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Hazelton Hotel

Hazelton, B.C.,

July 12th. 1932 - 26 193

LETTER 263

Sir:-

Coming down from Hazelton today I had an Indian with me and on questioning him he stated to me that Jack Joseph stated to him and his wife that the Indian Agent had told him to collect the Permits and turn them back to the Fishery Dep't. Another Indian let it drop to both Millar and myself the same story but then closed up and would not tell us any more.

I was in talking to Fairburn today to lodge a complaint against Jack Joseph of fishing without a Permit. I was telling him about the threats made by Jack Joseph and he advised me to hold that over and let him work on Jack Joseph and he thought that he could bring out in the evidence under oath that Jack Joseph had been instructed by the Indian Agent to turn the Permits back. He is also going to work on Baptise the Indian who told Millar and myself that Jack Joseph had told him that the Indian Agent was mixed up in it.

I had a letter from the Dep't. concerning the authority that should be quoted on a complaint, which I have mislaid and as I do not want to have any bauble over the case I wish you would wire me on receipt of this the proper form. It seems to me that there was a misprint in the chapter number and if this were used it would make the proceedings null and void. I am holding up the complaint until I receive your wire.

I know that you could hardly believe that there was any meddling by the Indian Dep't.. so I would like to see you in attendance on the case when it comes up. If you could set a date when you could be present we would have the case remanded to suit your convenience, providing that Fairburn can get it pieced together. I know that the start of the trouble last year was because the Indian Agent told the Indians that they did not have to take out the trap when they were told to do it, and I do not feel like being the goat for him all the time.

I think that I will be lined up on another couple of Indians tomorrow who will also give me the same story of the advice given to Jack Joseph by the Indian Agent.

James Boyd, Esq.
Supervisor of Fisheries
Prince Rupert, B. C.

I am Sir:-
Your obedient servant

M. P. G. D. D. D.

26-1

July 28th.

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Dear Sir:-

I beg to refer to your wire of the 22nd. instant, suggesting that I visit Inspector McDonnell's Area in connection with the issuing of Indian Permits. Before receipt of your wire I had concluded to visit this area in regard to this matter, leaving here on the 24th. instant. This program was carried out.

I arrived at Hazelton on the evening of the 24th. instant and on the forenoon of the 25th. I called at the Glen Vowell and Kispiox Indian villages in the Kispiox Valley, accompanied by Inspector McDonnell. About twelve Indians had obtained permits between the two villages. Most of the population of course are engaged at this time in the lower Skeena Area in gill-netting for the canneries. The Indians interviewed at these two villages apparently had no objection to the taking out of permits and there were no complaints.

From Kispiox we went to Moricetown where a large number of Indians were engaged in obtaining sockeyes and spring salmon for their own use. All the Indians at this point so engaged (67) have taken out permits, with the exception of Jack Joseph the Chief, who asserts he will not do so. This man has, in defiance of the regulations, taken three or four fish with a spear at the Moricetown Falls. He was informed by myself that if he persists in refusing to take out a permit he will be summoned for this offence, and Inspector McDonnell has been instructed to prosecute him should he not do so, but that before this action is taken every opportunity should be given the man to comply with the regulations.

The Indians at the Moricetown village seem to be, to a large extent, against the permit system and at the meeting held there between them and myself, it was suggested by several that the permits issued be handed back. After assuring them however it was not the intention of the Department to curtail their food supply, the idea of handing in the permits was apparently abandoned. The Indians in general at this point claim that they did not fully understand the permit system and believed the issuing of same was a means of curtailing their food supply, but as already stated, after it had been fully explained that this was not the intention of the Department, most of the Indians present seemed more or less satisfied.

