gas prices is its dismissal of the "candle power" standard of gas quality as "obsolete." In reducing the net price of gas from a basis of \$1 net to 80 cents net for ordinary domestic consumers the commission permitted the company to lower its candle power standard but required it to maintain the existing heat standard of 600 British thermal units per cubic foot. It did this in recognition of the fact that with modern gas-burning appliances such as every prudent man uses it is heating power and not luminosity which gives value to gas.

Moreover, it is only by reducing luminosity that costs of production can be reduced, making possible reduction of price while still leaving a fair return upon the capital invested. While the gas company has appealed from the commission's decision to the courts the appeal does not question the merits of the commission's ruling on what should be the standard of quality.

Gas rate controversies in other communities will reach a settlement reasonably satisfactory to all concerned much sooner if the facts as to what, with modern gas-burning methods, gives value to gas are frankly accepted by the contending for lower prices.

The Sugar Tariff Again.

Chicago Journal (Dem.): There are times when a newspaper which wishes to help the public is forced to keep "dinging" on the same bell. This is one of the times.

Chicago wholesale grocers interviewed yesterday agreed that the retail price of sugar is sure to go to 10 cents per pound in the near future. The present tariff comes to a fraction over one cent per pound. By putting sugar on the free list, therefore, congress can lower the price of sugar by this amount, and save American consumers \$90,000,000 per year. The amount of revenue lost to the treasury by such action can be more than made up by a national inheritance tax.

It is not yet too late for congress to face the music, stick to sound democratic doctrine, and tax unearned wealth instead of dearly bought necessities. To repeat the slogan The Journal has raised many times before, give us free sugar and taxed legacies.

Camel Carriages.

Camel carriages are not common conveyances in most parts of India, but on the great trunk road leading to Delhi they are frequently to be seen. They are large, double story wagons, drawn sometimes by one, sometimes by two or even three camels, according to their size. Iron bars which give them a cage-like appearance were originally intended as a defense against robbers, and the carts were probably also used for the conveyance of prisoners.

HEALTH TALKS by William Brady, M.D. Bless Our Changeable Weather. Variations in temperature represent one of Nature's best tonics. So world-wide an authority as Sir Lauder Brunton believes tuberculous patients will not get better in a climate that does not vary from 50 to 59 degrees every day. Many observers have hinted that the practical value of altitude treatment is attributable to the marked temperature variations of elevated regions as compared with the more equable temperature average of lower regions.

Most of the refreshing influence of "fresh air" is simply that of cool air. This is the day of efficiency. We do not strive to keep good and warm, for the good die young; we endeavor to keep cool and well. When white men have to live and work in a tropical climate, they degenerate physically, mentally and morally, not so much from the effect of the high temperature as from the monotony of the unvarying climate—the lack of the stimulation of a change of weather. See the movies. Oyster Bay, Athens, Constantinople, Naples, Rome, Florence, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, London, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Tokyo, Peking, Jerusalem, Carthage, Sidon, Tyre, Memphis and Babylon, not to mention Birmingham and St. Paul—in short, all the great centers of efficiency fall within ten degrees or so of the fortieth parallel of north longitude, which has been achievements. The weather here around the fortieth is delightfully changeable. Changeable is the only word for it. It is more changeable than any other known brand of weather throughout the solar system, for which Heaven be praised!

People who "winter" in mild or soft climates miss the tonic effect of our good old winter here at home. Especially is this true of neuroathenics and semi-invalids. The bracing northern winter, in a dry climate, will do the average valetudinarian more good than the perhaps, more comfortable southern resort. Of course there are certain ailments which are better managed in a warmer climate. But, taking it good, bad and indifferent—and that is the sensible way to look upon the weather—our fine, quick-changing, never entirely dependable kind here in the neighborhood of the fortieth parallel is, after all, the healthiest.

