# Our Public Buildings

*Gossipy Guide to the Departments in the Administration Building, and of the Men in the Civil Service There.*

There was no Yukon territory until years ago, and yet its public buildings can be pointed to with as easily on a par with those the northwest territories. The rush to the Klondike set in summer of 1897, and in the fall that year the government sent in first officials. They were brought Skagway in the Dominion gun Quadra, and the Hon. Clifford had the pleasure of going as with the government party into interior as he could. The party included of Major Walsh, Crown prosecutor Fred Wade, Private Secretary T. Dufferin Patullo, and other. Mr. Sifton accompanied Major Walsh as far as Tagish, the party going over the Dyea trail and returning by the White Pass in order to decide which route was the best for the building in of their large outfit.

Dyea was selected and Major Walsh and his party set out on their journey. They were, in fact, all winter on the trail, and did not arrive at Dawson until the following spring.

The first public buildings, as all old sourdoughs will remember, were log structures, as rude in every public experience as they could possibly be. They were enlarged from time to time, but remained wholly inadequate for the public service, for a couple of years. Recommendations were made to the government on the matter, and action would have been taken earlier, perhaps, but for the objections of the opposition party in the house to the large expenditure called for for what might prove to be simply a temporary mining camp. The actual revenue received from here, however, told its own tale, and the Liberal government determined to help forward the development and the investment of capital by a demonstration of its belief in the permanent resources of the country.

This was shortly after parliament had cut this part of the world off the Northwest Territories and had given it a name of its own. The first and public want was a postoffice. The new one of which we are so proud was opened to the public in December, 1900. Then followed the territorial court house in point of production, and last, the largest and most important of the public buildings, what is known as the administration building.

This was completed in December last year at a cost of $135,000. It has a frontage of 148 feet by a depth of 49 feet, and is two stories divided into twenty-five rooms, and an attic. The building is splendidly lighted and heated, and its wainscoting throughout of British Columbia pine gives it an air of solidity and dignity. The building, however, has been described at length before in these columns, and an effort will be made in this article to tell some thing of those who conduct the public business in it and the way this business is carried on.

Entering by the wide swinging doors fronting the great wide staircase, then turning to the right down the corridor, the last room on that floor is handsomely carpetted and is adorned with portraits of statesmen on its walls. There are a few chairs in the lofty room and in the center a big desk at which sits a soldierly man, the acting commissioner, Major Wood. The grandson of a president of the neighboring republic, the son of a famous general, he is unaffected and democratic in his reception of the many who call to see him every day in this room, and in his six months' occupancy of this high position he has added to the esteem he already won throughout the territory in command of the Mounted Police forces here. He was during the year promoted to be the assistant commissioner of the Mounted Police as a body, and therefore the second in rank of the whole official staff.

As usually, in order to see the acting commissioner, one has to pass through an ante-room, which is the office of Dr. J. N. E. Brown, the territorial secretary. He is the oldest one who has held this position, having come in with Commissioner Ross in 1898, from Toronto, and being the only official of that length of service who has not been outside the territory. He is at his desk every morning at ten o'clock, and from five o'clock to 5 or perhaps 5:30 is busily receiving the numerous callers and ushering them into the office of the acting commissioner. The doctor is a leader in the promotion of the literary societies of the city, and is himself a writer of no mean cleverness and originality. In a small room to the right is F. Marion Darrington, his stenographer, who saw something of civil service life in Ottawa before coming here.

Returning down the corridor the first office on the right is the correspondence bureau, which was organized at the time of the visit of Assistant Minister of the Interior Smart last summer. Here all the official letters are received and an entry made of the official number and its business, after which it is dispatched to the chief of the proper department. The correspondence bureau is in charge of Alfred Watson, who is a sourdough in the service, assisted by Norman Watt.

Next we come to the treasury department of the territory, otherwise known as the office of the comptroller. Here all the gold dust for export is weighed and boxed up under seal, and the obnoxious export tax collected. Here also all the fees paid for recording, &c., are turned in, with the rest of the revenues of the territory; and here is where all the employees of the territorial government receive their salaries. Under the control of John T. Lithgow the office is run on as systematic a scale as a bank. Mr. Lithgow has had lots of experience in the handling of government money. He was in the finance department at Halifax and Ottawa before coming here with Commissioner Ogilvie. He is fond of horses and has the appearance and hearty manner of an English country gentleman. His personal popularity is so well established that should we become a province he would make a good run for the chief executive.