Jack Joseph the Chief was absent from Moricetown when the permits were first introduced and when he arrived back at his home

thirty-two Indians had been issued permits. As far as I can gather after his arrival he intended to influence the other Indians in the village to refuse to take out such permits, also suggesting to those that had them, to turn them back to the Department. The Chief however would not admit this, but stated Inspector McDonnell was too crude in his explanation covering the issuing of the permits. He alleges McDonnell told him he would go to jail if he secured salmon without a permit or sold salmon caught under permit, as this was 'crooked work'. The Chief on being given this information asked if the Inspector was insinuating that he disposed of salmon in previous years by selling them. McDonnell replied that such was his belief. There is no proof that this Indian actually sold salmon in previous years due to the fact that any person purchasing salmon caught by the Indian for his own sustenance is as liable to prosecution as the Indian himself. Such being the case it is of course impossible to prove that salmon were sold. However I do not doubt in the least that this Indian has sold salmon for several years when the opportunity offered, but never of course in large numbers.

Chief Joseph is an arrogant type of Indian with a fair education and understanding of the regulations but I am inclined to believe the reason he will not take out a permit is due to the fact that this action on his part will put upon him the onus of the proof of disposal of the salmon caught by him. You will also remember that McDonnell was prosecuted last year in Smithers for assaulting two Indian boys, by switching them, when he found them engaged in spearing salmon at Moricetown, maiming large numbers of them and not catching any. One of the boys happened to be the son of Joseph and I do not doubt but that this man holds considerable rancor against the Inspector for his action at that time.

McDonnell is rather blunt and to the point in explaining to the Indians what will happen to them should they break the regulations and this some of them resent, but due to the fact that the biggest percentage of them are illiterate, it is in my opinion the only way to impress upon them the necessity for abiding by the regulations, and I do not think McDonnell went too far in taking the course he did.

Some of the Indians expressed the opinion that the issuing of the permits should be left to the Indian Agent at Hazelton, and to this I explained that although the issuing of such permits was entirely our concern, it could very possibly be arranged with the Indian Department that their officials issue same. I would appreciate your taking this matter up with a view to arranging if possible that Captain Mortimer the Indian Agent at Hazelton, issue the permits to the Indians residing in his area. I could not take this matter up myself at the time as Captain Mortimer was absent from Hazelton on his annual vacation. I am convinced that thorough co-operation with the Indian Agent will completely eliminate all trouble in this connection.

Another point that Jack Joseph brought up with myself was to the effect that sometime prior to the sockeye run arriving at Moricetown, Colonel Pruggnell, Inspector of Indian Agencies, visited Moricetown, informing the Chief that it was the intention of the Fisheries Department to issue permits this year covering the

obtaining of salmon for food purposes by the Indians, but that in addition to this privilege, if any surplus salmon were caught they could sell same. The Chief was very much vexed about this question, as sometime before the permits were available he told the Indians of his tribe what Colonel Pragnell had given him to understand. As soon as Inspector McDonell heard of this he of course informed the Indians that such was not the case and that no fish could be sold, which of course displeased them. There is no doubt but that Colonel Pragnell made this or some similar statement through a misapprehension as to just what the permits allowed.

The general opinion of the white people who are acquainted with Chief Joseph is that he is being encouraged to refuse a permit by some white person or persons although it was impossible for me to obtain information as to whom the party might be.

The situation is not at all serious. I have no fault to find with Inspector McDonell's methods of handling the permit question and believe, as stated before, that with thorough co-operation with the Indian Department no more difficulty with reference to the distribution of such permits in the Upper Skeena Area will be encountered.

It would be well I think to take this matter up with Colonel Pragnell, suggesting that the permits be issued by Captain Mortimer of Hazelton, as the Indians in that locality are apparently under the impression that if this matter is attended to by him, very little, if any, trouble will result.

Yours truly,

J. Royd,
Supervisor of Fisheries.

MAJOR J. A. MOTHERWELL
Chief Supervisor of Fisheries,
Winch Building,
Vancouver, B. C.



DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES BRANCH

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~~2018~~

Office of the Inspector of Fisheries

AT Smithers, B. C. Jan. 10th. 1932

Sir:-

I have much pleasure in presenting you the following Report for the Fisheries for the Season of 1931 for Sub-district Upper Skeena, District #2 British Columbia.

Commercial fishing has increased from 2.75 cwts of Char 82.95 cwts with an increase of value of \$642.58. This has been caused by the road to Babine being repaired and enabling the fishing of Char in that lake. Whitefish fell off about 7 cwts. with a decreased value of \$90.65. This has been caused by the lack of market so that the was not carried on as intensively and a decrease of the market value of 20 %. The size of the whitefish has increased about 100 % from last season so that the average size now of the fish is about 2 and 3/4 # showing that the lake was previously overstocked and that the commercial fishing has been beneficial. This applies to Pinkut Lake where practically all the whitefish fishing is done.

