

SIFTING THE NEWS

By Hugh Murphy

Claiming the whole of Ireland as national territory, Prime Minister of Eire, De Valera, demanded on Wednesday that the British government strike out all reference to Ireland in its conscription bill.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Viscount Craigavon held a conference with Prime Minister Chamberlain and announced that he had left the decision in the hands of the British government.

The Ulster Unionist Parliament announced that it would oppose conscription in any part of Ireland.

It is expected that conscription will be forced upon Northern Ireland in the face of disapproval from the south only as an emergency measure.

Things have been a little too quiet in Ireland lately. Now that the outlawed Irish Republican Army has moved to London to blow up bridges there has been too little stir on the "gold sod."

George Bernard Shaw, probably the original wise cracker, just released another. When made a vice-president of London's Voluntary Euthanasia Society he said: "There is not the slightest hope for humankind that I shall practice euthanasia on myself."

Most ironical piece of news of the week by far is that Britain is paying patent royalties to Nazi Germany for the right to manufacture the Bren gun. Canada will have to do likewise as the gun is being manufactured in this country for Canadian forces.

Patents on the gun were held by the Skoda works of Czechoslovakia. When that country was absorbed by Germany royalties on the patents went to the Reich.

This will Britain pay Germany for the right to make guns which will be potential means of death for German soldiers. All that is needed now is to have the Vickers Armstrong corporation of Britain bring out a new death dealing instrument attractive to German ideas of how men should be killed.

In view of the vilification of Germany and the bitter attitude taken by Germany it is rather interesting to recall what the German nation lost by the Great War and what she was asked to pay in reparation.

In addition to her 1,700,000 killed in battle, 4,200,000 wounded and 1,150,000 missing, Germany lost Alsace-Lorraine, most of Posen and all of her colonies. She lost 18,000,000 of her population on 1,000,000 square miles of territory, 45% of her coal, 65% of her iron ore, 15% of her arable lands, 10% of her factories and 5,100,000 tons of her merchant fleet.

She was forced to agree to deliver to France 105,000 tons of benzol, 150,000 tons of coal tar, 900 tons of sulphate of ammonia, 500 stallions, 30,000 mares, 2,000 bulls, 90,000 cows, 1,000 rams, 100,000 sheep and 10,000 goats.

She agreed to pay (but paid only in part) \$5,000,000,000 reparation before May, 1921.

During the occupation of the Ruhr Valley by the French 147,000 German citizens were driven from the territory in 11 months. Burgomasters of every city in the land of 4,000,000 people were imprisoned or expelled.

Grover Aloysius Whalen and his super-colossal show. It is reputed to be the biggest fair in history. There are, to quote convincing statistics, 200 buildings on 1,216 1/2 acres (that other half acre was probably owned by someone who didn't like blatant display).

Hitlerian personalities: There has been only a slight physical change in Hitler in the six years he has been in power. The lines in his face have deepened. He has added 25 pounds to his weight and four inches to his girth.

His voice has grown coarser. Despite assurances of six physicians he worries about cancer of the throat.

He is not a great reader but has a passion for the cinema. He sometimes has three or four full length pictures run off for him at a sitting and knows the cast of every German musical comedy.

He can give by heart the names and descriptions of all U.S. and British warships.

Youngest of the three dictators, Mussolini is about 55. Stalin about 60. Hitler works less than any one of them. He does not bother with detail, has no capacity for long hours at a desk. Is executive enough to delegate duties to subordinates.

Pictured as emotionally unbalanced, competent observers believe him to have his emotions well under control—can turn them off and on at will.

He has come to accept himself as a Messiah and is given to occasional megalomaniacal outbursts.

He is noncommittal and taciturn even to trusted advisers and will tolerate opposition only on the smallest details.

An apparent growing fondness for entertaining and apparent fondness for pretty American dancers may or may not be a deliberate attempt to humanize Hitler in the eyes of the world.

Must Carry Driving Permit To Escape Fine, Says Conant

Drivers of motor vehicles were given sharp warning this week at Toronto by Hon. Gordon Conant, Attorney-General, that they must not only have operators' permits, but must carry them with them, when he instructed provincial police to maintain a close check upon motorists.

"Any drivers found without their operating licenses will be prosecuted, even though they may have licenses, but did not have them with them. Under the law they are required to carry their licenses," said Mr. Conant.