William Lamb is the accountant in the comptroller's office, having been transferred from the gold commissioner's office to this position during the present year. He also has had a prior experience in the civil service. The assistant gold weigher and stenographer is George Ian McLean, a Scotchman by birth who came here from Hamilton, Ont., in September, 1899. Last week the acting commissioner showed his confidence in Mr. McLean by appointing him auditor of all accounts in connection with the city of Dawson.

Across the corridor is the office of the crown timber and land agent's office. Francis Zavier Gosselin was appointed to this position October 10th, 1898, and on October 12th last was promoted to be assistant gold commissioner. He was succeeded by Henri Milton Martin, who is a champion tennis player and well known in social circles. He came here from Vancouver in June, 1898, and was appointed to the civil service the following month. Harry Povah is Mr. Martin's chief clerk, and William Povah the stenographer. There are also three timber inspectors. D. A. McRae is the chief inspector and Charles Sylvester and Charles McLeod are his assistants.

At this same south end of the building on the next floor is to be found on the right the office of the legal adviser to the territorial council and public administrator. Fred. T. Congdon held this office until a year ago, when he was succeeded by H. W. Newlands. He came here from Regina and at the time of his appointment held the position of registrar of land titles in the Northwest Territories. His successor has not yet been appointed and the business of that office requiring his presence he left here for Regina early this month. During his absence Gold Commissioner Senkler is acting legal adviser.

As an assistant in this office is W. H. Harrison, private secretary of Hon. James Hamilton Ross, M. P. for Yukon. Mr. Harrison comes from Glencoe, Ont., and is a law student. The able and obliging clerk is Charles Victor Shannon, who came from Goderich, Ont., in August, 1899. C. B. Burns, formerly private secretary of Minister Fielding, is also an assistant in this office.

Next door is the office of A. J. Beaudette, who came her in midsummer last year specially commissioned by the Dominion government to report on hydraulic concessions and mining conditions generally. He is a young man well fitted by education for such an employment. He was educated in the leading mining schools of Germany, France and England, and has travelled considerably. After he had made his reports to the government he was retained here and the office created for him of Dominion mining engineer. He left here early this month for the California gold fields, to study the most modern methods of hydraulics there being operated.

On the other side of the corridor is the office of William Thibeau, the territorial engineer. For the last two years he has surveyed all the government trails and roads that have been built, and on many of the more important roads has superintended their construction. He received his early education in Quebec but has had a wide experience in railroad engineering and first came north in '97 with a party to survey a railroad line from Pyramid harbor. He has the record of being able to mush faster and at the same time to see more and remember more of the topographical features of the wild country he is passing through, than any engineer in the country. Among the best maps turned out by the territorial government are those which bear his name.

A. J. McPherson is his assistant. He was city engineer at Galt, Ont., before coming here. He has the credit of building the Whitehorse section of the winter trail from here to that town.

Next comes the office of Hugh McKinnon, officially the Preventive Officer, his duty being to prevent the manufacture of "hootch" and other infractions of the licensing law. In the course of his duty in hunting down the "moonshiners" he has captured several stills and specimens of "the worm which turns" out contraband liquor, the last one of which was unearthed right here in town. He shows great skill in making no arrests or raids until he is sure of his evidence, and hence is always pretty sure of a conviction. This comes of his long experience as chief of police in Belleville and other cities of Ontario, and by the same token he is so well known by the title of "Chief" that a great many people believe it to be his name. The Chief is a big man, with a big, broad chest, but even this is not broad enough to accommodate all the medals he won as the cha pion athlete of the Dominion. He is still an athlete and greatly interested in sports, and his energy and good counsel helped very materially in the organization and successful promotion of the Dawson Amateur Athletic Association.

C. C. McGregor, chief license inspector, whose office is next door, is also one of the directors of the athletic association. He came in from Brandon with Major Walsh, and was for a time mining inspector at McQuesten.

Passing through the territorial council chamber, which has already received the desks for the three additional members to be elected by the people next month, we come to the department of public works. S. A. D. Bertrand is the superintendent of public works for the Dominion government and superintendent of works and buildings for the territorial government. He came here in 1901, from St. Bonaparte, near Winnipeg, where he was a member of the local legislature.

