

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 28, 1923

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A GREAT FORWARD STEP

At last St. John is to have a vocational high school. The Board of School Trustees has decided upon this course. When it is said that the estimated cost of the building is \$380,000 and of equipment \$100,000, this does not tell the whole story. The provincial and federal grants will pay a quarter of the cost of the building, half the cost of equipment, and sixty per cent. of the salaries of the instructors when the school is in operation. This means that the city would get in grants for building and equipment, on the architect's estimate, nearly \$180,000 which it would not get if it decided to erect a school building not vocational. And another school building it must erect as soon as possible.

But there is good reason to believe that the proposed \$380,000 can be shaved, and the total cost somewhat reduced from the architect's figures. In any case, a new school building must be provided, and by erecting the one most needed, a vocational high school, the city can get the provincial and federal grants. It would be utterly to turn down that offer, especially since the city is so far behind even small towns in Canada in the matter of vocational training.

New Brunswick is behind all other provinces in the percentage of boys and girls of high school age in secondary schools. In 1921 this province had only 615 enrolled in secondary courses per 100,000 of population while Nova Scotia had 1852, and the province is very far behind the central and western provinces in this respect. St. John has never made fair provision for the training of those young people who go out into industry, and they are ninety per cent. or more of the school pupils. It is time for a change, and the provincial and federal grants provide the opportunity. Dr. H. S. Bridges, superintendent of city schools, now unhappily withdrawn through illness from his former tasks, has expressed the hope that he might see St. John secure a vocational high school, because he as perhaps no other recognizes the great need. Chairman McKenna of the School Board is right when he says St. John is not keeping pace with the times, and that vocational is as important as cultural education in a community. The expenditure now proposed is not for ornamental purposes but to fit boys and girls for a life-work. It is a right they cannot be denied without shame to those who would put dollars first and the future manhood and womanhood second in their estimate of values. The citizens should heartily and openly endorse the policy now adopted by the School Board. Our young people must go out into life to compete against others who have had the advantage of vocational training. Let us be fair to them, and to our own reputation as a people who believe in education for the young.

A WESTERN VIEW

The Saskatoon Star regards the present political situation in Canada as most unsatisfactory, and as acute by the result of the Halifax and Kent by-elections. It says:—
"It is a situation which demands the intelligent co-operation of all parties; in a word, good government. But good government is impossible in Canada, it is not understood; it is unknown. Our politics is based on a conflict of psychology, and the psychology of nine million people cannot be changed in a year or in a decade. As long as we look upon politicians in about the same way that we look upon prize-fighters; as long as we demand that our politicians be scrappers, our politics will be scrappy. The point is that we now have a national problem too complex and too stupendous to be solved by verbal conflict; certainly too great to be solved by a weak government. We can therefore expect that the government will become weaker and weaker until it is swept out of power by an overwhelming majority resulting in a virtual dictatorship. This could be accomplished almost at once if the low-tariff Liberals and the Progressives could come to terms; this remains, however, apparently an impossible dream. While the Conservatives are undoubtedly 'on the make' their leaders have not yet shown adequate signs of a constructive vigor likely to weld all sections of Canada into such compact agreement as to make it possible for them to stage a comeback."
The Star regards it as unlikely that there will be an election before 1925, as the Government in its opinion will not wish to go to the country earlier, while—"It is not likely that the Conservatives want themselves to be placed in the unenviable position now occupied by the Liberal Government." This western view is interesting, whether it is found to be well-based or not.

SOLVING GREAT PROBLEMS

Mr. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, says that never before have commerce, industry, statecraft and the professions stood in such need of sane and sound thinking as they do now. A little serious thought upon world conditions today drives home to every mind the force of this remark. Every country has its problems of debt, unemployment and unrest. International relations have not been satisfactorily adjusted. The country that could produce more than at present faces the problem of a safe and profitable market. Both national and international unrest confront those who would find a way out of national and international troubles. The American continent north of Mexico has so few troubles as those which confront Europe, but is not and cannot be independent of Europe. The Dominion of Canada carries a tremendous burden of debt, and needs more people and more capital to develop resources and reduce the burden of debt. There is need of sane and sound thinking even at this distance from distracted Europe.