All of which is not a mere reiteration of the perverse views so often expressed in this column. No, indeed. We "lifted" this article, almost word for word, from an editorial in that very conservative periodical, The Journal of the American Medical Association.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Ideal Treatment for Heart Disease. Do you advise a person with organic heart trouble, who has had broken compensation, to take walks, salt or brine baths and passive movements to strengthen the heart? Answer—That is perhaps the most efficacious treatment such a patient could have. It is practically the famous Schott treatment, the Naheim method.

Safe and advisable. Is it safe for children, four and six years of age, to have their teeth filled, and do they have permanent teeth at that age? Answer—Safe and advisable always, when the teeth are decayed. More important than dentistry for adults. The first secondary teeth are the "six-year molars."

Sidelights on the European War

Vienna.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Vienna's second carnival season in war time is, if possible, drearier than the first. This year the police have officially prohibited all public balls and dances and even private dances or entertainments are not allowed in public halls, most of the latter having been turned over to the military authorities for one purpose or another.

After 20 months of war, white kid gloves and dress suits, patent leather shoes and ball gowns, fans and cotton favors, seem to have passed into oblivion. Even were public dances allowed, there would be no young men to dance, and among the young women an inclination for such pleasures seem to have died out for the duration of the war. Though some dancing schools are still going on, pupils are few.

Money is still being expended on amusements during the carnival season but it is nearly all going into one channel, and that is the theatre and opera. Night after night all these places are filled to overflowing, for the public has discovered that theatre going is far less expensive than the ball gowns and numerous other accessories demanded in the ordinary carnival season.

Naturally, the industries which heretofore supplied all the fashionable requisites for balls and parties, have suffered greatly. Some have failed entirely, while others have saved themselves only by turning their factories into other uses having some bearing on the war. For instance, one of the finest fur factories is now making soldiers' knapsacks.

Tokio.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Another company is planning to inaugurate a freight service between the United States and the far east. It is known as Shoshyoko and a shipping and coaling firm of Tokio and is preparing to place four ships on the Pacific, running monthly. The promoters, who already send ships on the Australian route, believe that the freight rates for goods shipped across the Pacific are high enough to permit unsubsidized companies to make a profit in competition with the three big subsidized companies, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha. It is understood that the first steamer, the Kogoshima of 7,000 tons, will leave Kobe for the United States via Yokohama about the middle of June. The other ships to be used in this service will be the Esan Maru, 5,000 tons; the Ataka Maru, 6,000 tons and the Dairen Maru, 6,000 tons. On their homeward voyages the vessels will probably call at Vladivostok to unload war supplies for Russia. At present the cargo awaiting shipment from Japan to America is far larger than the space available.

The Japanese products are said to be of excellent quality and workmanship.

Daily History Class—April 18.

- 1731—William Williams, "signer" for Connecticut, soldier, etc., born; died 1811.
1847—Battle of Cerro Gordo. General Winfield Scott defeated General Santa Anna.
1906—Earthquake at San Francisco and vicinity. The heart of the city laid in ruins.
1915—German aviators dropped bombs on the French fortress of Belfort, in southeastern France. German attacks along the center in France were repulsed.

CHORDS and DISCORDS

Daily Story

THE TALE OF A BOBCAT By M. Quad.

MRS. Howard Gould is in Peking for the purpose of founding a school for Chinese girls. What about the thousands of little souls living in Mrs. Gould's home city who are starving for the aid that her millions is extending to the heathen across the sea? Of course some wealthy Chinese woman, moved by the spirit of reciprocity, might come to New York and dispense similar philanthropy.

CARRANZA paid his soldiers yesterday, the first time in two months. Each received \$5 in American gold. Danger here is that a few of the boys might form a compact and buy the capital palace.

SODA fountain blew up in an Iowa town on the Sabbath. Reports say it had a terrific kick, too.

"VILLA Romantic; He Had Three Wives."—Headline. There are those who will say that he was something in addition to being romantic.

CHORUS girl in the "Chin-Chin" company, playing in Chicago, we have it on the word of the press agent, has changeable eyes that have puzzled several scientists. They turn every color except black. She'll probably get those when she takes a husband.

