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CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

Daughter of the ancient Eve. We know the gifts ye gave and give; Who knows the gifts which you shall give, Daughter of the newer Eve?

-Francis Thompson.

THE PROBLEM OF PROHIBITION.

BY MAGDALEN MAEVE WEALE, M.A.

As it is likely that some measure of Temper- Drink Trade that shriek at us from the public present Parliament, it is the duty of all of us the question whether the liberty in question carefully to consider the important question is not that of unrestricted profit-making. known as Prohibition. The arguments against Prohibition, omitting such as the farfetched argument of the symbolism of wine whiskey or beer-drinking country, fall into matter. two main classes.

we are told, is immoral because it is an infringement of the liberty of the individual. This argument presupposes that the alternative is one between liberty and restriction, whereas in reality it is a choice between two forms of restriction—the restriction of the drink of individuals and the restriction on the supply of food, clothing, shelter, light, air, beings whom the self-indulgence of the drunk-To this it may be answered that no one upholds the right of a drunkard to get drunk if he choose, but that Prohibition would restrict the right of a man to the temperate use of alcohol. By all means, they say, prohibit drink to the drunkard, but why interfere with those that do not abuse it? For the same reason why, in order to prevent the would-be murderer from obtaining arsenic, we must restrict the general sale-that neither the murderer nor the drunkard has any outward or visible sign by which we may know him. A by people whose record in this respect is ference with human liberty. none too clean. The advertisements of the

ance Reform will be brought forward in the hoardings that Liberty is in danger prompt involved, and to examine thoughtfully the The attitude of the Trade towards a measure arguments brought for and against the reform of Local Option will be a good test of its motives, for such a bill will not be a Prohibition measure, but will only ask that the people, including the drinkers, be allowed to decide and which could have no significance in a for themselves what they will do in this

An important part of the teaching of any There is the ethical aspect. Prohibition, Church is the claim to the right to impose and enforce a moral code as a curb on the appetites and passions of its members. No one can claim that he may eat and drink what he likes, and there are penalties, spiritual and legal, for attempted suicide; no one may put or leave a dangerous thing like cocaine in the way of another, and wash his hands of the result, for "Lead us not into temptation" is health and even life itself, to many human a precept as well as a prayer, and is recognised as such by both the spiritual and the temporal ard robs of those all-important commodities. powers. In a national emergency, the State will conscript life, and the cry that Liberty is in danger will meet with little response. This argument of course, does not prove that any form of conscription is right, but it does at least expose the insincerity or, at any rate. the muddled thinking of those who will accept the principle in the graver issue and deny it in the lesser. The principle as a principle is sound; its application is a different matter, and must depend on circumstances and the needs of the hour, and it is conceivable that conscription of life might be justified good deal of nonsense is written in these days in a community where the prohibition of drink about Individual Liberty, and very often would be wrong because an unnecessary inter-

The Drink question is therefore not so much

a question of principle as a matter for statistics, and its solution will lie in the careful scrutiny of the ravages caused by drink, and in the application of just so much restriction as is necessary to cope with it; in a word, in the nice adjustments of the rival claims of the pleasure of the individual and the general

No one whose social knowledge entitles him to an opinion on this matter will deny that the sin of drunkenness is a serious national danger; where there is likely to be difference remedy it. Idealists, who are not also realists, will insist that this reform must be an individual one, that it must come from a change of heart and take the form of the voluntary submission of the lower appetites to the rule of religion and wisdom. Without wishing in any way to belittle this noble doctrine, hitherto the policy of Temperance Workers—for the spiritual value of even a small community working out in their lives a constructive policy of goodness is immense—we may truly say that it is not enough, for it fails to touch those most in need of reform. Just as a few hundred honest people cannot put down the wickedness of Sweated Labour by refusing to buy under-paid wares, for where one will refuse, ninety-nine will buy; just as a minority of good people will not succeed in stamping with the powerful Vested Interests that are behind it. We need a National negative policy as well as an Individual constructive blessing that I do not at present hope to see," is as true to-day as it was in the sixteenth

