

To Organize the Slaves of Capital to Vote their Own Emancipation

Prof. D. Curtis
1735-18-av

Socialism
demands the public ownership of
All the means of Production and
Distribution.
Anything less is but middle-class
socialism and WILL NOT
abolish wage slavery.

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SOCIALISM AS POLITICS.

Many people think of Socialism as ethics, a co-operative system which will develop the best in human nature. That is the ultimate Socialism for which we all hope, the co-operative commonwealth, the successor and heir of capitalism.

But that good time is not yet here, and meanwhile we have a very different sort of Socialism, Socialism in the midst of Capitalism, Present Socialism, Political Socialism, Militant Socialism, Socialism as means to the end.

Everybody agrees that this Present Socialism is political, is a political party. Now a political party is a body of citizens acting together at the polls, and, if they win, acting together in legislation and in administration. All students of political history now know that any such political party must be composed of citizens having common material interests. Common ideas are not enough. Men may agree in theories, intellectual and moral, but when their interests clash, they will disagree. Hence a political party must be composed of what is called an economic class—that is, a class in the community having the same material interests. For instance, stated broadly, the Republican Party has always stood for business interests and the Democratic Party for landed interests. The old conception that these parties represented respectively individual liberty and centralized power, and that these conflicting ideas have been contesting for supremacy is now seen to be superficial. Behind those "ideas" or "ideals" we discover two kinds of economic revenue—commercial and agricultural. Southern slavery was abolished not, as so many fondly believe, because of an aroused moral sentiment, but because it was to the interest of the commercial classes of the North.

Free labor is more productive of profit than slave labor, therefore the Republican Party has grown with the growth of the great business class which it represents, and the Democratic Party has declined with the decline of the old individual producer of the soil.

Now it has always been the crowning glory of Socialism as a political party that it has clearly perceived this basic truth of political history. Socialism has appeared to one economic class, the proletariat class, the exploited class, the wage-working class. For fifty years it has perpetually proclaimed, "Workmen of the world, unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to gain."

In Germany, where it has pursued this course unflinchingly, without compromise, Socialism as a political party has grown marvelously in numbers and in power, until it is now the strongest party in the Empire. It is this fundamental conception of Socialism as a political party, based upon the economic class of proletarians, that Socialists in America must learn if they expect to be successful in politics. This is why Socialism is scientific. It perceives the facts of political and industrial evolution and acts in harmony with those facts.

Many well-meaning Socialists, like Wayland, make a general appeal to all classes alike, to "the people," to become Socialists, and expect the party to be made up of all classes indiscriminately. It is a vain hope, because it contradicts history. It is a delusion which will prove disastrous, if it prevails to such an extent that a promiscuous heterogeneous political alliance shall be got together under the name "Socialist Party." Because such a party will inevitably resolve itself into smaller parties again, or be scattered into the older parties, as the Populist is now scattered.

Socialism as politics has always had to contend with the comrades who failed to see this strategic point and who hoped to find a shorter cut to success. From Lassalle to Bernstein, the German party has had its internal foes who fast sight of the truth that the proletariat class is the only possible basis of Social politics.

Those who have held to the truth

have always been sneered at as "Revolutionary," "Scientific," "Narrow," "Intolerant" and "Impractical," while the real truth is confirmed irrefutably by the triumphant progress of the German party, that the only truly practical politicians are those who uncompromisingly adhere to the economic class struggle as the basis of the political struggle.

Secretary Ernest Burns, of Vancouver, B. C., writes to say that the platform printed last week was only the "Immediate Demands," and that the platform of principles as stated by the S. P. of U. S. remains their platform until changed by Referendum.

We are glad to hear this, but must add there was no hint of any such "suppressed premise" in the printed circular which we reprinted word for word last week. It was headed "Provisional Platform of the Socialist Party of B. C.," and the committee explained how it was to take the place of the B. C. platform adopted provisionally by the B. C. convention, and no hint given that any other platform was ever to be submitted.

But even as "Immediate Demands" compare them with those they discarded and see if you can find any reason why they have substituted the interests of "the people" for the interests of the working class, why all reference to the working class as such has been eliminated.

