

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for November 12
Golden Text.—Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.—Matt. 5:9

The Lesson as a Whole
Approach to the Lesson

The fact that the Church of God is made up, like the white-robed multitude of Revelation 7, of men out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation, necessarily put it in a position calling for great wisdom and grace, in times of world upheaval as well as in eras of comparative peace. That there will be no lasting peace here on earth, so long as the Prince of Peace is rejected, we well know. But the believer is to follow after the things that make for peace and the things whereby one may edify another (Rom. 14:19). And when nature's worse passions are let loose, as in times of actual strife and conflict between nations, he is called upon to be a loyal citizen of the government under which he lives, while avoiding anything like hate or ill will toward enemy peoples, whatever their offenses. That it takes superhuman power thus to live goes without question, but that is exactly what the indwelling Holy Spirit imparts to the yielded Christian.

There have always been differences of opinion, among spiritually minded believers, as to how far they can go, in accordance with the Christian's true place as a stranger here, in supporting war measures. Some of the most eminent military leaders in Christendom have shown themselves to be sincerely conscientious children of God. Many, on the other hand, have been utterly opposed to any participation in warfare, and have been and are now classed as conscientious objectors. But all can agree in this: It is our responsibility to pray for our leaders and to do all that we can to work for peace and for the victory of righteousness, when moral questions are back of the conflict (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

Verse by Verse

Matt. 5:43.—"It hath been said." It was in the Scriptures that God said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour" (Lev. 19:18). But it was in the added traditions of the elders that the words were found, "Thou shalt hate thine enemy." The first was divinely inspired. The latter was a mere human addition. Nowhere did God command His people to hate anybody.

Verse 44.—"I say unto you, Love your enemies." Jesus Christ spoke with full divine authority. As God manifested in the flesh, He proclaimed the law of love—love not alone for our friends, but for those who treat us badly and whose hearts are filled with malice toward us. It is grace reigning in the heart that enables one to maintain such an attitude toward those who spitefully use us.

Verse 45.—"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." Love is the manifestation of the divine nature, for God is love (1 John 4:8, 16). We give evidence that we are partakers of this nature (2 Pet. 1:4) when we "as dear children... walk in love" (Eph. 5:1, 2), for God showers His blessings upon both the evil and the good. He who hates even his worse enemies is not a consistent follower of Christ.

Verse 46.—"Do not even the publicans the same?" The publicans were despised by the Jews as renegades, who sought to enrich themselves at the expense of their own people while serving their Roman rulers. But they loved their own families, children, and friends. To love only those who love us is to be no better than they.

Verse 47.—"If ye salute your brethren only." Moreover, to give honor and recognition only to those who manifest regard for us is to be on the same level as the publicans, for unregenerate men generally acknowledge those whom they consider their friends and brethren.

Verse 48.—"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." The word "perfect" is used in the sense of complete or mature, not of absolute freedom from inward tendency to sin; it refers to treating all men as those in whom God is interested and for whom He cares. If we discriminate against those whom we consider injurious, we are setting ourselves up to be judges, whereas we should seek to do good unto all men, leaving their judgment with the Lord.

Rom. 13:1.—"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers." Christians are children of God (1 John 3:2), members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27), and inheritors of the kingdom of the Son of God's love (Col. 1:13, margin), but all this does not relieve us of our responsibilities as citizens of the countries to which we belong. Government was established by God for the benefit of mankind and the curbing of iniquity.

Verse 2.—"Whatsoever... resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." This stands to reason. When we recognize God as the supreme moral Governor of the universe we must acknowledge that all delegated authority is set up, or conformed, by Him, and until abrogated claims our allegiance. It is instructive to notice that when the Holy Spirit led Paul to write these words, Nero was emperor of Rome, and therefore of the civilized world. In spite of his excesses and cruelty, he represented divinely given authority.

Verses 3 and 4.—"Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil." It is the general custom of rulers that is here emphasized. There have been evil rulers who persecuted those who walked in righteousness. But even where those in authority are not personally good men, they ordinarily value and appreciate decency and

uprightness in those whom they are appointed to govern; therefore the Christian's responsibility so to behave; himself as to deserve the approval of all who represent the majesty of the law of the land to which he belongs.

