

Manuscript Industrial Schedules of the 1871 Census of Canada A Source for Labour Historians

Elizabeth Bloomfield

Volume 19, 1987

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/llt19rr01>

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Éditeur(s)

Canadian Committee on Labour History

ISSN

0700-3862 (imprimé)

1911-4842 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Bloomfield, E. (1987). Manuscript Industrial Schedules of the 1871 Census of Canada: A Source for Labour Historians. *Labour/Le Travailleur*, 19, 125–132.

RESEARCH REPORTS/ NOTES DE RECHERCHE

Manuscript Industrial Schedules of the 1871 Census of Canada:

A Source for Labour Historians

Elizabeth Bloomfield

DURING 1985-6, the first stage of a project to facilitate access to the industrial data of the 1871 manuscript census has been sheltered by the department of geography at the University of Guelph. This work has been assisted by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The manuscript schedules of industrial establishments, recently made available on microfilm as part of the whole 1871 manuscript census by the public archives, constitute a uniquely valuable source.¹ Although similar details were collected in the censuses of 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1911, none of the manuscript schedules for those years have survived.

The 1871 census enumerators recorded the following details for each industrial enterprise they included:

- Name of proprietor(s);
- statement of type of establishment/nature of product;
- values of fixed and floating (working) capital;
- number of working months in the year;
- average numbers employed, distinguishing among males and females over 16 years, and boys and girls under 16 years;
- motive power other than manual (water, steam, horse) with the nominal force stated in units of horsepower;
- quantities and values of specified raw materials;
- quantities and values of manufactured products.

¹ T. A. Hillman, *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1666-1881* (Ottawa 1981).

Elizabeth Bloomfield, "Manuscript Industrial Schedules of the 1871 Census of Canada: A Source for Labour Historians," *Labour/Le Travail*, 19 (Spring 1987), 125-131.

Only a very limited amount of this material was published in the official census volumes of the 1870s. The industrial statistics were organized primarily by various industrial types which were defined pragmatically rather than systematically. Summary data only were published for each of the 206 census districts (90 in Ontario) and no industrial data at all were published for smaller areal units.

Since the 1871 manuscript schedules were first released in the early 1970s, several scholars have examined them to support studies of particular cities, districts, or industrial types. Gregory Kealey, for example, used the Toronto data to provide a context for his study of industrial workers.² The York social history project, directed by Michael Katz, coded data for industrial establishments in Hamilton as part of its analysis of industrial capitalism in that city.³ L.D. McCann has used the industrial schedules for Halifax-Dartmouth and for Pictou County, together with Dun credit ratings.⁴ Eve Martel reconstituted the general patterns of industry in Montreal, and Joanne Burgess the organization of the shoemaking industry there.⁵ Paul Craven and Tom Traves have drawn on census manuscript data for evidence of industrial activity in railway workshops and yards.⁶ Jim Burant has featured the photographic studios of Saint John, and Ian McKay the confectionery and baking industry of Halifax.⁷

However, these uses of the 1870 data have been specific to each researcher's limited purpose. They have used different systems of classification, so that comparisons with other places or industrial sectors or with later periods are almost impossible. Very few of these users have transformed the data into machine-readable form, and those who have done so have not been concerned about making their records accessible to other researchers. Scholars interested only in one category or sector of industrial activity may be daunted by the time-consuming labour of searching through the microfilmed schedules for a handful of establishments, and could easily miss some which were slightly misplaced in storage or during the microfilming process.

The project reported here is making the unpublished data for industrial establishments accessible, in systematic, standardized, and machine-readable

² G.S. Kealey, *Toronto Workers Respond to Industrial Capitalism* (Toronto 1980).

³ M.B. Katz, M.J. Doucet, and M.J. Stern, *The Social Organization of Early Industrial Capitalism* (Cambridge MA 1982).

⁴ L.D. McCann, "The Mercantile-Industrial Transition in the Metals Towns of Pictou County, 1857-1931," *Acadiensis*, 10 (1981), 29-64.

⁵ E. Martel, "L'Industrie à Montréal en 1871," (MA thesis, Université du Québec à Montréal, 1978); J. Burgess, "L'Industrie de la chaussure," *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, 31 (1977), 187-210.