The Attorney-General at the same time revealed that the motorcycle patrol branch under Inspector J. A. Grant, from April 1 to April 23, brought prosecutions against 746, of whom 529 operators and nine chauffeurs were unlicensed and 208 claimed they had licenses, but did not have them with them at the time they were examined.

During that period also, prosecutions were made against 261 who had not registered their vehicles.

Mr. Conant emphasized that a driver's failure to take out a license indicated a lack of a sense of responsibility and pointed out the penalty involved a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$50 for the first offense and a steep upward gradation for subsequent offenses.

IT HAPPENED IN FERGUS They do some funny things down in the Scottish town of Fergus. According to Hugh Templin, editor of the News-Record: "There's a rumor that one professional man in Fergus called another out of bed at one o'clock in the morning to ask him if he was going to a certain meeting. The second man said he hadn't made up his mind. He went back to bed, after setting the alarm clock for 4 a.m. Then he called the other man back and said he had decided not to go."

Some Odd Things Due to Magnetism

Canyon in Oregon Mountains is Scene of Some Funny Happenings.

Gold Hill, Ore.—Here near the southern boundary of Oregon, about half way between Grants Pass and Medford, four miles off the main highway in a little canyon, is a circular area 125 feet in diameter where funny things happen.

Away back in 1824, when the trail from Crescent City, Calif., to eastern Oregon passed this way, prospectors noticed that their pack mules, as they passed this particular spot, stood or walked at a peculiar angle, leaning sharply for no apparent reason, toward the magnetic north. So did the prospectors. So will you today, if you pass this way. You will observe also that almost every tree within this charmed circle grows, not upright, but inclined in this same direction; while trees outside the limited area grow perpendicularly.

"You will observe that if you toss a ball in the air, it will fall not straight downward, but at an angle away from the magnetic north. Plumb lines bend sharply at the bottom. Put a golf ball on a board that is indicated by a spirit level to be perfectly horizontal, and the ball will roll away from the magnetic north. Your friends when they walk across this area, will lean to the north as if they were bucking a stiff gale blowing from that direction. You stand on a level board opposite one of them and find that your line of vision is opposite, say, his eyes. You change places, and find your line of vision is opposite his mouth. Has your friend suddenly grown taller, or have you grown shorter? It just doesn't make sense.

Why? Nobody Knows

What is it all about? Why do these things happen, and happen only in this limited area? A Portland photographer came here to take some pictures. He brought along a photoelectric cell or light meter. When he started to take pictures he found his cell apparently was broken; instead of registering 100, it registered only 65. He went across the canyon to his car to get a new one. Before putting the old one away he glanced at it. It was all right. It wouldn't work in that area, but it worked perfectly outside it. Why? Nobody knows.

Thousands of visitors and hundreds of physical scientists have observed the phenomena, but none can explain what happens. All that can be said is that there is a strong counter-attraction from the magnetic north. Inanimate objects are repelled from the pole; animate objects unconsciously seek to counteract this force, with the result they lean to the north.

John Litster, the Scot who owns the place, has been puzzling over this for about 30 years. He is a mining man. At first he thought there must be a magnetic deposit of some sort which caused these strange jinks. He dug a shaft more than 500 feet deep, and found the same phenomena at the bottom of the shaft as on the surface. Now he thinks it must have something to do with the relation of this particular spot to the two magnetic poles.

Years ago, a two-storey cabin which had been an assayer's office on the mountain came down on a landslide and halted at this point. Mr. Litster has left it there, standing all top-sides. It is convenient for experiments he conducts for visitors. He calls it the House of Mystery. There's nothing mysterious about the house itself. But the place where it stands seems to play some odd pranks with the assumed laws of nature. Professor Einstein ought to get a thrill out of it, if he ever pays it a visit.

Smiths Falls Record News: The Record News has a suggestion to make regarding the flying of flags during Their Majesties' Canadian visit. It is this: That all merchants put out their flags in front of stores and business places daily from the time the King and Queen arrive on Canadian soil until their departure. May this suggestion be carried out. Citizens in general, could also put at least one flag on their homes.

Heads New "Wrens"



Mrs. Laughton Matthews was an officer of the old "Wrens", woman's Royal Navy service, begun during last war. Now she has been named director of the new "Wrens". The women are trained to replace men needed for actual fighting in wartime.