The Salmon taken for Indian food supply has fallen off from the previous year 1930. Babine Lake shows a falling off of nearly 50 % of 1930 catch. This was caused by a shortage in the run and also its lateness. The lateness was caused by the extreme high and dirty water in the Skeena River which was the highest it has been since the fall of 1917. The only points where there was any increase in the Indian catch was at Morissetown and at Kistigaa. Morissetown had the biggest run in four years, while the hard times drove the Indians to their trap lines at Kistigaa where we had ten families fishing and the rule for the past number of years has been a couple of families.

The Commercial fishing fleet on Babine was practically the same except that the J. H. Fisheries had on more power boat. This was balanced up by the fact that there were no Indian commercial licenses this season and this left one power boat short of 1930.

The only new development we had in the District was the increase of Char fishing in Babine. This was not carried on as intensively as it might have been had the roads and the market been better.

The only abuse that is causing any trouble is the fish basket at Morissetown. With salmon being caught at Morissetown by angling it is nearly impossible to convict anyone securing fish caught in the basket. The Indians abused their privileges at Morissetown the season of 1931. The trap was originally allowed to an Indian who was partially blind and crippled and who had a large family. A number of this family has now grown up and are quite competent to fish for the family the same as the rest of the Indians, so that the elimination of the basket will work no hardship on them. I would recommend that the trap privilege be rescinded and no trap allowed from now on.

The close seasons are carefully kept and there has been no trouble along these lines.

To prevent illegal fishing we have a staff of three patrolmen at Babine equipped with two power boats and a sail boat, along with a Guardian stationed at Morissetown and one stationed at Hazelton. In addition we have the co-operation of the Police and the different Game wardens. A close supervision by these different officers, very little illegal fishing takes place and most infractions are minor ones where-in a warning is sufficient. The Commercial fishing at Babine was checked at the fishing grounds and again as the fish were being shipped from Babine Lake to Burns Lake.

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The different creeks are all patrolled from once to twice a season for obstructions. There are no mills in the district operating so that we are not troubled with the pollution of streams by sawdust or other refuse.

We have only one fishway which is situated at Moricetown and it is situated in the center of the river. This has been a success as we are now having dog salmon reported above the falls having been seen in Kathryn Creek. This is first time that any reports have been received of such having been observed above the Falls at Moricetown.

On the spawning beds of the Skeena outside the Bulkley we have not had as many Sockeye as one would have expected from the big catch at the Coast. It was also noticeable the number of males in proportion to the number of females being in the ratio of two and three to one. The run of Pinks was also much smaller than the run of 1929 the corresponding cycle year. Cohoes were not as numerous this season. The fish seen on the spawning grounds were all of good size and conditions were good for the propagation as there was plenty of water in all the creeks. Springs were plentiful this season and the spawning grounds were well seeded with them.

On the Bulkley a big run of Sockeye the biggest in four years was in evidence. I would not consider that it was even the equal of the corresponding cycle year. The spawning beds on the Morice were well seeded with them as were the spawning bed on the head of the Bulkley above the junction of the Morice. Pinks were much lighter than two years ago. Springs were a big run and the spawning grounds on the Morice were well seeded with them.

James Boyd, Esq.
Supervisor of Fisheries
Prince Rupert, B. C.

I am Sir:
Your obedient servant





DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES BRANCH

Office of the Inspector of Fisheries

AT Smithers, B. C. December 31st. 1932

Sir:-

I beg leave to submit the following report for Upper Skeena area for the year of 1932

A- Sport fishing has been very good in the district this season, good catches were the rule and the fish were on the whole fat and firm. The first actual identification of Kamloops Trout was made on a fish secured in Government Lake whose outlet is into the Bulkley River. From this can be deduced the fact that the planting of Kamloops Trout eggs in Lake Kathlyn has been a success and that the fry left that area and went into the Bulkley River and entered other creeks and lakes of that system. No sample has been submitted from Lake Kathlyn that has been identified as Kamloops Trout as yet, but there is no question but that a number of them have been caught in that area.

