

Legends Of The North

After the discovery of silver at Cobalt at the beginning of the century and the incorporation of the settlement as a town in 1906, it wasn't long before ambitious prospectors were heading out by canoe and on foot into the wilds and unknown in search of other strikes and it was through their quests that the Porcupine and the other great gold mining districts were found and soon eclipsed the discoveries at Cobalt.

By 1907 the T. & N. O. had pushed northward as far as New Liskeard. Prospectors then preferred to set out by canoe in the summers and so had to start from Latchford (just south of Cobalt) on the Montreal River.

Strangely enough most prospectors preferred to strike out west and north guided by what they called hunches, or a prospector's intuition. Some had hunches that one day they would strike it rich—a hope all of them had—yet strangely enough some of the ones that boasted loudly that they would one day be wealthy did strike it rich. Perhaps it was that unknown sixth sense that kept them plodding on and on when other men not similarly inspired turned back after a reasonable search and went back to their farms and stores. But the lure for gold is strong, and once it got into a man's blood it kept him on the search year after year, forsaking the comforts of home and family, and the conveniences of civilization. Many of these old prospectors went broke and were grubstaked by fortunate town folk who were later to share in their strikes.

One of the more fortunate of these was a woman named Roza Brown, who died last week in Kirkland Lake, a famous character of the north in her own right. Working as a washer-woman and keeping a boarding house, she grubstaked a down-and-out prospector who was boarding at her

place. It was Harry Oakes, who later found the Lakeshore mine. What share she received in the mine was never revealed though it was believed she was quite wealthy.

Old prospectors like to tell of stories of the old days when they ventured into country close to and into the Porcupine, a country which was well known at that time only to the Indians but was later to become the richest gold mining camp in Canada and add to the Dominion's wealth by millions of dollars.

Travelling by canoe from Latchford the prospectors paddled upstream to Pork Rapids, portaged, and then went on to what was called Mowat's Landing, a good day's journey even for two skilled paddlers.

At Mowat's Landing was a small log cabin built by two brothers who both died there a couple of years before. It was called the "haunted house," and the spirits of the two brothers were supposed to come back every night and haunt the place. One brother had been drowned just below the house and the other soon after fell down the shaft they had dug in their search for silver and was killed. Both were buried under the dirt floor of the cabin.

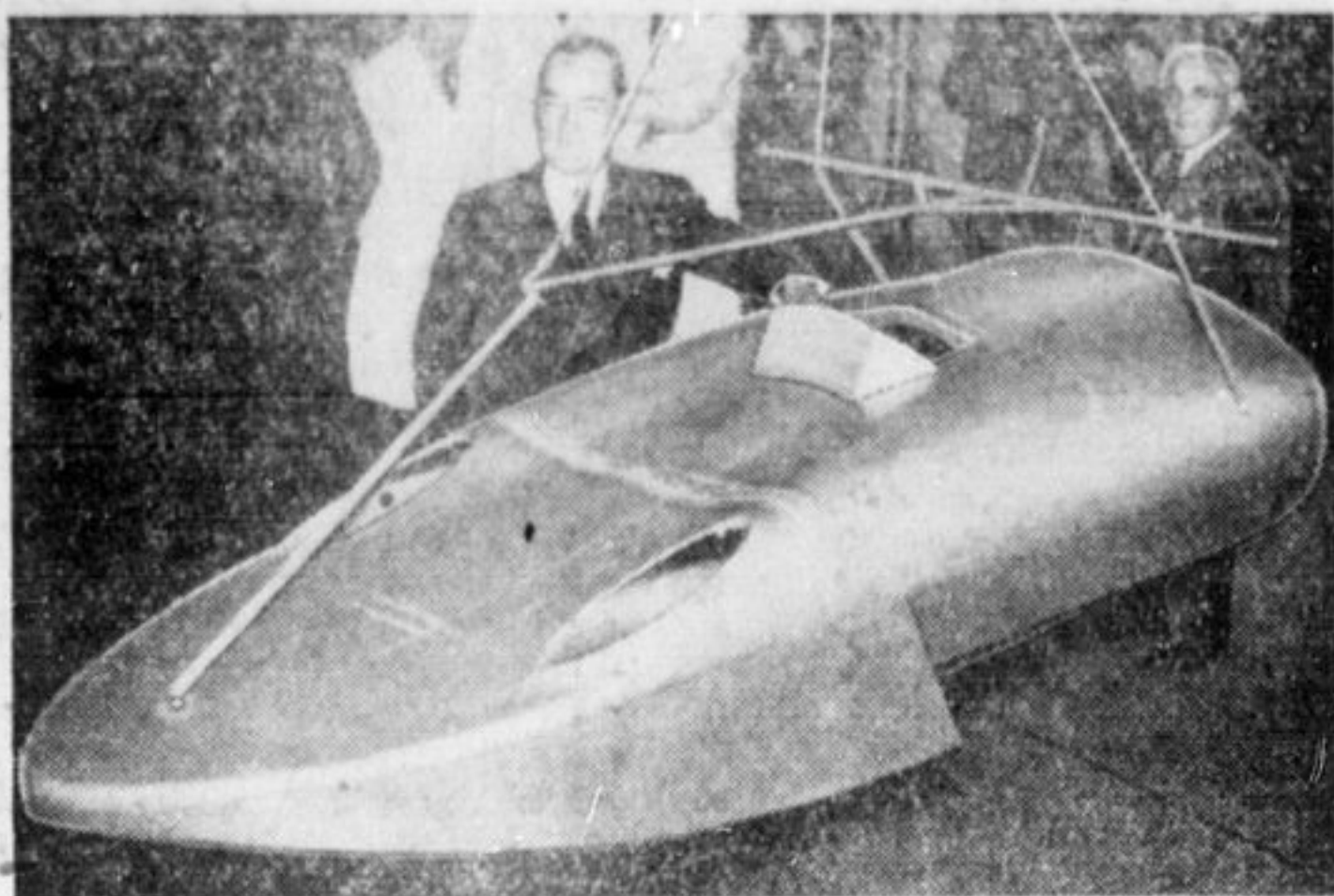
This night these two prospectors decided to sleep in the haunted house in an endeavor to see the ghost that reputedly showed up there regularly every night. Both these prospectors are still living today, one in Timmins and one in Toronto.