GEO. E. BOOMER

National Committeeman State of Washington, Socialist Party.



Comrade Geo. E. Boomer, who is probably best known by his pen name of "Uncle Sam" than by his own name, was born in Lewiston, Me., in 1862. Worked in cotton mills when a young boy, entering a printing office at 16, at which trade he has ever remained. Conducted for two years the first Socialist paper ever published in New England, "Justice," at Providence, R. I. Became prominent in trade union circles in 1882, at the same time affiliating with the then weak and vacillating Socialist movement. Then for governor of Rhode Island in 1895 on S. L. P. ticket, polling a heavy increase in Socialist vote. Became known nationally as editor of "Uncle Sam" at Cumberland, Md., which was widely quoted and which forced upon him the pen name by which he is now so well known. Served as associate editor of Appeal to Reason for six months, when the Brotherhood of the Co-operative Commonwealth induced him to come to Washington to edit their national organ, "Industrial Freedom." Just then being started at Yellows Springs, Ohio, about six months, when, not being in harmony with a couple of friends, one of whom was Comrade John Zakharoff, started "The Spirit of the Age" in behalf of the S. L. P. It was not long before the intention was formed to publish a new paper, generally as a thing, that came into the political arena along the way, and the middle section rapidly disintegrated. Comrade Boomer refused to join the Socialist Educational Union since that elimination he has been most active in the party. He has been associate editor of the Socialist for the past six months. Of course he is a good citizen, man, belonging to the Typographical Union and the Workingmen's Educational Society, and is a member of the middle class of any other of the factories of the capitalist class. He has not always been friendly by state count, but there is one size thing about it, you boys know where that is, and that is in the front rank of those who are fighting the battle of the proletariat.

Comrade Boomer started this last week for St. Louis to attend the meeting of the National Committee on Jan. 24. He will speak at various places on route, and the "Socialist" editors in Washington are so high, it is hoped the comrades will attend the meeting, and will give the audience to hear him speak, and then get big collections in his honor. He will be in Seattle on Jan. 27, and will be in the city of Seattle on Jan. 28, and will be in the city of Spokane this Sunday night, then enter the Coast of Idaho, then to Helena, Butte, etc. etc. He will be in Seattle on Jan. 30, and will be in the city of Seattle on Jan. 31, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 1, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 2, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 3, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 4, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 5, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 6, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 7, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 8, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 9, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 10, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 11, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 12, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 13, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 14, and will be in the city of Seattle on Feb. 15, and will be in the city 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THOUGHTS, By Your Uncle.

WORKINGMEN who believe in compromising with their employers and a "top-at-a-time" under capitalism should remember that it is a stern economic fact that the more a master gives to his slave the greater and still greater does he expect the returns to be.

The weak sisters who object to Socialist papers printing anything that may make the capitalist class mad ought to recognize the fact that we can only please the capitalist enemy by doing or saying things that will strengthen the capitalist position. The more the capitalist press howls at or jumps on a Socialist paper the more certain it is that that Socialist paper is doing its duty by the working class. To seek the plaudits rather than the hisses of the capitalist class is both cowardly and criminal.

The railroads of the country increased their profits last year about half a billion dollars, declaring an increase in dividends of over 13 millions. Eliminating the unnecessary expense of high salaries to unnecessary officials, etc., it is a low estimate to place the amount swiped from the working class in this one form of distribution alone at least a billion dollars. How splendid it is, isn't it, boys, to toil and sweat and lose arms and legs and lives to heap up wealth for others. Ain't we real bright!

QUEER, this modern idea of prosperity. There have been numerous transfers of farms in Whitman county, and the daily papers point to this as evidence of prosperity. Generally, when people have got something good, they hang onto it. But it may be different east of the mountains, though the farmers usually know when they are well off as well as other people. If one watches the transfers closely it will be noticed that the transfers tend steadily toward concentration of all the best farm lands into one or two hands. The small farmer is doomed. His extinction as such, and his transfer to the wage-slave class is a matter of a comparatively short time.