The whitefish industry has been very good in Pinkut and Auger Lakes this fall. Auger was only fished for about a week owing to a bridge breaking down, which caused a cessation in that area. The size of fish continues to improve and it only takes from sixty to seventy dressed fish to make a cwt. box, whereas when the fishing first started it required from one hundred and forty to one hundred and fifty to fill a box. The fish appear to be as plentiful as ever. The market is quite limited as yet owing to the difficulties of transportation, but a start has been made and some of the fish have been on the market in Vancouver and Seattle as well as in cities in the East and on the Prairie. These fish were received with approbation.

Approximately three hundred and sixty Indian families secured their food supply which amounted to in cwts. Springes 2314, Sockeyes 3000, Cohoes 729, Pinks 33, Steelhead 288, Chums 7, Dolly Vardons 9, Of these amounts approximately 2/5 were used fresh.

B- There were no new boats or equipment added to the fishing fleet this season as the fishing was not intensive owing to a limited market and existing conditions.

C- The only change is the continued improvement in the size of the whitefish.

D- The abuses consisted of Indian children fishing and a commercialization of salmon by Indians, as well as attempted jigging by whites. For the protection of the Fishery Officers to curtail the first two, it was necessary that Indian Permits be issued at Moricetown. One prosecution was made and a nominal sentence was imposed of One dollar and costs or one day in jail. The term was served. Owing to the condition of the times it was considered that a warning was sufficient for the attempted jigging and with vigilance on the part of the Guardians this abuse was stopped.

E- Two Guardians, three Patrolmen and an Inspector is maintained during the fishing season for the protection of the Fisheries. The Inspector is maintained for the balance of the year. Two outboard engines and five boats are used by the patrolmen. New tents were secured to house the Patrolmen at different points on Babine Lake.

F- The Close seasons have been well observed.

G- All creeks are patrolled

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G- All creeks are patrolled for obstructions and pollution. No creeks have sawdust or mill refuse running into them.

H- The Fishway at Moricetown was in good condition but it is the opinion of your Inspector that it is more beneficial in a low water stage than in a high water stage. However it was built for a low water stage.

I- Spawning bed conditions have not been as good on some creeks as in the previous cycle year namely the year of 1928. This was probably caused by winter conditions, hard frosts and low water. This was noticed especially on Grizzly Cr. and Fifteen mile on the Babine Lake area and appears to have affected only the shallow streams.

The Pink Salmon was a very great disappointment this season and very few of this species ascended above Hazelton on the Skeena and even some areas below this point were disappointing namely the Kitwanoool River.

The run of Springs on some areas this season was abnormal, the Babine having the largest run experienced by the Patrolman at Babine I during a period of ten years.

The Cohoe run was medium on nearly all areas.

The Bulkley was a disappointment in so much as there were not the number of fish on the spawning areas, that one would expect from a comparison of the Indian catches at Hazelton and at Moricetown this year and other years. The Indian catch was as large as ever at these two points but the amount of fish on the spawning areas was not as large as the past two years. This season should have been an off season for the Bulkley but owing to the strike at the Coast by the fishermen we had more fish than we would have had otherwise. Springs, Sockeye and Cohoes were all a medium run on the areas.

The Upper Skeena showing compared favorably with the previous cycle years of 1928 & 1929 with Springs, Sockeye, and Cohoe. The Pinks were very scarce. This was exhilarated no doubt by the continued high water which would interfere with the progress so far into the Interior.

The Blackwater area had a heavy run of Springs and Sockeye but a very light run of Cohoe. This area has steadily improved since the jam in Nass went out.

The Kispiox had a heavy run of Springs, Sockeye and Cohoe but a very light run of Pinks and Chums. It compares favorably with the cycle years of 1928 & 1929 with the exception of the Pinks.

The Quinnigase a branch of the Nass over the summit from the Kispiox was not visited owing to bad weather but reports from Indians show it to have a heavy run of Springs, Sockeye and Cohoes. This area is also steadily improving.