⁶ P. Craven and T. Traves, "Canadian Railways as Manufacturers, 1850-1880," Canadian Historical Association, *Historical Papers* (1983), 254-81.

⁷ J. Burant, "A Written Portrait: Saint John Photographers and Their Studios in the 1871 Census," *Archivaria*, 17 (1983-4), 275-7; I. McKay, "Capital and Labour in the Halifax Baking and Confectionery Industry During the Last Half of the Nineteenth Century," *Labour/Le Travailleur*, 3 (1978), 63-108.

format, to serve the research interests of economic, business, urban and social historians, historical geographers, industrial archaeologists, and historians of material culture and technology. By coding individual establishments within the framework of census districts, subdistricts, and enumerators' divisions, by classifying each according to the Standard Industrial Classification, and by the use of computer methods, we can achieve accuracy, consistency, comparability, retrievability, and aggregation.

In the first major phase of the work, the manuscript details for 6,825 industrial establishments in 146 urban or proto-urban centres have been made machine-readable. These establishments constitute 44 per cent of all those reported for Ontario in 1871, but 61 per cent of Ontario's total industrial employment, and 64 per cent of total provincial production. They also represent 20 per cent of all industrial establishments reported for the four Canadian provinces included in the 1871 census, but 28 per cent of total industrial employment, and 33 per cent of total industrial production.

The project procedures now enable data for any establishment to be retrieved easily; details for groups of establishments may also be aggregated by geographical unit or industrial type. Both potentialities are likely to interest scholars in a variety of disciplines. Labour historians may use the data bank to identify particularly interesting enterprises or urban communities for detailed research, and to provide more general contextual significance for such studies.

Table 1, for example, identifies the largest employers of labour in Ontario urban centres in 1870, and also illustrates the range of data available for each establishment. The data variable names are fairly easy to interpret: FIXCAP, FLOCAP, WAGES, RAWMAT, and PRODUCTS represent dollar values for fixed capital, floating/working capital, cost of wages, cost of raw materials, and value of production respectively. FORCE refers to the horsepower units of non-manual energy, while MEN, WOM, BOY, and GIRL specify the numbers of workers by gender and age group. The variable SIC CODE is the Standard Industrial Classification code we have given to every establishment, which enables records to be sorted and aggregated by precise industrial type. The 37 enterprises which employed at least 150 hands are listed here in order of size, and display an interesting range of industrial types and locations. It is noteworthy that 16 of these larger enterprises were in towns with a population under 10,000. In Hespeler, Deseronto, Almonte, Merriton, Bowmanville, Trenton, Hawkesbury, Carleton Place, and Garden Island, one large enterprise accounted for at least one-third of the community's total industrial work force. Labour historians with a special interest in women's work might follow up the evidence of high concentrations of women and girls in some enterprises; 6 of the 37 establishments listed here had more female than male workers, predictably in clothing, textiles, boots, and shoes, but also in printing, cabinets, and furniture.

Table 2 presents summary industrial data for the 92 urban centres in Ontario with at least 100 industrial workers in 1870. In addition, two values of

Table 1

Largest employers in Ontario urban centres, 1870: Top 37 employing at least 150 workers