THE charitable associations and even the capitalist press admit that there are large numbers of "worthy poor," i. e., men and women who have toiled hard and honestly all their lives, on pay so small they could save nothing, and now, worn out and old, they are homeless and helpless, paupers, and living only upon intermittent and uncertain charity. WHO ROBBED THEM?

It is at least refreshing, as the capitalist class go marching on, to hear them confess their crimes by admitting the existence of plundered victims.

SEATTLE authorities and papers admit the presence of a greater number of destitute than ever before. Their lame excuse that the destitution is almost wholly among new comers to the city, however, does not in any way lessen the repeated falsehoods about "universal prosperity" and "employers seeking labor."

THE past year has been a prosperous one and a continuous picnic for King county lawyers. The amount of litigation for 1901 passes all previous years. This points the real and actual "prosperity" of the capitalist system—divorces, theft, murder, embezzlement. What a harvest of happiness in return for a few dollars! Surely the legal fraternity ought to be proud of both their position in society and the value of their services. No wonder most lawyers train with capitalist parties, and no wonder, when they do occasionally step into the Socialist movement, they generally use their influence, whether intentionally or not does not matter, in a way that tends to head off a possibility of doing away with the system that breeds all manner of crimes. Just watch them and see if they don't.

THE anti-railroad trust governors who have just met at Helena, gathered as bravely as did that army that marched up the hill, and as bravely will they march down again. The only possible reason existing for this gathering of gallant gubernatorial Mother Partingtons is that they see a chance to use the credulity of an ignorant people, who do not comprehend the why and wherefore of the trust, to the end that they may all ride again into a fat official snap.

A new patent on suspenders will prove a boon to the working class. It provides for an automatic, self-acting, adjustable, buttonless affair, and will no doubt be sought eagerly and urged strenuously by big employers of labor who recognize the pennies to be saved where 1000 men lose two minutes apiece twice a day monkeying with refractory buttons.

THE discovery by a professor of a chemical that may prolong human life indefinitely will hardly be greeted with exuberant enthusiasm on the part of the numerous wage slaves who are continually committing suicide, or trying to, to escape the short life now blessing average humanity.

THE substitution of electricity for steam, and the passing of the erstwhile train "newsboy" mark the approach of a more strenuous life on the part of both the railway employes and the travelling public. What with yelling "Puyallup" and "popcorn" the brakeman will have his hands—or rather his mouth—full, and the porter, between making up beds and blacking boots, is expected to put in his spare moments dilating upon the literary value of the latest publication. The horrors of wrecks and collisions are thus again augmented.

A DAILY paper takes occasion to "casually mention," three times editorially, and a big once in the news columns, that it has "presented" its carriers with \$400 worth of calendars, which its subscribers are expected and begged to buy at from 25 cents to \$1 each. If it weren't for turkeys and Christmas and New Years to boost a drooping spirit it is hard to imagine into what straits some papers would be driven for matters to "casually mention."

A MOVEMENT is on foot in Seattle, backed up by charitable associations and the big republican P.-I., looking to the building of "cheap dwellings" for the working class. Why "cheap dwellings," Mr. P.-I. and Mesdames Charity Dolers? Why is it taken for granted that those whose labor has built the fine homes wherein you dwell should live less decent? Ye prate of "no classes," and yet every time you blunder along in your weak and degrading method of half heartedly plastering over sores you yourselves have made, everything you do but more clearly emphasizes not alone that there are classes, but that you, debased by your immoral cant and hypocrisy, take it for granted that it is your own class alone who are entitled to live in mansions that are not "cheap dwellings." If justice existed it would be you—who spin not, neither do you weave, who suckle and fatten off the labor of others—who would enjoy any "cheap dwellings"—if there were any. "Cheap dwellings" forsooth! And this rot is advocated in the midst of our Christmas holidays. Truly, this is Christian brotherhood with a vengeance. I should think the goody-goody men and women who advance such an insult to the community would fear to lift their hands or bow their heads in hideous mockery to that Son who velt among and worked for that very class for whom these latter day hypocrites would erect "cheap dwellings" and live, themselves, so piously, in grander ones.

UNCLE SAM.