Weather conditions so far this year have been favorable to the spawning areas, as the creeks have been high and the areas have all been covered with plenty of water. During the summer we had much high water, During the past month we have had very cold weather and some creeks froze to the bottom. This did not appear to apply to salmon creeks. There is very little frost in the ground under the snow, so that the prospects of plenty of water in the creeks and on the spawning areas are good.

Grizzly Creek which is the spawning area of the Beaver River which flows into Babine Lake at the head, had a light run of Sockeye much lighter than the previous cycle year and lighter than last. The redeeming feature was that the percentage of males and females was more even and I would look for better results than last season. They arrived at Beaver on the 19th. of July and entered into Grizzly Creek on Aug. 6th. The males were about ~~three to four~~ five to four females. The fish were good size and the area would receive a medium seeding.

Fifteen Mile Cr. or Anderson Cr flows into Babine Lake about 15 miles from the head of the Lake. The Sockeye arrived about the 1st. of August and entered the spawning areas about the 1st of September.

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The maximum was the 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th, of September. The run was not as good as the previous cycle year of 1928 nor yet as good as last year but the sexes were more evenly divided than last season and better spawning results would be looked for. I would consider that the area would receive a medium seeding. Unlike years of heavy run there was very little waste of eggs.

Twin Creek flows into Babine Lake about 36 miles from the head of the lake. In the season of 1928 this creek was not examined by your Inspector as he was misled by the information received from the Patrolman. This season had a heavy run of large fish with males three to two females. The Sockeye arrived 1st. of August and entered on the area about the 6th. The maximum was on the 20th. The area received a heavy seeding.

Pierre Cr. enter Babine Lake about 38 miles from the head of the Lake. The sockeye arrived on Aug. 1st. maximum august 25th. Large fish three males to two females and spawned freely. Not as good as in 1928 but would be considered as better than a medium run. The area was well seeded.

Tatchie Creek enters the Babine Lake about 58 miles from the head of the Lake had a heavy run of large fish three males to two females spawned freely. Sockeye arrived July 28th. and entered creek Aug. 3rd. maximum about Aug. 15th. Water conditions on this area were very good and a heavy seeding was obtained.

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Fulton River- enters Babine Lake about 60 miles from the head of the Lake received a medium seeding from an average of Medium fish. Considerable runts were discerned on this area this year but only on the lower stretches. Appears to correspond to the cycle year of 1928. The run of Cohoes was also light.

Upper Babine River- the Sockeye arrived on this area to spawn on the 15th. of September and was a heavy run. The area produced the bulk of the eggs for the Babine Hatchery and yet would be heavily seeded Cohoes arrived on September 15th and was a light run. The area would be seeded lightly by them. Springs showed up on this area again this year more than in the year of 1928 in fact the most that I have seen on the area. It will be lightly seeded by Springs which arrived on the 20th. of September.

Lower Babine River - received a heavy run of Springs on the 8th. of August, a very light run of Pinks on the 22nd. of August, slight run of Cohoes on the 26th. of August and a heavy run of Sockeye on the 15th. of September. The run of Springs was the greatest in ten years. The Pinks was the poorest that I have experienced. The area has been heavily seeded by Springs and Sockeye, lightly by Cohoes and very lightly by Pinks.

Kuldo River entering the Skeena at 2nd. Cabin about sixty miles north of Hazelton, frequented by Pinks, had a very light run of Pinks and the area would be lightly seeded by them.

Canyon Cr. entering the Skeena River about 6 miles South of 4th. Cabin had a medium run of Sockeye ~~and Springs~~ that arrived about 20th. August and a heavy run of Springs that arrived on the same date. The area would be well seeded by both species. Steelhead were a heavy run in May.

Slangese River entering the Skeena River about 10 miles above 4th. Cabin. had a medium run of Sockeye and a heavy run of Springs that arrived about Aug. 20th. A heavy run of Cohoe on Oct. 1st. heavy run Steelhead in May. The area was seeded mediumly by Sockeye, heavy by Springs and Cohoe and Steelhead. The run of Pinks this season was negligible. The area is in better condition than in the previous cycle years of 1928 & 1929.