Mr. Gary makes another remark that is worth noting, in relation to the development of resources, cheaper production and enlarged trade. We quote:—
"Commenting on the \$3,000,000 gift of Mrs. Montgomery Ward and the \$500,000 gift of Mrs. Levy Mayer to Northwestern University Judge Gary said there was a significance in the fact that thinking people of means should tend more and more toward placing their wealth where it will confer an untold and permanent benefit upon humanity. Judge Gary, an alumnus of the university's law school, recently gave \$100,000 for a law library."
In the field of scientific research the universities can make a contribution to human welfare that would justify such gifts as those presented to Northwestern University. More and more in every department of human activity the appeal to science, and those persons who are enabled by such gifts to pursue their investigations without interruption and under favorable conditions are the real pathfinders in national progress and wealth. They and their work are not to be under-valued or derided. They discover new ways of producing wealth from natural resources.

The world's problems will be solved by sane and sound thinking, and scientific research followed by intelligent action in varied lines of industry. Money expended in research work ultimately pays large dividends.
It is interesting to note that a larger percentage of farmers in the United States own automobiles than any other class of the people. From a mental attitude which in the early years of the motor car made the farmer almost or quite hostile to the horseless vehicle, he has come to a recognition of the fact that it is a necessity to be viewed in the same light as other farm equipment. A report of the United States Department of Agriculture is thus summarized:—"In the Atlantic coast section it was found 59 per cent. of the farmers interviewed owned automobiles. In the middle Western section, which covers the Mississippi Valley and the plains west of Colorado, 75 to 80 per cent. owned machines. In Washington and Idaho 88 per cent. owned less than half of the farmers interviewed owned automobiles was in the dry farming wheat areas."

The news regarding Hon. W. S. Fielding is not encouraging. It is now feared he will not be able to take up again the work of the Finance Department. Such a result would be a serious matter for the Government, since Finance Ministers like Hon. W. S. Fielding are not easily to be found. There will be a universal hope that the venerable statesman's health may soon be at least partially restored.

St. John is to have in 1924 a palatial hotel for tourists and other visitors. Let us also be sure that the city gets the vocational school for its boys and girls.

FRENCH BUDGET BECOMES A LAW

Paris, Dec. 27.—France's general budget for 1924 was adopted by both the Chamber and Senate today, thereby achieving the object of the law, making the 1923 budget applicable to 1924 except for a few inevitable additions, that is to have the budget voted before the new year begins so as to avoid provisional credits which are a source of great expense. The 1923 budget was not voted before July.
The 1924 budget for reconstruction of the devastated regions, the cost of which theoretically is recoverable from Germany, has not yet been voted.

Would Be Interesting

Doe Cook's next book should be called "From Pole to Pen; or, Gum and Oil Drama"—Brooklyn Eagle.

Press Comment

EMPIRE SETTLEMENT.

(Victoria Colonist).

New South Wales has elaborated a scheme of land settlement which promises productive and satisfactory results. A contingent of 6,000 farmers is to be formed under the Empire Settlement Act, drawn from Great Britain, and the first instalment of 200 is to go forward at once. Upon arrival in New South Wales the immigrants will be placed in training farms for three months, trained in local conditions, or in rudimentary agriculture, according to their necessities. This will be followed by supervisory training on a farm allotted, or, if further experience is necessary, by employment with private farmers for about six months on wages. The farms to be allotted will promote stock and horticulture, and dairy farms (dairy and mixed), including sheep raising, maize, lucerne, wheat and vegetable growing. Farms will be allotted on settlers being certified by an examining committee that they are fit to hold them. The areas will vary from a few acres in the irrigated elements up to 300 acres in dairying and 500 in wheat or mixed farms.
The settlers selected must have an initial capital of \$2,500 of their own. The Government of New South Wales will then, after the training period, place them on prepared farms and advance the necessary further money for stock and equipment, the requirements being arranged on very easy terms extending over a prolonged period. It is not only New South Wales that is adopting this practical plan. The State of Victoria is also seeking settlers with a capital of \$1,500, who on their arrival will be placed on prepared farms on similar terms. The example in the case of Victoria, however, agricultural experience in the applicants is essential. Australia is making the greatest bid for agricultural settlers in her history, and what is more, she is getting them and getting the right type, and altogether from Great Britain. She is setting Canada a notable example of what could be done in this country if our Government was sufficiently alive to the religious revival of the situation.

RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.

(Saskatoon Star).

A year or so ago it was predicted that the world would soon experience a great religious revival. Out of British Columbia, hundreds of Russells are moving toward Victoria, there to await the Lord's coming, scheduled to take place now within a year or so. They are serious folk, clean-living and well-behaved, and above all, courteous.
Down in the United States there is a "out of British Columbia" movement, over the question of virgin birth—a question in which the Messiah himself does not appear to have expressed any opinion. They are serious folk, clean-living and well-behaved, and above all, courteous.
Over in Great Britain, the "high church" will pass a fiery cross from parish to parish during 1924 and gain-claimant continues prayer for the salvation of the country.
Around in India, a movement political in effect but religious in character is being led by "Gandhi," a man who resides for the present in a British prison.
These things sound a bit queer to people of the modern church, but they are not. They are not questions. But they need not disturb themselves; all these things are merely signs of a new religious era. Religion is only in danger when it is so stagnant and lifeless that it can't ten inspire men to argue about it. That period is now happily over, and the stirrings we see today presage a revival of unprecedented depth and almost universal extent.

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY NEEDED.

(Vancouver Sun).

Dr. R. M. Tory, president of the University of Alberta, says that if research work were given free scope in Canada for 20 years, its findings would have value equivalent to the national debt.
Dr. Tory is, if anything, conservative in his estimate.
Taking into account the cost of monopolies in scientific knowledge and the foreign countries, the immense waste in the marketing of our natural resources, the loss to Canadian industry through our failure to utilize all by-products, Canada could save close to a billion dollars a year by instituting some national system of scientific and industrial research.
And the only national system of research that would prove successful would have to be in the form of a post-graduate science university where post-graduate students in science could work for higher degrees along supervised lines. Under such a system, the brains and energies of science would be made available, at low cost, for periods of from three to five years.
Much has been said about scientific research in Canada for the past five years. It is time to do something.

THE LATEST MURDER.

(Moncton Transcript).

Another cold-blooded murder is reported from St. John, and it is to be hoped the authorities will succeed in finding the criminal with little delay. It would be too much to say that St. John is lying down and admitting that the murderous gunman and the thug are stronger than the community, but no community can afford to move slowly in the search for its criminals, or to ignore the individual's right to protection from the law-breakers. St. John should have no stone unturned in its effort to find the person or persons responsible for its latest murder. The great majority of its citizens are law-abiding and keenly desirous of having everything possible done to suppress lawlessness of any kind. They will be disappointed if the Whitehead tragedy continues to be another mystery.

A MISSOURI INNOVATION.

(Macon Chronicle-Herald).

Four men of Shelby County have agreed to let their whiskers develop until March 1. Personally we're on the side of the men who want to grow a crop of whiskers. This was a virtue country when all the men who could grow one had a beard. Grant wore whiskers. So did Lee and Stonewall Jackson and J. E. Stewart—fighters all. During the days about the battle of Waterloo it was the mark of distinction for a soldier to wear a beard. Sometimes the soldiers would get mad at civilians for wearing hair on their faces. "Vanity Fair," by Thackeray, tells about it. It may be these four Shelby County martyrs have started something.

AUTUMN BY TEN MILE.

(Clifton Scotland in New York Herald).

Leaves of amber floating, falling,
By the Ten Mile shore,
And a lonely tree toad calling
From a sycamore.

Now a dash and now a daily
Underneath the mountain sky—
Silver flash and snowy sally,
Runs the Ten Mile by.

With a magic in its fluting,
Thus it darts and dips along,
In its nimble flow transmuting
All the air to song.

On its coppled banks we tarried
Till the drooping of the day;
Hues of gold and damask married
Faded into gray.

Then with the first star unfolding
Happy homeward wended we,
With the liquid music holding
This in memory—

Leaves of amber floating, falling,
By the Ten Mile shore,
And a lonely tree toad calling
From a sycamore.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

A Happy Family.