SON who beat his 90-year-old mother has been placed on trial before a jury at Danville, Ill. One can't imagine anything but a unanimous verdict in this case.

THIS tombstone of tattle hastens to record an Easter morn occurrence of no inconsiderable import: The birth of a calf to Schumann-Heink, the famous songstress, owned by our w. k. agriculturist and stock raiser, H. Curtis. The new arrival has been christened Palm, the name having been suggested by Mr. Curtis' little son, Hugh. It is understood that the first song the calf will learn is "Palm Branches."

Musings.

Some men seem to think that in order to feel dignity they have to show it very plainly.

If this spring weather keeps on being fine some of the men who haven't much else to do are going to get blisters on their hands from the carpet beater.

If some men's eyes were like their thinkers they could see around any corner.

The inspiration of some men results in exhortation.

Many a man with a vivid imagination knows only how to apply it to his own qualities.

The submarine is a wonderful promoter of prose composition.—Sioux City Journal.

WILL THEY EVER TUMBLE?

The reason the knocker remains poor in Rock Island is because he gets up at the alarm of a Chicago clock; buttons his Maine suspenders to Connecticut trousers; puts on a pair of shoes made in Boston; washes in a Pittsburgh tin basin, using Cincinnati soap and a cotton towel made in New Hampshire; sits down to a Michigan table; eats biscuits made with Minneapolis flour, and a Kansas City piece of bacon; Indiana grits fried in Omaha lard, cooked on a St. Louis stove filled with Pennsylvania coal; buys fruit put up in Canada, seasoned with Rhode Island spices; puts on a hat made in Philadelphia; harnesses his Missouri mule fed on Nebraska corn, in a Vermont harness, and plows with an Iowa plow; his farm covered with a Massachusetts mortgage; carries his life insurance in a New York company; at night crawls under a New Jersey blanket and is kept awake by dogs and roosters, the only home product on his place.

Oh! all you loyal Rock Island-ites, K. M. S.

SUFFRAGET lobbyists in Washington have decided to doll up in pleading their cause among the lawmakers. A nifty hat, a smile and a powdered nose will get them farther than a hatchet, that's a cinch.

MISS Effie Hoots is one of the leading singers of Nauvoo, Ill.

Hen Hicks Says.

When me and Nancy hooked up her shoes cost \$2.50 and her bonnet \$3.25. The gal of today must have \$12 boots and a \$30 hat. Then some folks can't understand why the \$15 a week lad don't git married. It can't be did.

"NIGHTIES must be black, says Paris."—Chicago Tribune. This may have some connection with the inquiry made by the Herald the other day as to whether it was proper to "pay a social call in pajamas."

YOU often hear complaints that a reporter does not write items correctly. Well, if he did, instead of saying that "Mr. Jones has returned after a short stay at Palm Beach" he would put it that "Mr. Jones has returned from Palm Beach short after a brief stay." How would that sound?

WILLIAM Lorimer is telling the story of his life from the witness stand. It's interesting, of course, but it would be more effective with the jury if it were given with soft pedal musical accompaniment.

TO one sitting high in a sycamore, Mayor McConochie, in insisting on reducing the operating hours of saloon-keepers, is proving their friend instead of their antagonist, and time will prove the wisdom of his course.

Earth Shocks Recorded. Washington, April 18.—Very severe earthquake shocks were recorded during the night on Georgetown University seismographs. The shocks began at 11:12 p. m. and continued until 12:30 a. m. It was estimated the center of the disturbance was about 4,200 miles from Washington.

"Friends and neighbors," began old Joe Grimm as he took a seat on a cracker barrel at the crossroads store, "you all know that up to five years ago I lived over in Joe Davis county. I had a squat over thar by the big Blue Gum swamp. Thar was forty acres of land in the squat, and it was mighty pore land. It was all I could do to raise nuff corn and taters for me and the ole woman. If it hadn't been that the Blue Gum was full of varmints that I could trap in the winter and sell their furs I reckon we should have starved out.