THE POSITION OF THE SOCIALIST PRESS.

This is becoming a vital question among Socialists. The success of such papers as The Appeal to Reason in the matter of securing subscribers, points the way, many people think, the Socialist paper must travel to gain success. This is childish. In the first place, the Appeal holds a unique position in the country, and to the Socialist to whom Socialism is a trifle more than the government ownership of the railroads, is an unenviable one. The business department of a Socialist paper should not be the dominant factor of the paper; in fact, it should be kept entirely in the background. The financial success of the paper is of little concern to genuine Socialists. The chief consideration should be to teach the truth, and only the truth.

There are men working on the genuine Socialist press today, who, if they went in for half-done populism and had for their platform government ownership of their utilities, they could run their subscription list into the hundreds of thousands. Of course this would entail the giving away as premiums farm lands that would have to be searched for with a fishing net. It would entail resorting to every catch-penny device that makes the world of capitalism so disgusting to the judicious.

The chief object of a Socialist paper is to teach Socialism—genuine, straight, class-conscious Socialism. The catch-penny device and the populist platform are of little use to the social revolution. The unlearning of the stuff one gets in such papers usually takes up more time than the learning of what genuine Socialism really is. In fact, and this is the regrettable part, the men who come into Socialism by these back stairs methods are the living, breathing examples of the fallacy of such methods. We know—but that's another story.

It is not mere numbers that count in this fight. It is the intelligence possessed by the fighters. Gathering a mob of ethical, brotherly love, government ownership, step-at-a-time people into a Socialist organization by the means of a backwoods paper, or any other method, and leave them uninformed as to the true basis of our movement and they are still a mob. A collection of people filled to the neck with contrary and antagonistic ideas cannot be expected to live in harmony. Every freak calling himself a Socialist is by no means a Socialist, and though joining an organization is usually a pretty fair evidence of a man's good intentions, it is by no means a measure of his intelligence or his power to assimilate scientific truth. Taking every supposed convert to Socialism into the organization is like swallowing an unlimited quantity of half-baked dough. The dough clogs up the alimentary canal and forbids digestion. It refuses to be assimilated by the system.

It keeps other food from being assimilated. So with government ownership of the railroads platform man. He will not learn and he keeps others from learning. He thinks the Socialist who has been in the movement for years and who knows the needs and the mission of the working class, an intolerant bigot. He fights him. He measures success by the numbers of his own kind that come into the organization to fight this "intolerant bigot"; and a glorious victory is won when the "intolerant bigot" is downed or a division is brought into the organization. All this comes from not having men grounded in the fundamentals of Socialism. It is the duty of the Socialist press to teach truth all the time, whether success from a counting room standard come or not. The Socialist movement rests upon the economic need of a great class. No emotional, sentimental or financial consideration should keep that truth from the men who require it most. If our movement is to amount to anything more than the populist or greenback or similar reform movements, it is the duty of the Socialist press to lay a strong and enduring foundation. Within a very few years there will be an industrial crash in this country that will awaken many people to their sense of danger. Already Germany and England are having a taste of its power. When it arrives in this country and finds our organiza-

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NOTICE IN REGARD TO ORGANIZATION.

At its first meeting last summer the State Com. was elected A. S. Bell, organizer and Joe Gilbert Secretary Treasurer. As Comrade Bell, on account of business affairs, was not able to take the field at that time, Comrade Gilbert ventured to step up the work until such time as the regularly elected organizer would be able to do so, and has spent nearly three months of hard work in the eastern and western parts of the state. The cost of this work is about \$100 per month and traveling expenses. The latter have generally been met by the local staffed, and owing to the generous contributions of comrades throughout the state, the regular salary has practically been met.

Comrade Bell is being in a position to take up the regular duties of his office, the State Com. being now in a position to pay him in the field two months at least, and hope to continue him there until he is again comfortably grounded in the principles of Socialism and being at the same time an unusually able and convincing speaker. No one will deny the immense importance of this at the present time. Comrade Gilbert's tour has emphasized the fact that the field is ripe. All now depends upon the raising of funds. Comrade Bell is being sent to work at five or six dollars per day to take up work for the cause at a salary which means a mere subsistence to himself and family, and while on one or two hour him, say that he is not working for his material interests, it behooves us to take the occasion and in the same spirit do our part in this great work.