"Tee," said the principal of the young ladies' school to the proud parent, "you ought to be proud to be the father of such a large family, all the members of which appear to be devoted to one another."
"Large family! Devoted!" gasped the father in amazement. "What on earth do you mean?"
"Why, yes, indeed," said the principal, beaming through her glasses, "no fewer than eleven of Doris's brothers have been here to take her out for walks, and she tells me she expects the tall one with the blue eyes again tomorrow."

Can't Miss Them.

First Guest—"I'm sure I don't know why they call this hotel 'The Palms,' do you?"
Second Guest—"I've never seen a palm anywhere near the place."
First Guest—"You'll see them before you go. It's a pleasant little surprise the waiter keeps for the guest on the last day of their stay."—Watchman-Examiner (New York).

Good News.

"Look here, waiter," said the angry customer, "I have just found this trouser button in my soup."
"Oh, thank you," exclaimed the waiter, with a beaming smile, "thank you, indeed, sir, I couldn't think what had become of it."

Starting Early.

Aunt Susan—The judge's baby is following right in his father's footsteps.

Uncle Ben—What makes you think so?

Aunt Susan—Why he pronounced his first sentence yesterday—Life.

Noblesse Oblige.

An impetuous tenant had not paid the rent for a month for several months. "Look here," said the landlord, "I'll meet you half-way. I am ready to forget half of what you owe!"
"Right," replied the tenant. "I'll forget the other half."

No, Doctor Didn't Order 'Em.

Doctor—Has your husband had any lucid intervals since my last visit, Mrs. Jinks?
Mrs. Jinks (with dignity)—He's had nothing except what you ordered—Answers.

It Often Does.

"Not all human men fall in love with their stenographers."
"I guess that surprises a good many stenographers."—Judge.

CARLETON UNION LODGE CELEBRATES

350 Masons Present at Banquet—Officers are Chosen.

More than 350 Masonic members attended the election of officers and grand banquet of the Carleton Union Lodge, No. 8, last evening in the Masonic Hall, West St. John. One hundred of those present were officers from the Montserrat and the Minnedosa, who enjoyed the privileges of the lodge, and the oldest of the lodge, Dr. W. L. Ellis, past most worshipful master, was the installing official for the occasion.
The election resulted as follows: Most worshipful master, Hedy S. Bissett; senior warden, Charles H. B. Wright; junior warden, Harold W. Ketchum; chaplain, Rev. W. A. Robbins; treasurer, Enoch Thompson; secretary, Dr. W. L. Ellis; senior deacon, Ernest P. Bissett; junior deacon, Charles A. Emmerson; senior steward, W. Percy Barnhill; junior steward, C. Leonard Jenkins; director of ceremonies, J. Harold McKinney; inner guard, G. Fred S. Noble; Tyler, Harry Lilley; J. P. M. W. Leonard Adams.
The orchestra from the Montserrat gave several selections for the pleasure of the assembly. Rev. W. A. Robbins to the King and Craft, was moved by Hedy S. Bissett, the new most worshipful master, and responded to by W. L. Adams. The table was resplendent with a profusion of roses and chrysanthemums.

INJUNCTION IN CHATHAM CASE

Chatham, Dec. 27.—(Special.)

The preliminary hearing in the Chinese restaurant case took place yesterday at St. John before Mr. Justice Grimmer of the Chancery Division of the Supreme Court. An interim injunction had already been obtained by Messrs. McEade and Barry, solicitors for the plaintiff, Wong Ning, whereby the defendant, Fong Chong, was restrained from operating a restaurant in the town of Chatham pending this hearing.
R. B. Hanson, C. C. M. P., appeared for the plaintiff yesterday and the defendant not being represented a final injunction was granted.

BOOK REVIEW

FICTION.

The Enchanted April, by the author of Elizabeth and Her German Garden, Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1923.

In 'The Enchanted April' the reader shares a little of the magic spell which a month in an Italian villa on the Mediterranean casts over its four incongruous inhabitants. Of actual plot there is little; of atmosphere there is enough to soften the outlines agreeably and to give life to characters which are sketched rather than drawn, suggested through contrast and implication rather than pictured through exact definition and description. This entertaining book tells, with sustained lightness of touch, of the enchantment wrought by pure beauty on four English women, previously unknown to each other, and assembled for the month of April under one romantic roof, drawn thither by a common desire to escape from their habitual environments.