But there is yet another way-continues our Idealist—remove the economic causes of drink, and the evil will disappear; get rid of fiend seeking what he may devour in the and the resulting happiness of men will do far delectable beverages. As if one could judge tion devoutly to be wished! By all means, let save the dipsomaniac in spite of himself, it means to hand; it does not do to be too against bear-baiting were felt as a hardship doctrinaire, we must not pull down our sana- when first applied, but who troubles about toria or dismantle our hospitals until we have

made sure that the slums are abolished; these establishments do an excellent work, although their sphere of influence would be greatly lessened in Utopia. This is no time to sit idle, dreaming of an unrealised millenium, the enemy is in our midst, we must be up and doing, and "he that is not with me is against

Why-one may ask-should I give up an innocent pleasure or use for the sake of the drunkard? Am I my brother's keeper? This may be best met by a further question. What of opinion is in the means to be taken to should we think of one who is a swimmer who seeing a fellow-creature struggling for life in the waters, goes on his way, leaving him to drown, because, forsooth, cold water is distasteful to him?

But the poets are against you-continues our visionary—are you prepared to quarrel with them in their praise of wine? Certainly not; yet, while regarding with proper suspicion those who 'would indict our very dreams,' let us beware of confusing these dreams with reality. By all means let us continue to rejoice in the poet's songs of ambrosia and nectar, food of the Gods, of the brimming mead-horn, of the wine cup with 'beaded bubbles winking at the brim, and purple-stained mouth,' for to the imaginative spirit, what has once been is for all time. But the poet has yet to be born who could out cruelty to the helpless, merely by joining find his inspiration in an East-end public a League of Kindness, so it will need more house, or sing of the joys of arsenical beer. than a Pledge to overcome the Drink evil, We are not going to keep those things—pace Professor Saintsbury-for the sake of another George Crabbe any more than we are going to tolerate War for the sake of future Iliads. religion. "For except all men were good, Other subjects will arise, worthier of a poet's everything cannot be right, and that is a song, and the singer will not cease from singing, because drunkenness is no more. There is also the practical aspect of the problem. Prohibition, we are told, has failed in America, and in support of this statement harrowing accounts are given us of the drinkslums, poverty, over-crowding and misery, form of the stew from old rags and other more to remove the sin of drunkenness than the efficiency of a hospital by the condition any scheme of Prohibition. It is a consumma- of its incurables! Even if Prohibition fail to us have Utopia in our midst, and, if we cannot will be bringing up a new generation which have it in our time, let us work for its speedy will not know him, and which will not feel advent, but until it comes, let us take the the need for drink. Doubtless the laws

(continued on page 5.)

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A few weeks ago Irishwomen were receiving congratulations on the passing of Article III. in the Constitution of the Irish Free State, by which the equality of men and women as citizens both as regards privileges and obligations, is established by law. The further good news comes that four women are now members of the Senate. They are: The Dowager Countess of Desart, Mrs. Wyse Power, Mrs. Alice Stopford Green, and Mrs. Costello. We offer our warmest congratulations to Irishwomen on these happy events.

We have to record with deep regret the death of our member, Mr. Raikes Bromage. He was one of our earliest members, and an ardent supporter. Mr. Raikes Bromage was present at the reception given by the C.W.S.S. to Monsignor Giesswein in July last. He always showed great interest in the work of the C.W.S.S.-R.I.P.

By the death of Mrs. Haslam, the Suffrage movement has lost one of its earliest pioneers. She was 93 and had worked for the suffrage for over seventy years. She was one of the twenty-five Irishwomen who signed the first petition for Woman's Suffrage in 1866. She was a well known figure on Suffrage platforms in Great Britain, and was loved and honoured by all who knew her.-R.I.P.

UGANDA.

Some months ago we received private information from Africa that the system of compulsory examination for venereal disease in Uganda to which we took exception in this paper last February, had been discontinued. Before issuing to our members this welcome news, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society applied to the Colonial Office for confirmation of it. The Colonial Office has now sent us a printed report from the Medical Authorities in Uganda.