Local committees or groups of localities that wish to organize should communicate with the Secretary Treasurer, Joe Gilbert, Box 627, Seattle, Wash., and all pledges and contributions should be sent to this address. The next section, let all organized locals be prompt in sending in regular dues, as this will aid greatly in the matter.
J. D. CIRTIS,
Chairman State Committee S. P.
1735 Eighteenth Ave., Seattle, Wash.

ORGANIZING FUNDS.

Receipts for week ending Dec. 31, 1901:
J. L. Hillman, December, December, \$2.00
W. F. Russell, December, December, 1.00
J. Hillger, November, 1.00
J. D. Fisher, December, 1.00
F. Bostrom, November, 1.00
Local Yelm, December, 55
Mrs. N. Smith, Whitman, 55
The Cronin, Hoquiam, 1.00
The Holikani, December, 1.00
Total, \$9.05

Sec. T. JOSEPH GILBERT.

Capital Deals Labor Dissatisfied.

Bradstreet's annual review of the business situation for 1901 closes with the following words:

If only a portion of the high hopes indulged in as a result of the recent conferences of capital and labor materialize, industrial peace and good commercial feeling and prosperity will have been powerfully furthered.

This expresses not only "hopes" but implies corresponding fears. The one thing Capital is afraid of is that Labor should become permanently dissatisfied, which is the very thing the Socialists fight for. They know their weak point, and we know it, too. That is the reason we strike first, last and all the time for the class struggle. Labor must find out that its interests are not identical with Capital, that no "conferences" for peace are possible, that conflict is inevitable and irrepressible, that the wage-system is robbery in very essence, that no peace is possible while the system lasts.

CARPENTERS' HALL TAKEN.

Local Seattle decided to move into larger quarters for Sunday night Propaganda meeting. Carpenters' Hall is about twice as large as Odd Fellows Hall. So get a hustle on you, Comrades, to fill the new hall next Sunday night.

Also the same hall for the social Saturday night.

is described in our 4 page illustrated leaflet, which is just the thing to give away for propaganda purposes, as with its illustrations it is bound to attract attention. Send 10 cent stamps for 100 copies. There are now 5 issues out of our illustrated Socialist Magazine. The Comrade. Take a look at the cartoons and pictures. 10 per year. 10c per copy. No free copies. First issue to subscribers only. Comrade Pub. Co. 28 Lafayette Place, New York.

MRS. A. STACKMANN

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Storage by Day Week or Month. Specialty of Coal and Wood. Expressing promptly attended to at all seasons.
Phone Oak 841. R. S. Weston, Prop.

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New & Second Hand Furniture

Stoves and Carpets. Goods bought for cash. New Goods exchanged for old.
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GROGER

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Seattle, Wash. Telephone Buff 281

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PARTY NEWS

The regular Sunday night program of meetings of the Party are now held in Executive Hall, Fourth Avenue, between Pike and Pine, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Everybody is invited to attend and participate in the program.

NATIONAL PARTY NEWS

Having in view the approaching meeting of the National Committee on January 24th, it may be well for me to give you such information as I have gathered to aid meeting and the various matters that are most important to the organization. The following is the list of National Committee members: Chairman, W. E. Farmer, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.; Secretary, J. M. G. Brown, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.; Treasurer, J. M. G. Brown, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.; Executive Committee, W. E. Farmer, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.; J. M. G. Brown, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.; J. M. G. Brown, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.; J. M. G. Brown, 1111 North 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.

NOTES A-FIELD

Municipal elections just held in Italy have astonished the politicians of the continent who have based on the precedent and the other in the people's pocket the Venice, as well as in the Italian column, the Matta Tammany machine was ousted by the Socialists, who won a complete triumph in Aquila where a debate had occurred between the Monarchists and Socialists before 7,000 people, the latter won 14 seats, the Republicans 10 and the Monarchists only 6. In San Remo the Socialists won 17 seats, the Republicans 10 and the Monarchists only 6. In San Remo the Socialists won 17 seats, the Republicans 10 and the Monarchists only 6.