The fantasy tale is entertaining, humorous, shrewdly sophisticated, and unmistakably European. It would make an agreeable traveling companion on a rainy day. The book is a volume to read aloud to a not too seriously minded friend, or to pick up in a country-house on a rainy Sunday. Mrs. Wilkins and Mrs. Fisher would probably prove far more amusing companions than we should be likely to come across on any house-party. Lady Caroline contributes a large share of magic to the enchanted April; and to lovely Rose we feel less inclined to cry "Go" than "Stay!"
The quality of the humor is unlike the brand which enlivens an American book. At moments an apprehensive Puritan might fear that he was being hurried over this ice which, if it should break, would plunge him into unsuspected depths of continental wickedness; but a more seasoned explorer feels perfect confidence that, even if the ice should give way (which it never does), the water would be scarcely ankle-deep. After all the depth of the water is more important than the strength of the ice.

Some of the author's references to men in general and husbands in particular recall the days of the "Man of Wrath" when Elizabeth was as much at home in her German garden as she is today on her Italian terrace; but through the enchantment of environment even men of Wrath turn to husbands of tender solicitude. The traditional words which close a fairy tale might well prove the benediction which settles the actors in this sprightly and sophisticated fantasy.

In putting down the finished volume she has the agreeable sense of having slipped a glass of fruit Italian wine, light, sparkling, and effervescent, pleasantly aromatic and mildly warming. Perhaps after the bubbles have settled there is not quite so much wine in the glass as we had thought, but at least there are no bitter lees. The refreshing draft has stimulated without intoxicating. It is as different from German beer as it is unlike American grape-juice.

A. L. GRANT.

JUVENILE.

Crossings: A Fairy Play. By Walter de la Mare. Music by C. Armstrong Gibbs. Illustrations by Doris P. Lathrop. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

One would expect to find in a fairy story or play by Walter de la Mare charm, and they are all here, along with other interesting and delightful qualities, in his fairy play "Crossings." The book takes its title from the name of a little old house which a maiden aunt has bequeathed to the children of her widowed brother on the condition that they live in it for a fortnight, entirely on their own responsibility, with benefit to themselves and others. There are four children, the oldest a girl of 17, the youngest a tiny girl of 7, and the others, a girl and a boy, astraitened between. They have been very unfortunate, and it is with much joy and some apprehension that they make the change to the little house beside a

wood. Strange and eerie, and sometimes creepy, but always delightful, things happen there. There are fairies and a ghost and all manner of real people and the spirit of romance hovers in the form of a candlemaker, and the young people, when this left to themselves, develop amazingly and everybody has a good time. It is the spirit in which the play is written, the spirit of wild, free and beautiful imagination that at one moment takes heading flights of fantasy and at the next soberly walks the earth in realistic fashion that makes the play so charming. Miss Lathrop's illustrations, from pen-and-ink drawings, are dainty and lovely and in harmony with the spirit of the text.

SCIENCE.

New Lands, by Charles Fort; Boni & Liveright.

Those who read that curious work, "The Book of the Damned," will remember that its author had much to say about natural phenomena which appear to indicate the existence of life on other planets and the attempts of those planets to communicate with us. He dealt with facts which he charges science with dodging—facts which are excluded and therefore "damned." In this book, he carries that idea much farther and produces a mass of data, much of which will promptly be challenged by scientific authorities. According to his "evidence," the earth does not revolve on its axis nor move in an orbit, but is absolutely stationary; the stars are not celestial bodies, but are openings in a substance which surrounds the earth. The other planets are much nearer us than science has admitted. All this sounds rather crazy, but readers of Mr. Fort's earlier book know well that he has managed to make this one exceedingly entertaining.

Booth Tarkington, who would not condescend to be accused of falling for utter absurdities, writes an introduction. Perhaps the astronomers will feel so outraged that they will not accept Mr. Fort's challenge, but lay readers who are outside of scientific quarrels will feel themselves in debt to a man who can so stir their imagination.