PROPRIETOR	TYPE ESTABLISHMENT	SIC CODE	POWER	FORCE	FIXCAP	FLOOR	MEAN	WOM	BY	EMPL	TOTAL	WAGES	FOUNDRY	PRODUCTS	TOWNSHIP
SESSION/JURNEP/COOPE	BOOTS & SHOES	174	STEAM	15	30000	70000	330	90	50	40	510	100000	180000	300000	TORONTO
SANFORD/McJANNES & CO	CLOTHING MANUFACTURE	242	STEAM	0	40000	100000	65	300	40	50	455	80000	750000	350000	HAMILTON
HAY R & CO	CABINET'S	261	STEAM	0	40000	50000	300	50	0	0	400	100000	350000	500000	TORONTO
GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY	REPAIR SHOPS	326	STEAM	30	135000	14000	300	0	14	0	315	160000	100000	320000	BRANTFORD
FATHALLAH B & SON	STEAM SAW MILL	251	STEAM	150	50000	140000	237	0	74	0	311	37000	17000	140750	DESSERPOINT
BROUNSON WESTON & CO	SAW MILL	251	WATER	200	350000	150000	300	0	0	0	300	70000	240000	360000	OTTAWA
WATSON P & CO	SEWING MACHINE FCY	315-E	STEAM	40	50000	18000	195	0	80	0	175	90000	65000	210000	HAMILTON
BALDWIN A & CO	SAW MILL	251	WATER	250	90000	250000	274	0	0	0	274	50000	180000	276000	OTTAWA
HALL JOSEPH	ENGINE/AGRIC MFL	315-E/300	STEAM	30	200000	250000	250	0	14	0	264	150000	56600	200000	OSHAWA
PERLEY WALTER	SAW MILL	251	WATER	500	150000	300000	250	0	0	0	250	70000	240000	330000	OTTAWA
KEMPSTER C & T	BUILDERS/CONTRACTORS	400-B/420-E	STEAM	30	25000	30000	250	0	0	0	250	75000	21500	103500	HAMILTON
DICKEY NEIL & CO	STEAM ENGINES	315-E	STEAM	50	200000	200000	230	0	0	0	230	90000	110000	275000	TORONTO
HAMILTON POLLING MILS	POLLING MILLS	251	STEAM	400	70000	0	190	0	15	0	235	30000	410000	690000	HAMILTON
ROSPOND B & L & CO	WOOLLEN FCY	180	WATER	140	300000	150000	74	105	11	11	239	48000	270000	350000	ALMONTE
GOLDIE/MCCULLOCH/CO	ENGINE/MACHINE MFS	315-E	STEAM	50	50000	100000	230	0	3	0	233	65000	27000	180000	GALT
HENDERSON/BESTWICK	HATS/BONNETS	249-H	STEAM	15	50000	20000	10	175	14	0	201	14400	24700	80000	TORONTO
GORDON & MACKAY	L'NBSTER COTTON MILLS	180	WATER	250	150000	300000	47	73	37	43	200	36000	68000	150000	MERRITTON
BORTH JAMES P	SAW MILL	251	WATER	250	400000	300000	200	0	0	0	250	60000	180000	250000	OTTAWA
SZDUSKI C & CO	ROLLING MILL	291	STEAM	250	1500000	50000	180	0	20	0	230	70000	367000	500000	TORONTO
HAMILTON WILLIAM	FOUNDRY/MACHINE SHOP	294-309	STEAM	50	100000	500000	200	0	0	0	200	100000	35000	600000	TORONTO
CHILDS & HAMILTON	BOOTS & SHOES	174	STEAM	0	40000	50000	134	60	13	3	190	65000	85000	160000	TORONTO
DAMER KING & CO	BOOTS & SHOES	174	STEAM	15	20000	50000	105	60	1	15	191	50000	150000	250000	TORONTO
MCARTHUR F	FURNITURE	261	STEAM	10	50000	50000	135	20	10	0	165	50000	50000	125000	OSHAWAVILLE
SIBBS J & CO	CABINET'S	261	STEAM	50	40000	100000	160	15	6	0	161	55000	100000	165000	OSHAWA
GUELPH S M CO	SEWING MACHINES	315-E	STEAM	10	65000	50000	157	0	27	0	180	75000	60000	204000	OSHAWA
MCPHERSON JOHN	BOOTS & SHOES	174	STEAM	25	75000	100000	114	65	16	0	175	50000	120000	200000	HAMILTON
MUNYER ROSE & CO	PRINTING/INDUSTRY	266/287-B	STEAM	25	40000	60000	70	100	1	1	123	48000	50000	160000	TORONTO
CANADIAN ENGINE CO	RAILWAY CARS/ENGINES	326/315-E	STEAM	20	200000	50000	169	0	4	0	173	75000	201000	304000	KINGSTON
STANOUR & COMPANY	SAW MILL	251	STEAM	110	60000	160000	150	0	0	0	110	36000	154000	220000	PRENTON
HAMILTON BROTHERS	SAW MILLS	251	WATER	150	100000	0	130	0	26	0	156	27000	420000	540000	WATERLOO
RANDALL FARR & CO	WOOLLEN/COOLEN MILL	180	WATER	100	70000	175000	45	44	17	57	163	35000	140000	200000	MESSELER
GILLIES & McLAREN	SAW MILL	251	WATER	110	20000	37000	150	0	10	0	163	35000	75000	120000	CARLETON PLACE
SWART JAMES	FOUNDRY/STEVE FCY	294/307-B	STEAM	30	30000	50000	125	0	25	0	150	45000	50000	140000	BROOKVILLE
CALVIN & BRACK	RAFT BUILDING	327	STEAM	0	30000	0	140	0	16	0	156	40000	20400	150000	GARDEN (S, LAC)
PATERSON JOHN & CO	BOOTS & SHOES	174	STEAM	0	17000	15000	100	50	4	0	154	31200	100000	160000	TORONTO
GOODERHAM & WORTS	DISTILLERY	119-D	STEAM	110	350000	200000	150	0	0	0	150	60000	450000	1470000	TORONTO
DICKSON E	SAW MILL	251	WATER	14	50000	50000	150	0	0	0	150	36250	42000	75000	PETERBOROUGH