Fair Warning Given to The Fair Lady Pipers

Female pipers from England arrived for the New York World's Fair playing "Old Black Joe" and "The Side-walks of New York."

Wake! Scots wha' hae w' Wallace bled And chiefs who focht for Charlie; Rise! Proud McCrimmon, from the dead! The bagpipes need ye sairly.

Gird on the tartan, rouse the clans, (A wink or juts a nod will) Confound those feckless female pipers To put the pipes in vaudeville.

Far be it frae Scots to give affront Or insult to the ladies; But pass a' patience goes this stunt O' hootcha hired frae Hades.

If "Old Black Joe" still needs a boost W' folks in New York City, Let saxophonists rule the roost; They're myriad... more's the pity!

If New York's sidewalkers thirst for fame (Though Lord knows why they claim it!) Let blaring brass bands shout their name And Harlem hounds proclaim it.

So march w' skirlin' Scottish air Against such swingtime snipers; Show what's in store for those wha dare Blaw dirt on guid Scots pipers!

DONALD MCLEOD, New Toronto.

Famous Fur Boots Being Returned to Soviet Flier

A despatch yesterday from Moncton, N.B., says that Brigadier-General Vladimir Kokkinaki, one of the two Moscow-New York fliers forced down on Miscou Island last Friday, is going to get his prized fur-lined flying boots which disappeared just before a plane took him and his companion, Major Mikhail Gordienko, to New York Sunday.

One of the boots was returned to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Monday night and the other was regained Tuesday. Police would not disclose who found them or who returned them. It was believed Sunday they had been stolen by a souvenir hunter.

The boots will be sent to Kokkinaki at New York.

Toronto Telegram: The trouble about moderns is that so many people want to earn a living sitting down.

Polish Agreement Good for Britain

Air Force in Poland One of the Best of Today.

(By J. M. Spaight in The London Spectator)

The revolutionary change in our foreign policy involved in the conclusion of the defensive pact with Poland is particularly welcome from the point of view of the balance of air power in Europe. It tends to tilt the balance in our favor.

Hitherto we have been engaged in a stern chase, in which Germany has been leading. The lead has been shortening. Some think we have caught up already, so far as production goes. Mr. Oliver Simmonds stated recently, in the House of Commons, that our output of aircraft was now substantially equal to Germany's Dr. Dalton, on the contrary, maintained that the gap was widening.

Official pronouncements upon this particular subject have necessarily been discreet and uninformative. There is no doubt that an enormous improvement in the output of airframes and engines has occurred in the last six months. Sir Kingsley Wood's statement on March 9th that we were spending £250,000 a day on the production of aircraft alone and that the rate would increase still further, is heartening in the extreme. Even if a good deal of the expenditure is for progress payments on aircraft not yet completed, it points to an output of something like twenty aircraft a day in the very near future.

Our agreement with Poland should improve our relative position still further. It is not that Poland herself has either a great air establishment or a large productive capacity. It is rather that, in the first place, her geographical position serves to set off the disadvantage under which London labors as compared with Berlin, and, in the second, that there is behind her in Soviet Russia a field of aeronautical supply which she—and we—should be able to exploit unless some bad blunder is made.

Poland's air strength, as it stands, is a credit item in the balance-sheet of the western democracies' air power, but it is probably not greater than the debit item which was written in when Germany seized Czechoslovakia. The chief gain, aeronautically, which that treacherous stroke brought to Germany was the removal of the potential threat from the Czechoslovakian air bases. These were, or Germany claimed they were, a pistol pointed at her heart. The pistol has been struck from a possible enemy's hand.

It must be gall and wormwood to Germany to know that another is levelled at her from the East. Poland, defensively allied to Britain and France, is a formidable foe, and one capable of striking a damaging blow through the air at Germany's heart.

London, we have been warned almost to boredom, is in a peculiarly unfortunate position in modern warfare, as compared with Berlin. It is situated at a distance of 350 miles from the German coast; Berlin is over 500 miles from our coast, and more than half of this distance is over German territory, where the interception of bombers is less difficult than over the sea. Even from the French frontier Berlin is still 350 miles away, the whole route being over German territory.

From the Polish frontier to Berlin the bee-line is only 100 miles. Our geographical disadvantage in the west has been redressed to the extent that the new defensive alliance has worsened the position of Germany's capital, relatively to ours, in any war which may be waged between us and in which it must now be assumed, Poland will also be her enemy.