WORK GOES ON AT KING TUT'S TOMB

Luxor, Egypt, Dec. 27.—Howard Carter and the others of his expedition hope to begin early next week the task of dismantling the sides of the great wooden canopy or outer shrine over the sarcophagus of the Pharaoh, Tutankhamen, thereby fully disclosing to view the interior of the shrine which is covered with a gold-encased linen hall, hung over a wooden rack at either end.

Mr. Carter succeeded today in removing the second of the three sections of which the curved roof of the canopy consists. This, like the first section, is decorated with a series of protective devices in the shape of out-cast hawk's wings, executed in the boldest style.

A JAPANESE RED ATTACKED PRINCE

Tokio, Dec. 27.—The assailant of the Prince Regent, who was shot at in the capital today, has been identified as Daisuke Hamada, 27, son of a politician of minor note. He formerly was a student at Waseda University, but was driven by force of circumstances to work as a laborer.

In this occupation he became interested in Communism.

Hamada denied that he had any accomplices and told the police his act was committed in the hope that it would lead to a social revolution.

A PIONEER GOLD DISCOVERER DEAD

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 27.—George Brimston, Sheriff of Yukon territory, died in Yukon Hospital, Dawson, last night. Sheriff Brimston was a pioneer in the Klondike gold stampede and was the first to discover gold on the famous Sulphur Creek.

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Y. M. C. I. IS HOST TO OTHER SOCIETIES

Fraternity Night is Enjoyed by Many Visitors to Institute.

Fraternity Night, an annual affair at the Y. M. C. I., was observed at the institute last evening with the organization being host to members of various Catholic societies in St. John, including the two divisions of the A. O. H. E., St. John and Fairville, the C. M. B. A., St. John Baptist, Assumption Society, Holy Name Society, and the Catholic Truth Society. Dr. W. P. Broderick, president of the institute, who acted as chairman for the night, delivered an address of welcome in the auditorium to the large number present. Dr. Broderick expressed the hope that last night's observance would prove the first of a series.

The following programme then was carried out: Address, George McDonald, president St. John Baptist Society; address, Rev. C. P. Carleton, of Silver Falls; solo, W. J. Melody; piano selection, Gerald Flaherty; address, P. C. Sharkey, of Division No. 1, A. O. H. E.; recitation, J. J. Whelley; piano solo, Frank O'Hara; step-dance, Phillip Hunt; addresses, B. P. Griffiths, C. M. B. A.; Robert McDonald, Knights of Columbus; L. J. McDonald, Holy Name Society; E. J. Owens, president of the Assumption Society; William Walsh, president, Catholic Truth Society; Rev. William Duke, chaplain of the institute, and J. E. Quinn, past president. The accompanists for the evening were Dr. Broderick and Frank O'Hara. Selections by a newly-formed orchestra, composed of Frank Spittel, piano; F. C. Jennings, banjo, and Frank Kelly, traps, proved an enjoyable feature of the programme. Following the serving of refreshments, the National Anthem was sung.

The following committee had charge of the night: B. P. McCafferty, convener; E. Moran, E. J. Wall, Russell

NAVAL EXPERTS TO MEET IN LONDON?

Paris, Dec. 27.—Russia's refusal to attend the January meeting of the naval experts is likely to lead to the session being held in London instead of at Geneva.

League leaders are convinced that any European naval agreement or any application of the principles of the Washington armament convention would be ineffective unless they included Russia, which is regarded as potentially one of Europe's greatest naval powers.

If London is chosen as the place of meeting the sessions will be postponed until February.

MORE VICTIMS OF POISONOUS LIQUOR

New York, Dec. 27.—Holiday bootlegging liquor claimed two more victims today, bringing the list of dead since Christmas Day to seven, when James Marahan and Edward Churchill, laborers, died in Bellevue Hospital.

Six more beds in the alcoholic ward were occupied and the sufferers there numbered more than 50, many of them women. The total number of alcoholics taken to Bellevue since Monday totals 85. Other hospitals likewise reported a record of poison liquor victims.

A. B. C. CHINAMAN KILLED WITH AXE

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27.—Struck down to his death after a desperate struggle in which his legs and arms were wounded with an axe, Law Hon was murdered in his shack on the Island Highway some time on Friday night, the provincial police learned today. The crime is thought to have been committed by an assailant who lay in waiting in the three-roomed shack on the roadside for the worker to return from his fields.

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