"One winter, for some reason or other, most of the varmints left the swamp, and it was mighty poor trappin'. I got just enough fur to keep us goin', and as a consequence when spring and summer cum along we was powerful hard up and like to go hungry in another month.

"One night arter the ole woman had given me three or four hints about laziness we went to bed feelin' that Providence was to blame for it all. Along about midnight she nudged me awake and said:

"Joe, I have got a bright idea. It's fur you to go in the swamp tomorrow and set a deadfall to catch a bobcat. If you kin catch a big bobcat mebber you kin sell him at Mud Flats or the Bend to some one fur a pet. He orter bring at least \$5."

"It was worth thinkin' about," said Joe, "and next day I reckoned it might pay to try it. I went out and set a deadfall, and while I was doin' it a boncin' big bobcat ran up a tree cline beside me and gin a screech that ris my ha'r up.

"That night about 12 o'clock we was awoke by the durndest screamin' and screechin' that a man ever heard of. It come from a bobcat who had meddled with that deadfall.

"We got her cased, and next mornin' I set out for the town of Mud Flats. I went thar kase thar was two or three rich men in the place who might buy the cat and kase thar was to be leebun thar that day.

"Eight miles below Mud Flats was Walnut Bend, a town of about 1,500 people, without any mud in front of it. The Benders wanted the county seat moved over thar, and after a lot of hard feelin' about it, it was agreed to hold a leebun. It was to be held in Mud Flats, and that is what brung about 250 Benders over thar that day I drove in with the cat. I hadn't driv inter the town yit when I met old Jim Darby in the road. Arter he had nodded to me and took a look at the caze he says:

"What ye got thar, Joe?" "A big bobcat," I says.

"What ye goin' to do with him?" "Sell him if I kin."

"Ole Jim steps aroun' to the back of the wagon and peeks in and the cat gives a scream and spits in his face. With that, ole Jim backs up and walks the road a few feet. When he cums back to me he says:

"Joe, these Mud Flatters are a tricky lot. They have formed in line in front of the polls and are goin' to vote so slow that us Benders won't stand no show to git the county seat. I wonders—

"What ye wonderin' about, Jim?" says I.

"I think ye might make use o' that cat—I think so. If he was turned loose down by the votin' place what would he do?"

"Why, he would bite and claw until you could smell sulphur."

"I reckon he would, Joe. What I want of him is to drive these Flatters away from the poles and gin my men a chance to hold the land. If you think he kin do this thar is \$10 in it fur you."

"I want jest four times that, Jim," says I, seein' my advantage.

"Jim sticks fur awhile, strokin' his red chin whiskers, and he finally cums to my terms. He tells me what to do as he passes up the money and starts back to the town and gives his men the wink, and they all draws off to an old barn farther down the street. Then I drives in and stand up in my wagon and shouts out that I have a big bobcat for sale. The street was full of men, but no one minds me. I shouts out that I will take \$5 for the varmint. Then I lowers the price to \$4— and \$3—and \$2, and arter about ten minutes of this hollerin' I gets the signal from Jim, and I pretends to git mighty mad, and I yells out:

"If nobody will buy this bob of me then I am goin' to turn him loose and let him find his way back to his lordin' home in Blue Gum!"

"What I did took the crowd by surprise. I turned to the caze and tore off a couple of slats, and the cat cum out like a bullet. He clawed my cap off as he cum and then bit the ole man on his way to the ground, and a dead was let loose in Mud Flats.

"He broke up that votin' line in thirty seconds, and he drove men inter stores and shops and houses. Lawd, but he was a fury! He was as mad as six bars rolled inter one."

"It was when the cat started fur home that Old Jim appeared with his men and formed a solid line befo' the polls. They kept that line all day in spite of many fouts, and when the closin' hour came they had the county seat by 150 majority. And when I got home and showed the ole woman the money and told her we could live a life of luxury fur the rest of our lives she jest up and fainted away."

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