*** Totals ***

3633 4421000 4349000 6346 1163 626 231 9388 2356750 5527750 10937654

Source: URBIND 71 databank, compiled from 1871 manuscript census schedules.

likely interest to labour historians have been calculated from the basic data. The percentage of each town's population employed in all industrial establishments is given in the PERCENT column. The mean percentage for all 92 urban centres was 15.2, ranging from a high of 69.8 in Deseronto to a low of 5.7 in Amherstburg. The average industrial wage for each town is stated in the AVWAGE column, and varies considerably around a mean for all towns of \$259.67. In table 2, the urban centres have been listed in order of AVWAGE. A full interpretation of variation in wage rates would require more detailed analysis of wage rates by individual sectors within a town, but the range of variation suggests the value of further research. Middle-sized towns which combined PERCENT and AVWAGE values above the mean, such as Oshawa, Brantford, Guelph, Ingersoll, Dundas, Gananoque, Galt, and Peterborough, as well as the larger centres of Hamilton and St. Catharines, seem to warrant more attention.

In the next phase of the research project, we are taking two directions. One is to study the feasibility of extending the data bank to include rural Ontario as well as the other three provinces enumerated in 1871, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The other is to apply statistical analysis techniques to the records in the data bank to explore various questions in the history of Canadian social and economic development. Was Ontario industry in 1870 characterized by "concurrent phases of capitalist growth," the variable paths of development of different sectors found by Laurie and Schmitz of the Philadelphia social history project, and also by McKay in the Halifax baking industry?⁸ What can we learn about seasonality and wage rates in various types of enterprises and regions, and what of the participation of women and children in the industrial work force?

A research report is available, describing objectives and procedures, and outlining the databank's potential. Compiled by Elizabeth Bloomfield, Gerald Bloomfield, Janine Grant, with Peter McCaskell, it is called *Industry in Ontario Urban Centres, 1870: Accessing the Manuscript Census* (1986). The report may be ordered from Publications, Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario Canada, N1G 2W1 for \$7.00 (including handling and postage).

⁸ B. Laurie and M. Schmitz, "Manufacture and Productivity: The Making of an Industrial Base, Philadelphia, 1850-1880," in T. Hershberg, ed., *Philadelphia: Work, Space, Family and Group Experience in the 19th Century* (New York 1981); McKay, "Capital and Labour," 64-6.

Table 2
Ontario Urban Centres in 1870:
92 places with industrial labour force of at least 100