The Acting Principal Medical Officer in a report dated August 22nd, 1922, says: "compulsory examinations are now being discontinued, as the Medical Officers specially employed in the work are satisfied with the present attendances. In this matter I concur in thinking that these examinations, in

Buganda, at any rate, are no longer necessary . . . I would like to add a general assurance that our aim is to place venereal disease measures on the voluntary basis at the earliest possible moment."

A report from the Specialist Officer, Venereal Diseases states that "it is not proposed to continue compulsory examination in any parts where venereal disease clinics have actually been established." In this report he also states that "it is probable that the compulsory measures of Uganda are the most rigorous and far-reaching that have ever been enacted in any country in the world."

The Colonial Office has also informed us "that steps are being taken to repeal Section 180 of the Uganda Township Rules, 1916, which is the provision now current dealing with the compulsory examination of infected prostitutes, and that the question is being taken up with the native Government of Buganda of repealing the clause relating to prostitutes in the Native Law of 1913.'

The authorities appear to think that the native population is now sufficiently alive to the need of presenting themselves for cure.

It is perhaps unnecessary to state once again that the C.W.S.S. does believe in the importance of educational methods, and the adequate provision of free treatment of venereal disease, without deterrent measures. We note that the report says "wherever venereal disease clinics are not established." Where permanent clinics are not established we would suggest that it might be possible to have itinerant clinics.

We must acknowledge the courteous manner in which our representations have been met by the Colonial Office. We will watch with great interest the future development of this work in Uganda.

It will be remembered that this question of the treatment of Venereal Disease in Uganda was brought to our notice by our member Dr. Margaret Lamont,

The Rome Congress.

The date of the ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, is fixed for May 12th to 19th. We shall return to the subject in our next issue.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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THE OUTLOOK FOR OUR BILLS,

To whatever party our readers belong, all will probably agree that Mr. Bonar Law's attitude at the General Election towards the questions in which we are particularly interested was not altogether satisfactory. True he declared that he had always been a supporter of woman suffrage, but his letter to the not afford it. Nor could he hold out any hope N.U.S.E.C., quoted in the "Woman's that facilities would be provided for a discus Leader' of November 17th, does not appear to hold out great promise. He says:

"I have been a consistent supporter of woman's suffrage, and even at the time the Franchise Bill of 1918 was passed I felt that the discrimination in age between men and women could not be permanent. I think so still. At the same time, I recognise that there is a strong national feeling that the Government should not attempt to make changes of a highly controversial character. The complete organisation of the franchise is undoubtedly a constitutional issue of farreaching importance. And, therefore, I feel that I should not be justified in giving an undertaking that this will be carried into effect by the Government in the coming Parliament, if it should give rise to acute controversy."

Bonar Law has refused to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League, the purpose of which was to place before him the views of women under 30 years of age, many ality of Married Women Bill, though no holding responsible positions, who are disfran- definite promise has been made, we may with chised by our ridiculous franchise law.

There are many friends of Equal Franchise in Parliament, even so it will be a hard fight to get the reform carried.

On the question of pensions for mothers with dependent children, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has definitely stated, in reply to a question in the House, that it was estimated that the cost of any practicable scheme would be £50,000,000 a year, and the country could sion of the subject. The C.W.S.S. is pledged to the smaller measure of Widows' Pensions.

The prospect for the re-establishment of Women Police seems more hopeful. In his letter to the N.U.S.E.C. quoted above, Mr. Bonar Law says: "I think it is essential that women should be employed in connection with police work in all those matters in which their knowledge and experience render them suitable. The complete re-restablishment of Women Police in London shall be considered and the final decision must be governed by the principle of how best to secure the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of

Since then, the Home Secretary, in reply to a question by Major Kelly, has stated in the House that the matter is under consideration. Is it too sanguine to say that these formal words really do mean that the question of the Meanwhile since his return to power, Mr. re-establishment of Women Police is being seriously considered?