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Socialist Party Literature Issued by National Committee. Will be sent prepaid at prices specified in National Constitution... National Constitution... 15c... \$1.00 Negro Resolution... 10c... 50c Trade Union... 10c... 50c Address orders for the above to: LEON GREENBAUM, National Secretary, 427 7th Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

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2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753, 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757, 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 2823, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827, 2828, 2829, 2830, 2831, 2832, 2833, 2834, 2835, 2836, 2837, 2838, 2839, 2840, 2841, 2842, 2843, 2844, 2845, 2846, 2847, 2848, 2849, 2850, 2851, 2852, 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856, 2857, 2858, 2859, 2860, 2861, 2862, 2863, 2864, 2865, 2866, 2867, 2868, 2869, 2870, 2871, 2872, 2873, 2874, 2875, 2876, 2877, 2878, 2879, 2880, 2881, 2882, 2883, 2884, 2885, 2886, 2887, 2888, 2889, 2890, 2891, 2892, 2893, 2894, 2895, 2896, 2897, 2898, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2902, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2906, 2907, 2908, 2909, 2910, 2911, 2912, 2913, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2917, 2918, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2930, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2934, 2935, 2936, 2937, 2938, 2939, 2940, 2941, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957, 2958, 2959, 2960, 2961, 2962, 2963, 2964, 2965, 2966, 2967, 2968, 2969, 2970, 2971, 2972, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2985, 2986, 2987, 2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3026, 3027, 3028, 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3034, 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3201, 3202, 3203, 3204, 3205, 3206, 3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3211, 3212, 3213, 3214, 3215, 3216, 3217, 3218, 3219, 3220, 3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227, 3228, 3229, 3230, 3231, 3232, 3233, 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237, 3238, 3239, 3240, 3241, 3242, 3243, 3244, 3245, 3246, 3247, 3248, 3249, 3250, 3251, 3252, 3253, 3254, 3255, 3256, 3257, 3258, 3259, 3260, 3261, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3266, 3267, 3268, 3269, 3270, 3271, 3272, 3273, 3274, 3275, 3276, 3277, 3278, 3279, 3280, 3281, 3282, 3283, 3284, 3285, 3286, 3287, 3288, 3289, 3290, 3291, 3292, 3293, 3294, 3295, 3296, 3297, 3298, 3299, 3300, 3301, 3302, 3303, 3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310, 3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320, 3321, 3322, 3323, 3324, 3325, 3326, 3327, 3328, 3329, 3330, 3331, 3332, 3333, 3334, 3335, 3336, 3337, 3338, 3339, 3340, 3341, 3342, 3343, 3344, 3345, 3346, 3347, 3348, 3349, 3350, 3351, 3352, 3353, 3354, 3355, 3356, 3357, 3358, 3359, 3360, 3361, 3362, 3363, 3364, 3365, 3366, 3367, 3368, 3369, 3370, 3371, 3372, 3373, 3374, 3375, 3376, 3377, 3378, 3379, 3380, 3381, 3382, 3383, 3384, 3385, 3386, 3387, 3388, 3389, 3390, 3391, 3392, 3393, 3394, 3395, 3396, 3397, 3398, 3399, 3400, 3401, 3402, 3403, 3404, 3405, 3406, 3407, 3408, 3409, 3410, 3411, 3412, 3413, 3414, 3415, 3416, 3417, 3418, 3419, 3420, 3421, 3422, 3423, 3424, 3425, 3426, 3427, 3428, 3429, 3430, 3431, 3432, 3433, 3434, 3435, 3436, 3437, 3438, 3439, 3440, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3460, 3461, 3462, 3463, 3464, 3465, 3466, 3467, 3468, 3469, 3470, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474, 3475, 3476, 3477, 3478, 3479, 3480, 3481, 3482, 3483, 3484, 3485, 3486, 3487, 3488, 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3496, 3497, 3498, 3499, 3500, 3501, 3502, 3503, 3504, 3505, 3506, 350