TOWN NAME	POP	ESTAB	CAPITAL	EMPLOY	WAGES	RAWMAT	PRODUCTS	PERCENT	AVERAGE
PETROLIA	2651	48	98750	187	76376	297156	486342	7.1	608.43
OSHAWA	3185	41	379450	732	259350	612776	1095780	23.0	354.30
WHITBY	2732	46	134400	245	86249	104374	253990	9.0	352.04
PORT DALHOUSIE	1081	20	29815	143	48720	64630	133065	13.2	340.70
BRANTFORD	8107	98	798295	1258	424602	916309	1835577	15.5	337.52
PRESCOTT	2617	39	140200	303	100888	170373	479184	11.6	332.96
QUELPH	6878	109	466715	1131	376487	1057379	1901500	16.4	332.88
CHATHAM	5873	95	260540	716	234481	465325	916980	12.2	327.44
CLINTON	2316	26	113300	159	50382	177865	279530	7.9	316.87
BARRIE	3398	74	144065	410	128658	120350	346000	12.1	313.80
INGERSOLL	4022	69	314090	627	196917	523194	856212	15.6	310.87
OKAVILLE	1684	26	104550	171	52352	71100	158853	10.1	306.15
LONDON	15826	216	1028834	2295	699287	1999254	3551520	14.5	304.70
FERGUS	1666	42	151210	281	89128	309960	511402	16.9	302.95
THOROLD	1635	39	61200	165	49973	281651	372806	10.1	302.87
NEWMARKET	1760	40	79200	189	57084	261354	375570	10.7	302.03
MILTON	891	30	56420	127	38120	53925	125863	14.2	300.16
ST CATHARINES	7864	158	506352	1416	425052	1731661	2584700	18.0	300.12
ACTON*	700	23	77900	115	34402	107431	179517	16.4	299.15
HAMILTON	26716	326	1578164	4785	1375611	2900141	5634044	17.9	287.50
CALLEDONIA	1246	42	69102	216	61993	87031	188810	17.3	287.00
GALT	3827	74	395726	796	226843	663293	1217110	19.8	285.00
SMITHS FALLS	1150	43	135425	328	93241	238186	463668	28.5	284.27
BOWMANVILLE	2034	60	133370	417	118170	342744	563035	13.7	283.38
PETERBOROUGH	4611	96	311595	759	211222	397949	775595	16.5	282.30
TILSONBURG*	1000	31	49125	117	32970	72201	147816	11.7	281.79
WINDSOR	4249	75	237400	446	124797	375663	659391	11.0	279.81
TORONTO	56092	562	4428650	9653	2696531	7098197	14544699	17.2	279.30
SIMCOE	1856	57	66705	212	58906	89331	202935	11.4	277.86
PORT HOPE	5114	77	263450	560	156273	530193	875000	10.9	277.27
WATERLOO	1594	52	116735	218	60312	412627	616835	13.7	276.66
QITAWA	21745	233	1095420	3211	880057	2565976	4176616	14.7	276.16
HITCHELL	1882	38	76210	279	75946	207129	366565	15.5	272.21
BROCKVILLE	5102	110	185089	706	192122	290206	628315	13.8	272.13
BARROWDUE	2320	49	200920	419	113760	280135	654170	20.7	271.50
DUNDAS	3135	64	495430	682	182575	461824	982477	21.7	267.70
MORRISBURG	1156	36	48685	133	35486	248150	332807	11.5	266.81
BRAMPTON	2090	64	96965	273	72739	154179	285780	13.1	266.44
SARNIA	2929	55	108185	222	59146	140890	371153	7.6	266.42
ORILLIA	1322	35	77565	181	47744	53633	120320	13.7	263.78
PARIS	2640	45	186120	410	108120	547082	844367	15.5	263.70
KINGSTON	12407	158	534155	1317	347209	721795	1362756	10.6	263.64
COBOURG	4442	87	285550	501	131545	411149	642217	11.3	262.56
GOODRICH	3954	65	196562	388	101823	438326	892230	9.8	262.43
WATERLOO*	1500	31	57800	123	32010	97265	173310	8.2	260.24
ST THOMAS	2197	72	45325	289	74881	154973	331151	13.1	259.10
BRADFORD	1130	36	85675	152	39345	115832	232900	13.4	258.84
ELORA	1498	41	119230	162	41760	354018	479358	10.8	257.78
GARDEN ISLAND	762	2	0	195	50000	38000	180000	25.6	256.41
STRATHROY	3232	62	154150	437	111120	266820	504400	13.5	254.28
WOODSTOCK	3982	72	166595	453	114200	312357	510865	11.4	252.40
PEMBROKE	1508	28	49700	130	32240	93794	297660	8.6	248.00
CORNWALL	2033	22	49410	126	31325	82263	143243	6.2	247.02
TRENTON	1796	34	78247	270	66472	189553	302763	15.0	246.19