Shortly before the Great War ended, arrangements were being made for the establishment near Prague of an air-base from which our Royal Air Force

Advertisement for Bluebird Diamond Rings. Includes text: 'ALWAYS THE FAVORITE WITH CANADA'S BRIDES', 'REGISTERED & INSURED Bluebird DIAMOND RINGS', and 'C.A. Remus JEWELLERS 17 Pine Street N. Phone 190'. Also features 'CONVENIENT TERMS NO ADDED COST!'

would have raided Berlin and other objectives in Germany. The squadrons which had been employed in Palestine and Mesopotamia were to be used for this purpose. The proposal had not reached finality when the armistice was signed. A scheme of the same kind, for raiding Germany from the east, may be organized in a major war of the future in which reprisal bombing is found to be necessary.

It is to be assumed that the air operations of the three allies will be closely co-ordinated in any event. A single command for the British and French air forces has already been suggested, and this might well be extended to embrace the Polish air force also. It is by no means beyond the bounds of possibility that we shall see British and French, as well as Polish, bombers operating from bases in Poland. Our and the French rearmament drive may well result in such a predominance over the Axis Powers as to leave a margin of strength for allocation to work of this kind.

Russia has at least 70 aircraft factories—ten times as many as Germany acquired in Czechoslovakia—and her annual production in peace is believed to be in the neighborhood of 8,000 machines, which is probably greater than Germany's. In war her output would be still larger. The quality of her machines is good. Some of the best are manufactured in Spain under American licenses. Her monoplane fighters of the Boeing type have shown themselves in Spain to be excellent machines. They were faster than the Italian fighters such as the Fiat, though out-speeded by the new German Messerschmitts. The Russian-built Mar-

tin bombers have also done well. There is no doubt that both quantitatively and qualitatively Russia must be reckoned with very seriously in the race of air armament.

Representative of the Bible Society to be Here May 7-8

Rev. J. J. Harrington of the Upper Canada Bible Society will be in the camp this week-end in the interests of the organization he represents. On Sunday, May 7th there will be services in three of the churches as follows:— At 10:45 a.m. in the Timmins United Church; at 7 p.m., at the United Church, South Porcupine; at 7:30 p.m., at the St. Paul's Anglican church, South Porcupine.