D. Macfarlane, inspector and accountant of works and buildings, came here from Ottawa in 1898. He was mining for a couple of years, and has been in the employ of the government since May, 1901. L. J. Heaucock is the accountant of Dominion public works and was appointed in July, 1900. James H. Bell, clerk of works, comes from Ontario, but had spent twenty years in Manitoba and the territories before coming here in '98.

The gold commissioner's court comes next, with Gold Commissioner E. C. Senkler sitting as judge. The hearing of protests and disputes as to the ownership of claims goes on here all the year round, and so many cases are now listed that a protest entered now could not come up for hearing until next March or April. A proposition is being considered to remedy this, and some other features which are objectionable, by having a mining judge appointed who shall have no connection with the gold commissioner's office, and no other duties except that of judge in mining cases. The gold commissioner is at present also an appellate judge, and sits as such in cases of appeal from his own decisions. Mr. Senkler came here from Nelson, and was appointed gold commissioner October 26th, 1898. He is a young man, and it is not long since he was champion half-back of the Dominion. Throughout the civil service there are a number of notable athlets, but, with the exception of "Chief" McKinnon, probably none with as enviable a record as Mr. Senkler.

E. Wade Shepherd is the court stenographer, having been transferred during the summer from the territorial court, where he was court reporter. He is a popular man taking a broad interest in city affairs, and at last election was a candidate for alderman but withdrew during the complications between two of the tickets then in the field. He was invited to run in this election but declined to energetically support the candidature of Mr. McLennan for mayor.

John H. Walker, clerk of the gold commissioner's court, came here from Ottawa and received an appointment as stenographer August 14th, 1899, and was last year promoted to his present position and thereupon took to himself a wife. H. M. Brown, who was appointed July 1st, 1901, is the stenographer in this department.

Across the corridor from the gold commissioner's court is the draughting department, where there is a large corps of engineers and surveyors continually at work in addition to those in the field. C. C. Chattaway is the director of the department. He was previously examiner of surveyors in Manitoba, and on March 23, 1900, he was given the same position here. On May 27th, the following year, he was promoted to be director of surveyors.

R. P. Wilson, so well known as the Kipling reciter and as a leader of debate, has been in the country five or six years, but was appointed to his present position as draughtsman in 1901. He was educated for his profession in England, and spent some years in geographical surveys in Ashantee and Western Africa.

P. F. X. Genest is a provincial land surveyor of Quebec, who came in with Commissioner Ogilvie and is now engaged as a draughtsman.

Major Arthur D'Orsannens has been recently added to the draughting department.

Lars Netland, assistant surveyor and civil engineer, had considerable experience in the coal mines of Virginia. Harvey Fitzsymons is an assistant surveyor from Toronto, who joined the service about this time last year. James Gibbon and C. W. Macpherson are Dominion land surveyors, and A. J. McPherson has lately been transferred from the office of the territorial engineer to this department.

On the ground floor at this end of the building we have the clerical force of the gold commissioner's office. In the end room is the assistant gold commissioner, Francis Zavier Gosselin, who comes from Quebec and was crown timber and land agent until appointed to this position last October. The position had been vacant nearly a year, and meantime T. Dufferin Patullo, who is now the partner of Emil Stauf, having resigned from the service, did much efficient service as acting gold commissioner, and gave general satisfaction. Very little is known of Mr. Gosselin outside of his official capacity.

W. R. Little is the stenographer to the assistant gold commissioner. He came to Canada from Scotland, and was for a long time employed in the C. P. R. offices at Montreal. From there he obtained a position in the service at Ottawa and was sent up here in 1900.

O. S. Finnie, acting chief clerk, came from Ottawa and has been in this department since August '98. He has been acting chief clerk for about a month, or since Mr. Patullo's resignation.

Now we will take the windows, and the well known faces there. Gerald Petrie, the well known quartz recorder, is a man who can see as far into a piece of rock as the next man, and would look at a piece of paving stone with the same mingling of dignified courtesy and genuine good humor. He was appointed as far back as October 11th, 1900, and is one of the most sanguine men on the subject of this becoming a prosperous quartz camp as you can find. Such optimism on the part of an official has a stimulating effect from the fact that he speaks from knowledge. The work of his office is growing all the time, and what with a free government quartz mill and a proposed diamond drill for prospecting it is likely to increase even more rapidly during the coming year.