As to the Legitimation Bill, the Maintenance and Separation Orders Bill, the Nationpressure get even a Government pledged to tranquillity to pass them, indeed they may be driven to pass them even for tranquillity's sake.

There remains the Guardianship of Infants ning the trade under circumstances that make Bill. We are glad to see that it is to be introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Askwith, and we believe its prospects are good. We will deal with it fully later on.

L. DE ALBERTI.

(continued from page 2.)

them now? They have achieved their purpose so well that they have become a deadletter in the process.

There is also the question of expense. If this nation is spending at the rate of 11 million pounds daily on drink, as it did in 1920, is it not at least possible that many more necessary and profitable forms of expenditure are being curtailed?

How comes it, it may be asked, that the Labour Party, which is conspicuously unafraid of Ideals, is opposed to Prohibition? For this, two reasons may be advanced—the first is the natural distrust of the worker for anything that sayours of prohibition, for he knows, only too well, that restrictive legislation weighs most heavily on the poor, whose luxuries, God knows, are already too few. The other, and this is the one real difficulty of the whole question, is the additional discomfort that would be imposed on the working-class family by the elimination of beer as an article of diet. It would mean for the harassed housewife the further cooking involved in the preparation of hot drinks, real discomfort for those engaged in "thirsty work," and the removal of stimulants from the ill-clad, half-starved sufferer.

For these reasons the Labour Party does not adopt Prohibition as a policy, but it is far from satisfied with the present position of the Drink Trade. To-day, the Labour Party openly repudiates, as vesterday the Mediaeval Church openly repudiated, the practical application to business of the doctrine that profit-making is a law unto itself. The sale of alcohol, with its enormous power over men's souls and bodies, is too dangerous to be left in private hands; it must cease to be a business run for profit, and must be placed in the control of responsible members of the community, who care more for the salvation of souls than for moneymaking, and who would see that the drink supplied was pure and its distribution freed from abuse.

The writer of these notes would much prefer that we should begin this reform with a policy of Nationalisation. We should then be run-

for its use, rather than for its abuse. We are very curious to know-and we shall not accept the Trade's figures—how much of the 11 millions spent daily in 1920 was the fair price of drink supplied, and how much went to swell the profits of the owners. We should then be able to judge how much restriction in the sale of drink was necessary, and take steps accordingly. Meanwhile some such measure as the bill introduced by Lady Astor in the late Parliament will most probably be brought forward, and should, as a measure of partial popular control, receive the support of all who are interested in Temperance reform. This was a bill to make it possible for boroughs and counties to vote periodically on the question. By it three alternatives were to be put before the voters: (1) No change, (2) re-organisation of the trade, by which control would be placed in the hands of a Board of Management, with powers over licenses, the age of buyers, and the regulation of compensation to owners and to those put out of work as a result of the change, and (3) abolition of licenses. This last alone would constitute Prohibition in a limited area, but the bill itself allowed no alteration without a direct mandate from the inhabitants of the area in question, and it provided for periodical revision of this mandate. It was in fact a bill to allow the people to decide this question for themselves, and to give them some control over the profit-making of the publicans. Such a measure, in spite of its drawbacks, should receive the support of serious-minded people, as it will most certainly meet with the organised opposition of the Drink Trade and its share-holders.

In the event of such a bill becoming law, we shall still be faced with the difficulties which beset this question, and shall need to give it all the more serious attention, because we shall then have the added burden of responsibility for our districts. For this we must prepare ourselves by a knowledge of the social needs of the particular locality in which we live, by an earnest inquiry as to which of the three alternatives will best meet the local needs, and, turning a deaf ear to self-interest, prejudice, and the propaganda of interested individuals, let us register our votes strictly according to conscience, knowing that the spiritual and temporal welfare of a great number of our fellow-creatures is directly at stake.

M.M.W.

International Notes.