Verse 5.—"Ye must needs be subject... for conscience sake." Disobedience to lawfully constituted authority would produce a bad conscience, for it is actually rebellion against God, who delegated this authority and recognized the necessity of human government when He appointed Noah as the first magistrate after the flood, giving him the power of the sword in case of flagrant violation of law (Gen. 9:5, 6). Thus began the dispensation of government, which has never been repealed, though new dispensations have come in with each succeeding age.

Verse 6.—"They are God's ministers." This places human government on a high and holy plane and indicates the divine disapproval of anarchy. Therefore the Christian is to be a law-abiding citizen, paying tribute or taxes as required by the state.

Verse 7.—"Render... to all their due." To seek to evade the obligations of citizenship, whether by attempting to dodge lawful taxation or by defying proper authority, is inconsistent with the recognition of the overruling providence of God, who would have us give honor to whom it is due.

The Heart of the Lesson
 The Christian is not under law, but under grace. This does not mean that he is to be lawless or that he should fail to acknowledge and comply with the duties and responsibilities obligatory upon all citizens. He is rather to be an example to others of submission to the laws of his country. While this loyalty to the commonwealth to which he belongs, he is to despise no man, but seek the good of all. Even when his country is at war with other nations, he is not to be dominated by hatred and malice toward the enemies of his people, while loyally doing his part to bring about a righteous peace.