Across the way in the rotunda in which the placer recorder and the numerous clerks of the gold commissioner's department have desks, the jolly face of V. G. Grant is the first one. Since he has been recording claims there has been little kicking among those desirous of recording, and owing to the care with which the records are looked up, and his wonderful memory, there have been fewer grounds for the filing of protests. Mr. Grant came from Ottawa early in '98 but went mining for a time and only entered the government service in march 6th, 1901.

A. R. Boyes, the re-location recorder, came from Napanee, Ontario, and brought his family with him. The most important member of it was the soprano who recently charmed the whole city in the title role of "The Bohemian Girl."

J. C. McLagan is the son of a newspaper proprietor from Vancouver, and was appointed in June, 1900.

W. C. Noble came from London, Ont., where he was assistant registrar for the county of Middlesex. He left that to go mining in British Columbia, and came to the Klondike with the rush. He was appointed January 21, 1901.

W. R. Hamilton, the courteous transfer recorder, came here from Winnipeg in 1899.

F. C. Holden, clerk in the quartz department, was well known in the city before he joined the civil service. He is a son of Holden the large shoe manufacturer of Montreal, and was appointed May 7th, of this year.

W. G. Nash, entry clerk, came here from Ottawa in March, 1901. F. A. H. Fysh originated at London, Ont., but was with a prominent dry goods firm in Toronto before coming to the Klondike. He entered the service in 1899. F. C. Spence was appointed April 6th, 1901; P. G. Nash on March 19th, of the same year; A. W. McKay on December 24th, 1900, and Joseph Edmond Bolduc, one of the Ogilvie sourdoughs, was appointed October 10th, 1848.

G. D. Muroe was appointed messenger of the gold commissioner's office on Nov. 10th, 1900, and is a very obliging man. But the prince of messengers is John Le Claire, messenger to the commissioner's office. In rain or snow or sleet you will see John with his big official sabretache, trundling his bicycle at its topmost speed at any time during this last three years, and Dr. Brown says he is the most trusty and energetic of messengers. James Mulligan is an assistant messenger on the rolls but he really is the caretaker of the building, and the comfortable temperature of the many rooms, and the excellent manner in which they are kept in order, is due to his watchful attention.

Taken all in all the civil service force at the administration building is a fine body of men, and the Nugget takes pleasure in wishing everyone of them a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

### POSTOFFICE BUILDING.

The postoffice ranks next in importance among the splendid offices which the government has given to the country. This also was planned to meet the growing requirements of the community, and although the growth in postoffice business has been something enormous since the building was erected in 1900, yet still there is plenty of space in its upper floors, now occupied by the customs and other departments of the public service, to meet the expansion of the service in years to come. Recently more space was wanted for the money order and registered letter department, and the telegraph office was moved to an adjoining building and the money order office took its place. So that the postoffice now occupies the whole first floor of the building.

In a little office at the southeast corner is an office about the size of a packing case, which says "Postmaster" on the door. There is just room enough for a small desk and two small chairs. Here you may see Postmaster T. J. Hartman, when he is not helping the boys in the large room beyond to toss letters into their proper pigeon holes. He is a tall, straight man with handsome white hair and beard, and yet young enough to play hockey. He came here from Aurora, Ont., in October, 1898, when the postoffice was in the old administration building on First avenue.

The convenience of arrangement of the present postoffice is entirely due to Mr. Hartman. The arrangement of the stamping tables, sorting and letter boxes, is all upon a system that his experience has approved as the best time and labor server. Some months ago the government sent in a new Harrison mail rack, from which can be suspended any number of mail sacks mouths open, and the man making up the mail can toss the letters and packages into the proper sack without having to move from one to the other. Walter Hamilton is in charge of this department, and dispatches all the mails on their various routes. He is an old timer in the department.