Blackwater River entering the Nass River just below 6th. Cabin had a heavy run of Steelhead in May, a heavy run of Springs and Sockeye that arrived on Aug. 20th. and a light run of Cohoe about the 1st. of October. The area was heavily seeded by Steelhead, Springs & Sockeye, and lightly by Cohoe. This area is steadily improving.

Quinnigess River which enters the Nass heads over the summit from the Kispiox. This area was not visited and our information has been received from the Indians, who report a heavy run of Steelhead and Springs in May, a heavy run of Sockeye about the 1st of September and a heavy run of Cohoe on October 1st. It would appear that this area is steadily improving.

Williams Cr. enters the Kispiox about 86 miles above Hazelton had a medium run of Sockeye on Sept. 1st. and a heavy run of Cohoe on the 1st. October. The area received a medium seeding by Sockeye and a heavy seeding by Cohoe.

Stevens Cr. a part of the Lao-da dah- area enters the Kispiox River about 70 miles North of Hazelton had a heavy run of Steelhead in May, a heavy run of Sockeye on 1st of September and a heavy run of Cohoe on Oct. 1st. The area has been well seeded by each of the species.

Ammoncock Cr. enters the Kispiox about 65 miles North of Hazelton received a heavy seeding of Sockeye on Sept. 1st and a heavy seeding of Cohoe on Oct. 1st.

Mongese enters the Kispiox River about 56 miles North of Hazelton and received a heavy run of Steelhead and Springs in May and the area was well seeded by them. A heavy run of Sockeye about the 1st. of September and a heavy run of Cohoe about the 1st. of October. The area has been well seeded by both these species.

Corral Cr. enters the Kispiox 45 miles North of Hazelton received a heavy run of Cohoe on Oct. 1st and the area has been well seeded by them.

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Grouse Cr. which enters the Kispiox about 43 miles North of Hazelton had a heavy run of Cohoe about the 1st. of Oct. and the area was well seeded by that species.

Gullen Cr. enters the Kispiox about 31 miles North of Hazelton had a heavy run of Steelhead in May, a heavy run of Sockeye on Sept. 1st. and a heavy run of Cohoe on Oct. 1st. and the area has been well seeded by each species. The run of Pinks and Chums was practically negligible.

Mc Cully Cr. sometimes called Cedar Cr. enters the Kispiox River about 19 miles North of Hazelton had a heavy run of Steelhead in May, a heavy run of Sockeye about Aug. 29th. and a heavy run of Cohoe about Sept. 20th. The area has been well seeded by each species.

The Kispiox River itself showed a very small run of Pinks and Chums and the areas have been very lightly seeded by these species.

Mission Cr. enters the Bulkley about a half mile above the junction of the Skeena and the Bulkley had a medium run of Pinks arriving about Aug. 8th. heavier than last year.

Sealey Cr. enters the Skeena about 3 miles below the junction with the Bulkley had a heavy run of Steelhead in May, medium run Sockeye on June 28th., medium Cohoe on July 29th. and a medium Pinks Aug. 1st.

This area showed an improvement over 1931

Stoney Cr. enters the Skeena about 10 miles west of Hazelton had a heavy of Pinks on Aug. 9th and a heavy run of Chums on the 20th.

The Kitwanga River had a light run of Sockeye, Springs, Pinks and Chums and the area has been very lightly seeded.

The Upper Bulkley above the Junction with the Morice had a medium run of Sockeye, Springs and Cohoes and the areas will receive only a medium seeding.

The Morice River also received a medium run of Sockeye and Springs and Cohoe, not as good as in 1930 and 1931 and the areas are only medium seeding.

The Nanika River which enters Morice Lake received a medium run of Sockeye and would receive a medium seeding.

The Telkwa River which enters the Bulkley at Telkwa had a fair run of Cohoe but not as good as the two past years and the area has received only a medium seeding.

Mc Donnell Cr. which enters into Mc Donnell Lake thence into the Copper received a large run of Sockeye and the area has been well seeded by them.

James Boyd, Esq.
Supervisor of Fisheries
Prince Rupert, B. C.

I am Sir:-
Your obedient servant

A. B. McDonald

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