The defeat of the Woman Suffrage resolution in the French Senate with all its implications has naturally filled many columns of LA FRANÇAISE in the last month. Our French friends have accepted the blow calmly and with a determination to re-double their propaganda. As regards the future a wise decision has been come to. In order to avoid the delay which legally must have ensued before the same resolution could have been re-introduced. an entirely new Bill will be presented to the Chamber by M. Justin Godart, declaring simply that "on attaining the age of thirty every woman shall be placed on the electoral lists." Presumably the belated age limit is introduced in the hope of placating the antisuffrage "die-hards."

The shortage of the wheat harvest in France together with the evil effect on the exchange of making heavy purchases of wheat abroad has provoked a national movement for reducing the enormous daily wastage of bread and farinaceous food that goes on at present. We note with pleasure that the chairmanship of one of the most important committees has been offered to Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix.

The Catholic Ame Populaire regrets that the French Senate "should have given to the whole world so melancholy an example of reaction and of an un-democratic spirit," and goes on to argue truly that the question of the Suffrage is fundamentally one of justice and not of expediency.

Our Belgian contemporary, LE FÉMINISME CHRÉTIEN is strongly in favour of "a solid political organisation for Catholic women.' to be formed by federating existing societies with political aims. It is true women are already members of the powerful Union Catholique Belge, but it is felt that special feminine aspirations will never obtain adequate recognition in mixed associations and that it is only by having a representative organisation of their own that women can urge their rightful demands with effect. Melle. Van den Plas is, needless to say, one of the guiding spirits in this new forward movement.

is not opposed to Woman Suffrage leaves us somewhat cold in view of the fact that his whole "fascist" policy is based on force and on the over-riding of parliament, which, feeble as it is at present, in Italy, nevertheless represents the constitutional rights of the

Reports from Rome reach us of a brilliant afternoon reception given to the leading members of the International Suffrage Alliance who were all in Rome for a preliminary meeting in connection with the forthcoming Congress in Rome next May. Mrs. Chapman Catt was, of course, the guest of honour and was supported amongst others by Mrs. Corbett Ashby who has the distinction of being as eloquent a speaker in French as in English, Numbers of Italian "intellectuals" of both sexes were present, including Dr. Ancona and various well-known Italian suffragists. Miss Dorman represented both ourselves and the women of

Luxemburg is one of the few countries where the iniquitous law forbidding "la recherche de la paternité" still prevails, so we rejoice to read in the LUXEMBURGER FRAU the dignified and emphatic petition presented both to the Prime Minister and to the President of the Chamber by the Alliance Catholique des Femmes Luxembourgeoises urging the abrogation of the law alike in the interests of the mother and child and of the moral standard of the nation.

People often question the actual utility of women barristers, but Melle. Moreau, one of the most brilliant of the women at the French bar, has no difficulty in justifying her legal existence. She has made a special study of the Code Napoleon in its relation to women, and she is never weary of exposing the unjust burdens it has laid for over a century on the women of France. Quite recently she delivered two conferences on the subject in Luxemburg to crowded audiences who were deeply impressed by her revelations. Incidentally Melle. Moreau holds that there would be fewer divorces in France if women were not in such legal subjection to their husbands.

LA FEMME BELGE describes (Nov.) how the Catholic syndicate of glove-makers was able Signor Mussolini's public assurance that he to obtain an increase of from 60% to 70% in

the wages paid in that industry. Glovemaking is largely a home-industry, and the women-workers have been paid on such a miserable scale that they could only earn 3 frs. for a day of 14 hours. Lengthy negotiations were entered upon, but, as usually happens, a number of manufacturers took up a hostiel attitude and there was nothing for it but for the women to go out on strike early in October. As a result a fresh conference was called between the syndicate and the employers and in the end a new wage-scale was agreed upon and made binding on the whole industry. It is a notable victory for the organised women of Belgium.

V.M.C.

Women in the League of Nations.

The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to which the C.W.S.S. is affiliated, held its Annual Meeting on November 30th. The morning was devoted to the formal business of the Council, and resolutions were passed dealing with the Traffic in Women and Children; urging that the British delegates to the Assembly should at all times offer uncompromising opposition to State Regulation of Vice; protesting against the non-appointment of a woman on the British delegation to the International Labour Conference; urging for the appointment of more women on the Mandates Commission, in view of the omission in Mandates A. and B. of any reference to the Convention on the Traffic in Women and Children. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Coombe Tennant and Mrs. Dale for their work in the Assembly of the League was passed with acclamation.