Walter is the dispatch clerk, but all the rest of the force may be said to be receiving clerks. As soon as a mail arrives all hands turnto to get it distributed into the boxes. It does not matter at what hour of the day or night the mail arrives, whether it is week day or Sunday, office hours or holidays, the whole force is quickly there and within a few minutes the box mail is all distributed, and those having boxes have but a very short time to wait. The men on the force deserve great credit for this attention to public needs, more probably than they get either from the public or from the government. One cannot but think of the difference from the old days, when long lines would wait hours while the mail was being distributed, and some have been known to sell their places near to the distributing window and fall into line with the hope of doing it again. The change is wonderful in that respect.

But there has been little change in the faces of the clerks at the office windows. All of them are well-known, and well-esteemed for their unfailing courtesy, of which the postmaster gives the key note, and most of them are leaders in the social doings of the city. At the money order window there is Hugh McDiarmid, one of the "Men from Glengarry," assisted by Fred Hartman, a son of the postmaster who two years ago came straight here from South Africa, where he had been fighting the Boers as a Canadian volunteer. At the registered letter window there is G. D. Edwards, a brother of the well known doctor, and H. W. Betts. At the other windows are Cal Franklin, Robert Robert, Nelson Caron, who was the interpreter at the murder trials of La Belle and Fournier, and Ben Craig who came in with Governor Ogilvie in '98.

These men at the letter windows are the hardest worked of any postal clerks in the service. For the reason that this postoffice has the largest forwarding list of any one postoffice in the whole world. In fact Postmaster Hartman is pretty confident that it is larger than all the rest of the Canadian offices put together. The list contains no less than 12000 names of people who have left their addresses for their letters to be forwarded. It not only means all over the creeks, but practically all over the world, some of the names dating back to the time of the great rush. To have to carry such a burden upon the memory must be a weary job in itself.

This long list will of course in time, and as the country obtains a more settled community, grow less. But we will probably have for several years a large number who will be going outside on business or pleasure to spend the winter, and these will desire their mail to be forwarded to them. There will always be a large creek list, as new creeks are always being opened up and all the stampeders and prospectors will continue to have their letters addressed to this office and expect to have them forwarded. The clerks have to keep a good track of their movements in order to accommodate them.

In addition to this the postmaster receives an average of ten to a dozen letters by each mail of enquiry for some one or other who has neglected to write to his friends, and in nearly every instance the missing party is located, either alive or dead.

As it is the mails received and dispatched this year have been fifty per cent. larger than those of the preceding year, and this is not counting the winter second-class mail, which only began to come to any extent during this month. No second-class, or newspaper mail for Dawson has been dispatched from outside offices in any previous winter, but when it is generally known that second-class matter can now be mailed to the Klondike all the year round, the work of the postoffice will be materially increased. This newspaper mail is now beginning to come with regularity, and everybody is wishing Postmaster

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## LOCAL BREVITIES.

Boyd, of Caribou, came to the terday, and has gone to St. hospital for surgical treat-

endennen, who has undergone ation at the Good Samaritan is rapidly recovering and be discharged by nomination

ey McKinnon, who slipped ke his leg a couple of weeks his Christmas dinner lying ack at the St. Mary's hos- but his leg is doing splendid- e may be out on crutches in or so.

## REEK NOMINEES

### tion to be Held at Caribou omorrow Afternoon.

hole of the twenty-eight dele- the convention to be held at tomorrow, for the nomina- two candidates to the Yukon from District No 2, have n selected and it is believed ry one of them will be pres- he convention. This will be the Caribou hotel at Caribou d the proceedings will be t two o'clock.

are already several candi- the field, and there is an that at least one of these ive the support of the con- and only one nominated. G. aser and Engineer Tyrrell dy announced; it is definite that Arthur Wilson is a although he has nat an himself, and Mr. Lenox, of will be a candidate. Th ay receive the nomination o ention or the convention may man whose name has not h heard of in the recent po- ssip. It is known that Dan ray has many friends who petition asking him to run act the convention will no of good timber from which a selection. Max Landre ounces his candidacy this

### Mutiny at Sea

town, Dec. 5. — The British ester Castle, Captain Peat San Francisco, on July 26, ere today:

mmander reported that on r 2nd three American sea ined and Capt. Peattie and d officer were shot, the lat- ly, after an encounter with neers, who left the ship on

Peattie gives the names of neers, who left the ship or s and Turner. They were all n San Francisco.

ond officer, Mr. Nixon, was le attempting to rescue the but in the darkness the mut- nt a few planks and coops raft and launched from the ch was then about 300 miles the Pitcairn islands.

ptain searched for the raft day, but it was not sighted ined that it went to pieces

inaman had refused to give ashing.

said the man who had call "this is the right check,

all light," answered the , blowing a mouthful of er the towels he was iron- an all long. Check says tle man. You ugly big hicago Tribune.