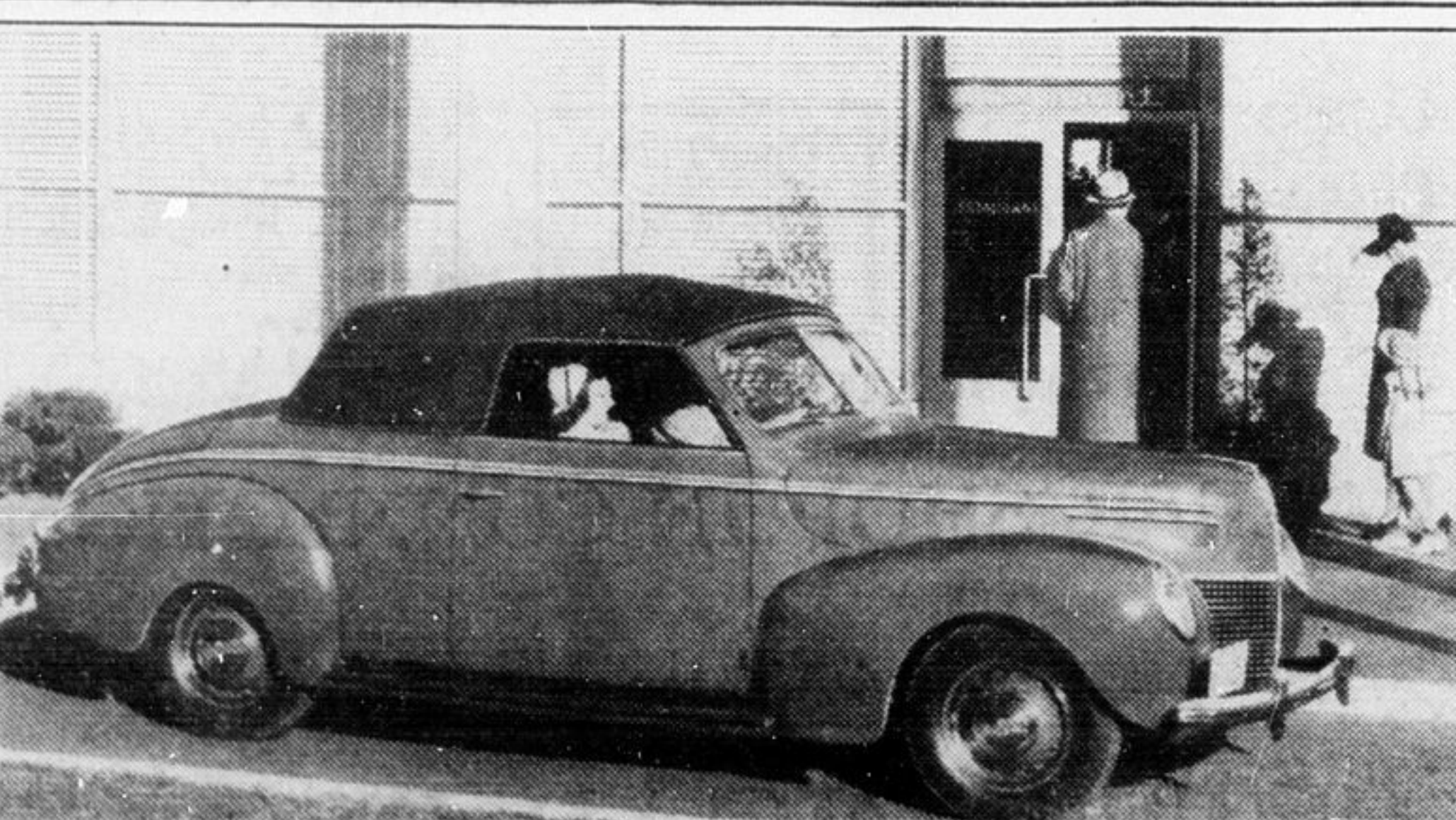
On Monday afternoon at 3:15 there will be a public service at the Salvation Army Citadel.

On Monday night, May 8th, at 8 p.m., there is to be a public meeting in Trinity United Church, Schumacher. At this meeting a special feature will be an illustrated address, "The Bible in English History." This address by Rev. Mr. Harrington is sure to prove of very special interest and value. At the Monday evening meeting at Schumacher it is intended to have the election of officers for the local branch of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

Detroit Free Press: What a well-dressed American should wear in the presence of British royalty when it visits this country, appears to be agitating the minds of a considerable number of our democratic countrymen

Advertisement for Western Canada Special Bargain Excursions. Includes text: 'WESTERN CANADA SPECIAL BARGAIN EXCURSIONS', 'From All Stations in Eastern Canada', 'GOING DAILY—MAY 16—MAY 27, 1939', 'INCLUSIVE', 'Return Limit—45 Days', 'TICKETS GOOD IN COACHES at fares approximately 1 1/2c per mile.', 'TOURIST SLEEPING CARS at fares approximately 1 1/2c per mile.', 'STANDARD SLEEPING CARS at fares approximately 1 1/2c per mile.', 'COST OF ACCOMMODATION IN SLEEPING CARS ADDITIONAL', 'BAGGAGE Checked. Stopovers at Port Arthur, Armstrong, Chicago and West.', 'SIMILAR EXCURSIONS FROM WESTERN TO EASTERN CANADA DURING SAME PERIOD.', 'Tickets, Sleeping Car Reservations and all information from any Agent, ASK FOR HANDBILL T-117', 'CANADIAN NATIONAL'

Royal Preference Makes Blue Fashionable



BLUE will be a fashionable color in Canada this spring, according to stylists who state that the preference shown by Queen Elizabeth for this color is largely responsible. Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, reports that blue rates high with automobile owners and many new car buyers specify blue finishes. A recent check reveals that 26 per cent. of Ford, Mercury and Lincoln-Zephyr cars sold in Canada are blue in color. Black is still first choice with blue a close second; greys, reds and greens following in that order. Jefferson blue, a rich, dark shade, is a standard color for all Ford and Mercury models. The latter is also obtainable in a metallic blue, a light shade and the Zephyr in a special grey-blue. Many other shades of blue are optional at extra cost. Pictured above is a popular Mercury model, the sport convertible, finished in metallic blue.

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