Inside the cabin, halfway up the wall, a projecting floor had been built like a huge shelf to serve as a bedroom. The prospectors climbed up the ladder onto the platform and spread their blankets. The Scotsman, superstitious, strangely enough, placed seven candles at intervals around his bedroll. "To keep the ghosts away," he said.

According to the ghost story then believed the ghost appeared at one o'clock. First came three knocks, then the voices of the brothers talking to each other as they came up from the river to the cabin.

Shortly before one the Scot woke his partner. The seven candles around his bedroll were lit. They waited,

World's Water Speed Record Bid With Jet Boat



Sir Malcolm Campbell Britain's water speed ace hopes soon to make an attempt on his own world water speed record of 141.74 miles p.h. in a re-designed "Bluebird".

This new jet-propelled boat is powered by a de-havilland Goblin 11 gas turbine engine. An exact scale model of his motor-boat is being used in wind tunnel tests at the Fairey Aviation Company's works in Middlesex near London. The "bluebird" with its 5,000 h.p. jet engine is nearing completion at Portsmouth and it is expected to reach 170 miles per hour.

This picture shows—Sir Malcolm Campbell with a scale model of the "Bluebird".

tense, listening for the three knocks. Sharp at one o'clock they came, three distinct raps. The Scotsman tensed behind his barrier of candles. Then came the voices, and one distinctly said, "we get him, sure." And the low mutter of an answer. The prospectors waited on their shelf in the cabin, nervously certain the door would open and the ghost would enter. Nothing happened.

Next morning when one prospector went down to the river for water for their coffee he heard a noise on the roof. Turning, he noticed the tar paper on the roof, with a tiny sail on the end of it blowing gently in the wind and rapping gently against the roof. That was the noise they had heard, though it sounded loud in the middle of the night when they expected the ghost.

Packing their canoe the prospectors went on to Elk Lake, the furthest prospectors had ever ventured up to that time from Cobalt and the closest any had come to the hidden gold mines of the Porcupine.

At Elk Lake they met an Indian named Joe Steves, with his squaw. Joe sold them a quarter of moose and in the conversation (which the Scotsman didn't hear) the Indian said he had come by the haunted house at one o'clock the night before and had said to his squaw as they passed, "we get him sure," referring to the moose which he had expected to find watering along the shores of Elk Lake in the moonlight. The prospector never told the Scot what he had heard, and to this day the Scot still tells the story of the haunted house of northern Ontario.