MANUSCRIPT INDUSTRIAL SCHEDULES — 1871 CENSUS 131

TOWN NAME	POP	ESTAB	CAPITAL	EMPLOY	WAGES	RAUMAT	PRODUCTS	PERCENT	AVERAGE
PILTON	2361	73	93570	318	77814	104558	268944	13.5	244.70
KINCARDINE	1907	47	80450	193	47103	113161	205180	10.1	244.06
MERRICKVILLE	923	32	76175	187	45637	135905	199439	20.2	244.05
AURORA	1132	27	66950	160	36681	93201	179650	14.1	241.76
WINDSOR	4253	49	67320	253	61148	136453	265044	5.9	241.69
WELLAND	1130	37	47595	132	31816	63989	126930	11.7	241.03
COLLINGWOOD	2829	49	192000	327	78796	235537	434553	11.5	240.97
STRATFORD	4313	82	193650	538	128482	409107	720206	12.5	238.81
BELLEVILLE	7305	102	285970	914	213748	325998	810465	12.5	233.86
HESPELER	797	22	145655	266	62025	266612	431303	33.4	233.18
ORANGEVILLE	1458	48	29280	173	40140	108510	200579	11.9	232.92
IRQUOIS	781	31	57150	120	27756	55219	108330	15.4	231.00
ST MARYS	3120	71	122220	394	91359	270100	457126	12.7	230.70
NEWCASTLE	1109	30	36650	194	44721	102485	253535	17.5	230.52
CARLETON PLACE	1205	31	104350	333	76756	212975	357801	27.6	230.56
RENFREW	865	44	61450	129	29583	144334	217693	14.9	229.33
GEORGETOWN	1282	35	107150	283	64818	256300	386318	22.1	229.04
PERTH	2375	77	119047	321	73006	134199	283836	13.5	227.43
OWEN SOUND	3369	81	108947	320	72742	161646	338792	9.5	227.32
ALMONTE	2080	46	326051	553	125708	438423	645050	26.6	227.32
SEAFORTH	1368	48	129100	246	55296	207737	349160	18.0	224.78
NAPANEE	2967	62	127415	383	85936	307714	514200	12.9	224.37
MERRITTON*	1000	10	373500	429	76136	264060	596917	42.9	224.09
PORT PERRY*	1500	31	90500	335	74810	104297	246405	22.3	223.31
STIRLING	779	42	26148	106	23544	75449	125990	13.6	221.11
YORKVILLE	2203	27	75210	151	32616	56658	136603	6.8	216.00
PRESTON	1408	52	150396	245	52080	242480	404388	17.4	212.57
AMHERSTBURG	1936	27	40850	110	23070	106297	140865	5.7	209.73
CAMPBELLFORD*	1000	23	43385	104	21744	110997	154199	10.4	209.08
STAYNER*	1000	26	31090	107	22270	89850	147772	10.7	208.13
LANARK	743	38	70622	148	30553	109350	177262	20.0	206.42
NEAFORD*	1200	41	60576	128	25345	124835	198820	10.7	198.01
LISTONEL	976	35	82650	157	29178	77878	131405	16.1	185.85
ARMSTRONG	1714	22	91100	190	34974	129544	195511	11.1	184.67
BERLIN	2743	68	92360	307	55675	165525	323619	11.2	181.35
HAWKESBURY	1671	39	145150	301	53590	487224	673405	18.0	178.64
NEW HAMBURG	1033	26	39195	116	20080	127659	192650	11.6	173.10
DESERONTO*	500	6	64300	349	58310	97615	196554	69.8	167.08
*** Total ***	339659	5770	2124026	50257	13809905	37610835	68789603		

*Unincorporated centre.

Source: URBIND 71 databank, compiled from 1871 manuscript census schedules.

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Material History Bulletin

The Bulletin publishes research based on the use of material evidence in studying Canada's past. Articles of interest to labour history have included:

Michel Larose, *Les contrats d'engagement des travailleurs forestiers de la Mauricie*;

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Marilyn J. Barber, *Below Stairs: The Domestic Servant* (No. 19).

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