### Looking for Treasure

rd the Pacific Mail Com- teamship Newport, which m San Francisco for Panama C. W. Johnson, a Boston r. He expects to return tanillo in a month or so greater part of the $1,600, that went out of circulation rs ago when the steamship Gate battered herself to the Mexican beach.

purchased the schooner a few weeks ago at a sher- He fitted her out with an wrecking apparatus, in- ving gear and lumber for ruction of substantial light- Luisa D sailed from San on November 12th for o. Johnson expects her to destination about the time and will commence opera- ght away. A Boston com- which a brother of Johnson rented, partly wrecked the Gate some years ago, but d the specie shipment, which have amounted to $1,600, hnson knows where to look wreck and thinks, with the machinery at his disposal, short work of retrieving sea money he is anxious to irculation.

gget acknowledgm the re- Christmas remembrances Northern Commercial Co., and H. C. Brand. Would gladsome day came oftener.

# QUESTION OF ANNEXATION

## Discussed at a Banquet in Ontario

### Mr. Justice McMahon Says Archbishop Ireland is Broad-Minded.

At a farewell banquet given by the Catholics of Ontario to Monsignor Falconio, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, Mr. Justice McMahon tendered the departing guest a few words of advice in a particularly happy vein. In proposing the toast of "Canada, Our Country," His Lordship said Canada possessed as happy, as prosperous and as contented a people as there were on the face of the earth. It was a land of great promise, and if there was wanting any demonstration of the fact, it was to be found in the request made a few days ago, and acceded to by the province of Ontario, that twenty thousand of the inhabitants of the United States should take possession of a few million acres of our territory. That had been acceded to with some reluctance by the premier of Ontario, Mr. Ross.

One would imagine, and properly imagine, said Mr. Justice McMahon, that there was a deep-laid scheme on our part to annex the remainder of the United States to the Dominion of Canada as soon as opportunity offered. The significance of the following portion of the speech lies in the fact that Mgr. Falconio has been transferred to Washington and that Archbishop Ireland, a very learned, broadminded, but somewhat ill-informed man in some respects, has expressed the opinion that the ultimate destiny of Canada lies in annexation to the United States.

Mr. McMahon hoped that when the apostolic delegate reached Washington he would not make a disclosure of our intentions to the president of the United States or to any of his cabinet. If that were done, it might cause the pleasant relations between Great Britain and the United States to become somewhat strained. "But if you should happen by any chance to meet Archbishop Ireland in Washington you may say to him that he has been forestalled, that the annexation which he prophesied is to take place in another way. The matter has been arranged between those who wish to become citizens of the Dominion of Canada and the premier of this province."

It is rather curious that the prophets who predict our ultimate destiny to be absorption by the United States are all men who know little or nothing about Canada from personal observation or experience. They sit in their studies and ponder upon the glories of their native land and conclude that there is no political force upon earth capable of withstanding her blandishments, or, if necessary, her aggressions. It is different with men of the world, who travel, and form their opinions from observation. We have never read of one of the latter class finding in this country any sentiment in favor of a change of flags. And the more the country develops the more inflexible the determination becomes to hold fast the independence we value so highly.

A wideawake American who lately traversed the whole of our northwest in quest of an opportunity for a promising investment confessed he was astonished that not a vestige of the feeling he had been told to look for was to be discovered "with a microscope" in any part of the country. The Americans who are rushing into Canada come for the purpose of establishing themselves and providing a home for their families. What is likely to be the most important consideration to the minds of these settlers? Is it not protection to life and property, civil freedom and perfect religious liberty and equality? The newcomers have had experience in the United States, and possibly in some other countries. The comparisons they are capable of drawing, we have not the slightest doubt, are distinctly favorable to the institutions in their new home. The soil is fruitful and yields them an abundance. Therefore they are happy and contented, and are as loyal to the flag which protects them, in some cases perhaps more so, than the natives who have had no such experience.—Victoria Times.

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