When prospecting around Elk Lake they ran into two other prospectors, and over a campfire dinner one night one of the newcomers said the next time they met him he'd be wearing the biggest diamond they ever saw. He had a hunch he was going to strike it rich. That was in 1907. In 1909 that prospector discovered the Dome Mine. It was Harry Preston. Years later when the two ran into each other Harry wore a ring on his finger with the largest diamond he could buy. His hunch had come true.

And so go the stories of the good old prospecting days in Northern Ontario. Most of the prospectors have little but the stories to tell of the many years they spent searching through the vast wilderness and forests in their quest for gold. Some who did make strikes died as poor as the day they went around looking for grubstake in Cobalt and New Liskeard. But their search was not without gain for now it is estimated that close to 300,000 Canadians depend for their livelihood on hard rock mining.

It would be fitting if the gold mining centres of northern Ontario were to erect a monument of some kind to these pioneers that opened up the country, a monument fittingly entitled "The Unknown Prospector".

Kiwanis Observe

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The guest speaker for the day was Rev. Father Murray, of Timmins, and his address was a highlight of a big day. He gave an interesting account of the life of St. Patrick, with many little-known facts about that missionary and his life work. St. Patrick, the speaker said, was born in 373 A. D. There was some question as to his birthplace, Dumbarton and Normandy both claiming the distinction. The probability was that he was a native of Normandy. As a boy of sixteen, St. Patrick had been taken by a group of rovers and sold into slavery in Ireland. He was seven years a slave, but in after life, he said that in those years of physical slavery he had won spiritual freedom and the earnest zeal to spread the gospel among the Irish people. "In one generation," the speaker said, "St. Patrick, without violence or force, turned a whole pagan nation to a Christian people."

The speaker ascribed the wonderful achievement of St. Patrick to the fact that he had given two-fifths of his life to preparation for his great work. "How many of us are ready to give two-fifths of our lives to help others?" the speaker asked.

In speaking of St. Patrick's character, Rev. Father Murray showed that he had always battled against tyranny in any form and against wickedness in high places. "He inspired the terror

A Bill Of Rights

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and varied opinions on this question, particularly because there was nothing definite in the question just what was meant by economic rights. It was, however, believed that freedom from want would be one of the freedoms that would be covered if there was a section in the Bill of Rights ensuring citizens reasonable economic security. It was felt that without money a Bill of Rights would mean but little to a man, for as long as money is used as a medium of exchange a man's economic vote is the most important vote he had, and, naturally enough, a right worth having.

In the discussion on the CBC broadcast, which originated in Montreal, Dr. Humphries (Doctor of Laws) a director on the International Commission on Human Rights, stated that it was such enactments as the Quebec Padlock Law which made it necessary to introduce a Bill of Rights for Canadians to prevent provinces from encroaching on a Canadian citizen's rights. He pointed out, however, that we could not expect to make Canada a Utopia by legislating a Bill of Rights.

A Bill of Rights would be of no use unless ingrained in the minds and hearts of Canadians, and the learned Doctor pointed out that the United States had a Bill of Rights and it still did not prevent racial discrimination against Negroes.

Mr. Irvin, editor of the Montreal Star, asked just what liberty meant. We want free speech, he said, yet free speech does not allow us to slander our neighbors. We are dealing with intangible, indefinable things and in trying to foresee all possibilities in a Bill of Rights we may unknowingly restrict the rights of someone.

Mr. Nichol, the third member of the CBC Citizens Forum, said that there should be a preamble in the International Charter and Bill of Rights that reaffirms the rights of people to human liberties and recognizes an individual's rights to fundamental freedoms regardless of race, color or creed.

The present charter did not include any reference as to what machinery was set up to implement action to protect the rights of an individual, and that under its present status the international organization could not take action when an individual's rights were infringed unless it constituted a danger to a particular nation. It was hoped that the Bill of Rights being prepared would include such machinery.

The next meeting of the Timmins Citizens Forum Group will be held at the home of Mrs. J. E. Sullivan, 106 Tamarack St. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

SCHUMACHER Explorers Toboggan Party
The Girls and Boys Explorers Groups of Trinity United Church with their leaders enjoyed a tobogganing party Saturday.