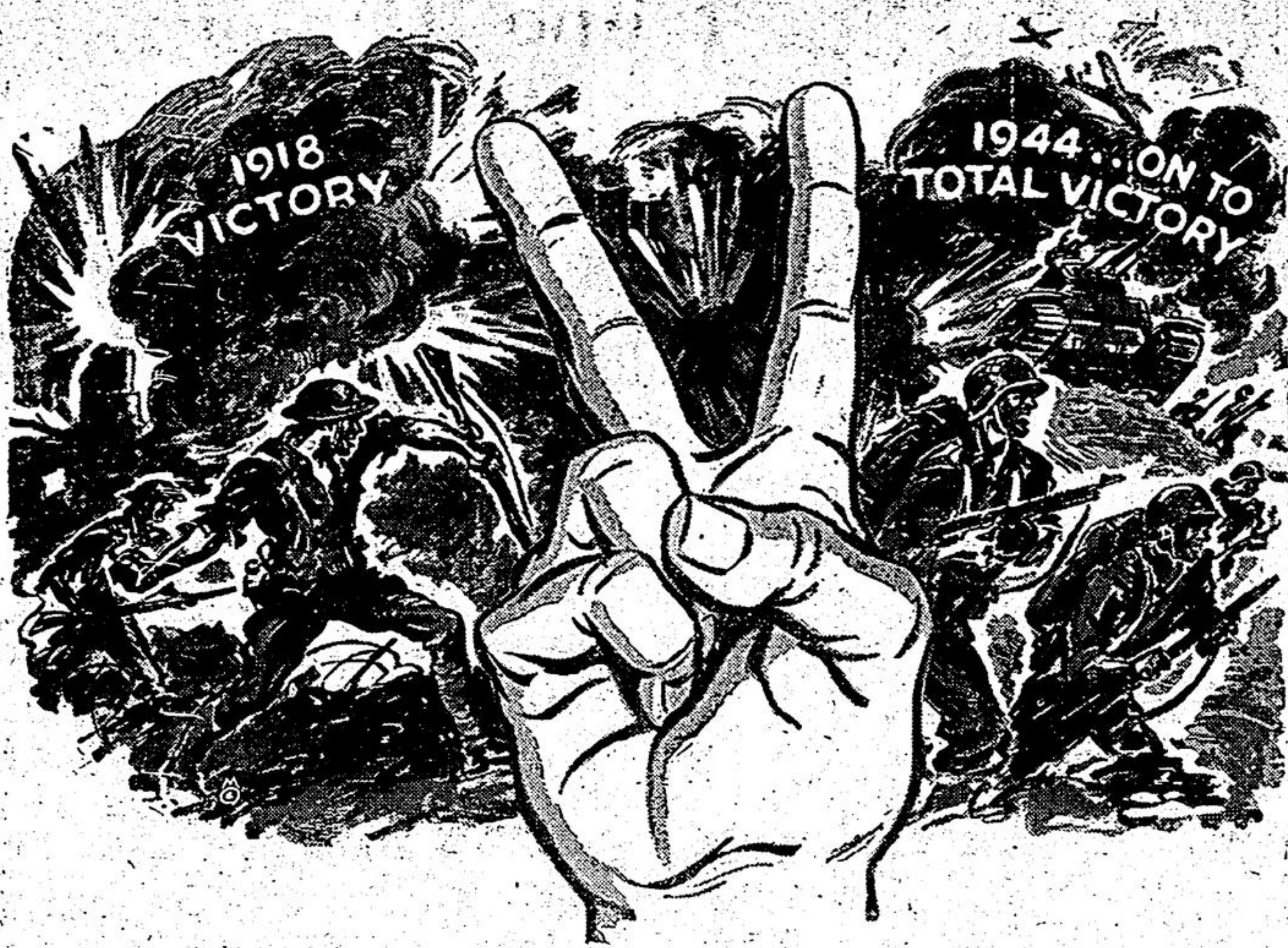
OTTAWA LETTER

In this country we have 15 establishments producing macaroni, vermicelli and noodles, and each year during the war their output has been increasing. Last year they produced 60,435,568 pounds, nearly 15,000,000 pounds more than in the previous year.

No part of Canada's total war effort can show a more astounding development from scratch than that accomplished by our shipyards and their Canadian workmen. In 1939 we had 14 large and 15 smaller boat-building establishments which employed about 4,000 men. In the summer of 1943, at the peak of the progress, 75,000 men and women were busily employed in 25 major and 65 smaller yards. Of some 400 cargo ships ordered, 321 were delivered, which included 285 10,000-tonners. Of these, 90 10,000-tonners were sold to the United States Maritime Commission. In addition, the Canadian government has delivered 102 ships to the United Kingdom, and one to Australia under Mutual Aid, which are returnable to Canada at the end of the war. Canadian merchant seamen provide the crews for a fleet of merchant ships which grew from 37 at the beginning of the war to 150 in less than five years.

Here's an interesting note on one of the 10,000-tonners. After loading with ship's stores and water, it will carry on the average: 2,850 tons of flour, cheese, bacon and ham; 2,150 tons of steel; enough motorized equipment to outfit a full infantry battalion; 1,900 tons of bombs; sufficient lumber, plywood and nails to build 99 cottages; enough aluminum to build 310 bombers or 640 fighter planes, and two complete bombers stowed on the aft-deck in a knocked-down condition.

Canada's potato crop is now shown as 47,540,000 hundred-weight for 1944, an increase of about 4,000,000 hundred-weight over 1943. Most provinces showed an increase except Manitoba whose crop was halved because of floods which brought blight and rot.



Armistice Day

We pay tribute not only to those courageous men who fought and fell in World War I— but now added to that honor roll are these men's stalwart sons who bravely fight and fall in World War 2— fight and fall in a valiant effort to win the peace that flickered and burned out after the last battle of 1914-1918.

Yes, to all liberty-loving men we pay tribute on this Armistice Day. For, to keep our blessed land where we might live as free people, they have made the supreme sacrifice. They have paid the highest price for Victory and Peace.

With bowed heads and a prayer in our hearts let us pause and meditate on this Armistice Day, 1944 for those who did not return from the last war—for those who will not return from this war—for the speedy return of those who still fight—for Total Victory and a Lasting Peace.

Notes and Comments

German Scavengers

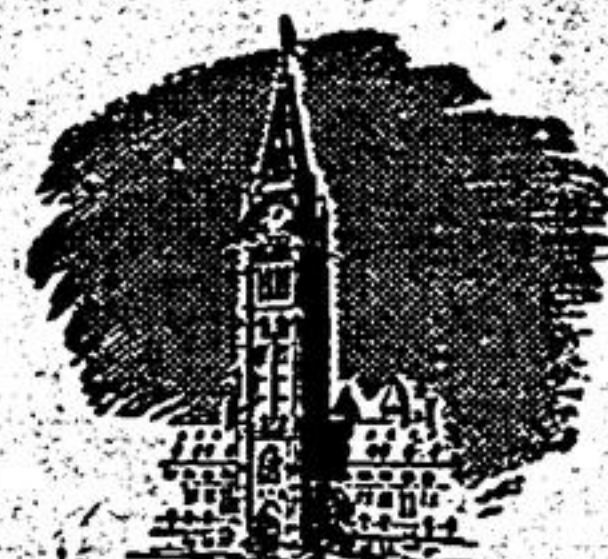
German armies are ordered to live off the land. That will be hard on Denmark, Holland and Finland, and will prevent an early reappearance of their produce on the British market. The Chairman of the Meat Board says that Britain will require all the bacon Canada can produce in 1945 and 1946.