In the afternoon a public meeting was held, at which the chief speaker was Mrs. Coombe Tennant, who gave a most interesting report of her experience at Geneva. Mrs. Coombe Tennant, British Alternate Delegate, was entrusted with the task of presenting the report of the Fifth Commission to the Assembly of the League. She represented Great Britain on the Fifth Commission. Mr. Green, of the League of Nations Union, spoke with eloquence of the value of the League of Nations.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, who presided, and who is President of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, said that the aim of the Council was to press for the appointment of suitable women from any country. It was in no sense an anti-man organisation, but a movement to secure that the ideals of Peace and devotion to Humanity, for which women stood, should be expressed in the League of Nations

A vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by Mrs. Fawcett, and seconded by Miss L. de Alberti, Hon. Secretary of the Council.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

On Friday, December 15th, Miss Donoghue (York Secretary of the C.W.S.S. and of the National Union of General Workers, Women's Section) gave an interesting address on "Women and Trade Unions," at a meeting held by kind permission of Miss Gorry, at 37, Woburn Square. The speaker emphasised the

importance of the Trade Union movement to women and explained the benefits accruing to membershigher wages, better conditions, legal advice, etc., and the moral and educational value of organisation.

Miss Donoghue was in favour of organising women in unions of their own, as when belonging to the same union as the men, the women's point of view tended to be ignored. For instance, women were far keener about the healthiness of the conditions under which they worked than the men, who chiefly concentrated on the securing of higher wages. Much had been done, but there was still a vast field untouched, and a great deal of raw material for the woman's movement. It was the responsibility of every woman to understand and enlighten others as to the value of the Trade Union movement.

Edinburgh Branch.

Hon. Sec., Miss Casey, 3, Cambridge Street, Edinburgh.

A meeting was held in Lauriston Hall, on December 12th. Mrs. Finlayson Gauld in the Chair. A very interesting and instructive lecture was given by Miss Bury, Secretary of the Edinburgh N.U.S.E.C. How to run a Society." A proposal by the Chairman to ask Miss Nan Browne to lecture on the Passion Play at Oberammergan," at the next meeting met with great approval. It was decided to hold the next meeting in January, the date to be fixed later. A few new members were enrolled.

Subscriptions and Donations to the Central Fund.

DECEMBER 3RD-31ST, 1922.

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We shall be most grateful if members of the C.W.S.S. and Subscribers to the "Catholic Citizen' will pay their Annual Subscriptions this month. It takes much time and trouble to send out several individual reminders. There is a great deal of work to be done in the New Year and the subscriptions are urgently needed so that we may go forward.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 17th; the place will be announced later. Resolutions for Agenda and nominations for Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should reach the Secretary not later than February 5th. No nomination can be accepted unless the consent of the nominee shall have been previously obtained.

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Wednesday, Jan. 31st, 8-15 p.m.—"An Adventure in Social Service."

Wednesday, Feb 7th, 8-15 p.m.—"The Rome Congress" (by kind arrangement of the Indemnational Woman Suffrage Alliance), Mrs.

Corbett Ashry, Miss Frances Stirling, Chairman, Mrs,
Feb. 18th, 5-30 p.m.—Reading-Recital: "Paolo and Francesca."

Miss Clarka Red.

Wednesday, Feb. 14th. No lecture,

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Jan, 29th. "The League of Nations." Speaker, Miss H, C. HUGHES, M.A. Feb. 12th. "The relations of this country with America, Speaker from the English Speaking Union.

"The relations of this country with France." Speaker, THE LADY AMHERST OF HACKNEY.
Admission Free. Reserved Seats Is. each. Feb. 21st,

Dinner and Reception to the Hon. Officials of the Women's Freedom League, Friday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., in the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets). Tickets for Dinner and Reception, 3/6; Reception only, 8 p.m., 1/-, from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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