After tobogganing on the hills at Gold Centre, the party gathered at the home of Mrs. Harold Grist, Gold Centre, where a delicious hot lunch was enjoyed.

of the warrior, but he had the tenderness of a woman!" There were touches of Irish wit and humour in the address, but the serious note predominated. He closed with a story, the moral of which he asked all to apply for themselves as members of a service club and as individuals. The story was the parable of the pig complaining to the cow that the latter was better esteemed. "I know that you give milk and meat, but I give more than you do. I give ham and pork and bacon and bristles. And they even pickle my feet when I am dead!" said the pig. The cow considered for a moment, then said: "It may be that people esteem me more highly, because I give while I'm still living!"

The guest speaker was introduced by Kiwanian Barney Quinn and the thanks of the club expressed by Kiwanian Art Moran, who prefaced his words of appreciation with a new Irish story.

President O. R. Kennie added a few personal words of appreciation for the timely address by Rev. Father Murray. Visitors for the day were: Rev. Father Murray; Mrs. W. Roberts; Geo. A. Jenkin, supervisor of music at Timmins high and vocational school; and P. C. H. Simms, Timmins.

Employment Opportunities Open In Hard Rock Mining

Nearly 300,000 Canadians are dependent for their livelihood on 44,000 hard rock miners, 19,000 of whom are employed in gold mines. Many of the mines are at present operating at about 60 per cent of their capacity due to the shortage of labour. This is an important industry in which there are plenty of opportunities and jobs for hard rock miners states a bulletin from the Dominion Department of Labour.

Although employment in hard rock mining is considerably lower than the all-time high reached during the war, the total numbers presently employed in both gold mining and base metal mining are still higher than the highest pre-war figures and there are today opportunities for employment in practically every hard rock mine in Canada.

In the years preceding the war, employment showed the same steady upward trend in both gold and base metal mining, but from 1939 until the present time, these two main branches of hard rock mining have followed different employment patterns due to the needs of war and the conditions of the post-war period.

At the outbreak of war, the national need for more gold to take care of purchases abroad gave gold mining an unprecedented stimulus, with the result that the numbers employed in gold mining rose from 17,000 in 1939 to 25,000 in 1941. However, from this point on production of base metals for war industries was given priority over gold and large numbers of gold miners were directed into base metal mines to assist in the tremendous expansion program.

Drop In Gold Miners
During the next three years, the total employed in base metal mining jumped from the 1939 figure of 20,000 to a peak of nearly 50,000, while the numbers in gold mines dropped from the 1941 all-time high of 25,000 to about 15,000 in 1944.

With the return of peace, employment in gold and base metal production levelled off at points slightly higher than the pre-war levels. At the beginning of 1947, total employment in gold mining stood at about 19,000, 2,000 higher than the highest pre-war figure, while the total employed in base metal mines was recorded at 23,000, about 3,000 higher than the pre-war peak.

The most serious current labour shortages in hard rock mining are to be found in the gold mines, some of which are operating at only about 60 per cent of their capacity, due chiefly to the scarcity of skilled miners. The scarcity of skilled miners is due in turn to a great extent to the shortage of housing facilities in gold mining communities, since a large proportion of the skilled miners are married men. Some mining companies are carrying out housing projects to relieve this situation, and are being assisted in these efforts by the Dominion Government through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Base metal mining communities are generally better off for housing than the gold mining ones, due to the

greater expansion of the base metal communities during the war and to the fact that most base metal communities have been longer established.

In addition to the need for men underground, there is also a great need today for young men for exploration, prospecting and field work. During the war the numbers of prospectors dwindled, due to the fact that young men were not available for this type of work.

To assist in improving the labour supply of hard rock mines in Ontario and Quebec, the Dominion Department of Labour is presently engaged in recruiting men from areas of surplus labour in Nova Scotia — mainly in Sydney and New Glasgow coal mining district. Approximately 70 have been brought to Timmins.

One of the bright spots of the hard rock mining employment future is in the production of iron ore. Although up until now the iron mines of this country have employed only between 600 and 700 men, new deposits have been discovered in North Eastern Quebec which when developed are expected to bring Canada's iron production rate to a point approaching that of the U.S.A., with a corresponding need for workers.

For every man who is employed

SALLY'S SALLIES



They had recently acquired a dog and were demonstrating his good points to a visitor.

"Mind you," said the man of the house, "I know he's not what you would call a thoroughbred, but no tramp or burglar can come near the house without his letting us know about it."