Those who complain of the hardships imposed by war might ponder the family history of Kenneth Barry Maloney, aged six months. Baby Maloney has just arrived by air from England in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There he will make his home with his paternal grandparents. All other close relatives are gone. His father, a pilot with over 100 missions with the U.S. Air Forces, was killed almost a year ago. His mother died in childbirth. His maternal grandparents in England lost their lives when a flying bomb destroyed their home and the youngster was the sole survivor.

Nomination Day Close at Hand

Municipal nomination day in Stouffville is only two weeks away, hence it is time that business people and rate-payers generally gave some thought to the personnel of the 1945 council. It is fairly certain that there are those on the present council very anxious to be relieved of office, and if new blood is brought in, the Lions' Club and other active bodies would do well to sponsor candidates who will best serve the ratepayers in a wise and whole-hearted way.

There are not big issues at stake for 1945, still a live council can do much to advance the community, and very often new men bring along that enthusiasm so lacking in those who hang onto office too long. Advantages of men serving several years are many of course, main one being the experience they acquire over that time. However, we like to see new men coming along too. Several men on the council have quietly expressed their wish to retire this year, and with that in view serious thought should be given to the situation.



A WEEKLY EDITOR

LOOKS AT

Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada

For the guidance of members of the Canadian forces who volunteered for active service, who have served and have been honorably discharged, and for the guidance of deceased members of the forces eligible under the regulations, there is some urgency in the announcement that application forms for the war service gratuity are now available at all naval, military and air force units and establishments in Canada, or at district or sub-district offices of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Former members of the Canadian forces qualifying must use the printed application form but dependents, and Canadians who served in other Commonwealth forces may send applications by letter. Dependents, however, should follow the printed form and indicate the member's name and service number, state the extent to which they were dependent on the discharged or deceased member, and whether they were getting dependents' allowance or assigned pay at the time of termination of the member's service.

Naval personnel or dependents should address their letters of application to—The Secretary, Naval Board, Naval Service Headquarters, Ottawa; The Army to—The Secretary, Department of National Defence (Army) Ottawa, attention of Paymaster-General; Air Force to—The Secretary, Department of National Defence for Air, Ottawa, attention Records Officer. One copy only is needed, and it's free of postal charges.

Payments of the gratuity will not begin before January 1, 1945, but early action is requested so that claims may be cleared as soon as possible after machinery goes into full operation.

What about the women? That was the major problem discussed at a meeting in Ottawa recently of women employment supervisors of the Employment and Selective Service officers' from all sections of Canada. Indications are that the transfer of those women presently engaged in war production to new types of employment will call for serious attention by authorities. Opportunities for employment of women within their own areas and training courses to assist in the necessary readjustment are to be explored. Many married women, it is assumed will be ready to return to their homes when assured that the labour emergency situation has been eased. Sympathetic and prompt attention is also to be given discharged service women seeking civilian positions, the Labour Department points out in an article on the subject.

During the last two years Canadian mothers have frequently been heard to say: "If there isn't cotton to make all the shirts, combinations and panties we need for our children, then where does all the cotton go?" This question is answered by the consumer branch, Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Taking last year as an example, it was found that each man in uniform required 150 yards of cotton for clothing, fighting equipment and bedding. This would be enough to make 10 shirts, four house-dresses, four girls' play-dresses, four pairs of sheets, five pairs of floor length curtains, and a dozen diapers. When they realize that each of the hundreds of thousands of men in uniforms requires 150 yards mothers get some idea of what is happening to cotton. Such information emphasizes the importance of making every scrap of material go as far as possible by patching and mending.

Canada is a great wheat and flour producing country. Figures show that the month of August opened the crop year 1944-45 with a production of 2,015,866 barrels of flour as against 1,888,030 barrels in August 1943. It took 8,936,210 bushels of wheat to produce these 2,015,866 barrels of flour.



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