"What does he do?" asked the visitor. "Bark the place down!"

"Well, no—he crawls under the sofa."

in hard rock mining, at least one other man is employed in another industry to produce services or materials used by him, such as explosives, timber, power, machinery, steel, equipment and transportation. It has been estimated that for the 44,000 engaged in hard rock mining, at least 44,000 more are directly dependent on them for their livelihood, which in terms of population means about 300,000 Canadians.

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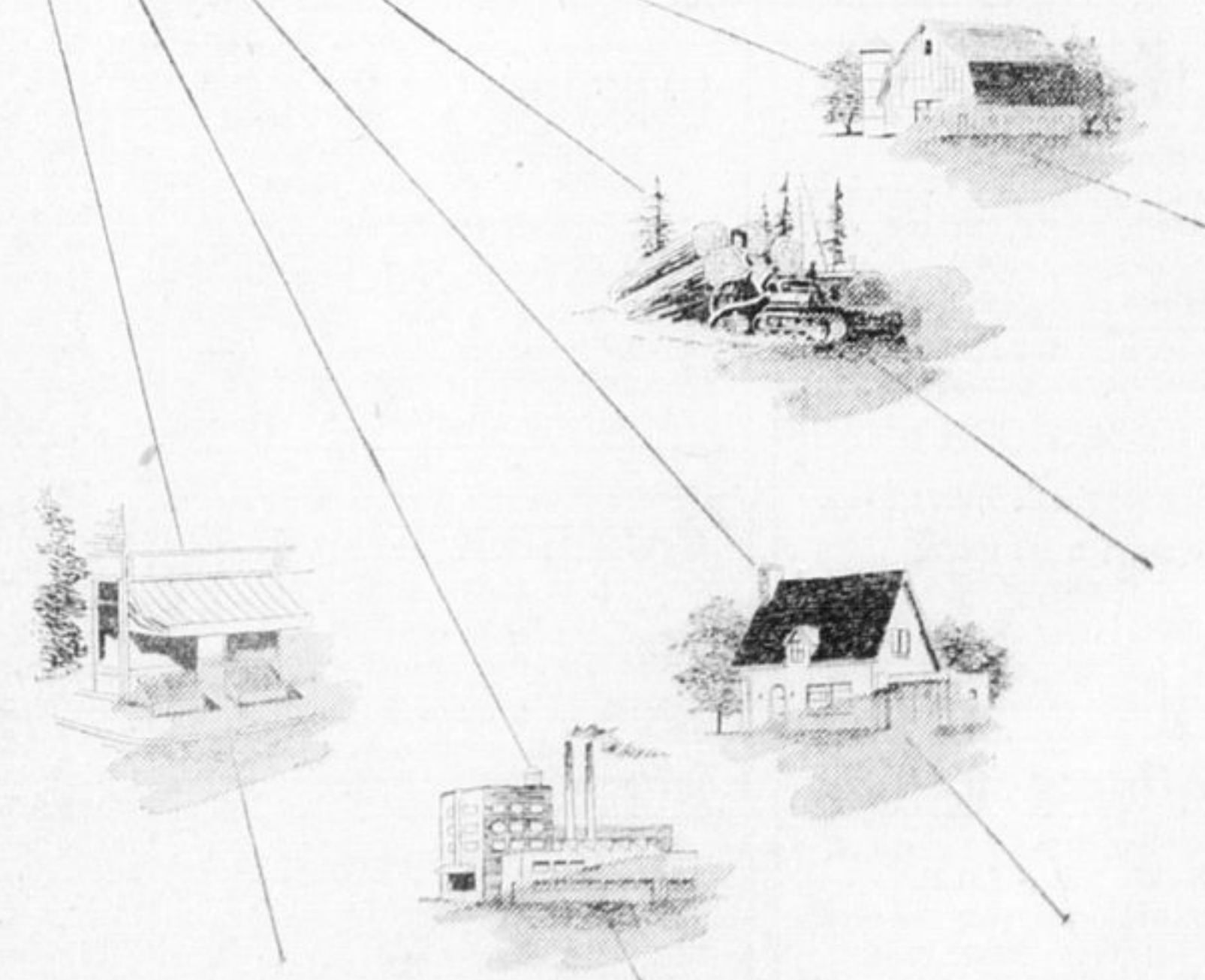
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