

CRITICAL SITUATION OVER

Minister Bowen Clothed With Full Powers to Effect a Settlement

FRANCE ALSO ENTERS THE FIELD

The Consent of Governments Will Rest on the Sufficiency of Any Guarantee That Can be Made, for the Faithful Discharge of Any Obligations That May be Assumed. France Demands That Her Claims be Recognized—Germany Thinks That an Apology is Due Her for Breach of Diplomatic Relations.

Washington, December 18.—President Castro has clothed Minister Bowen with powers to effect a settlement with Great Britain, Germany and Italy. Mr. Bowen simply awaits the consent of the state department to assume this task, assuming that the nations named are willing that he should undertake this work. It is believed that the critical phase of the Venezuelan difficulty is passed.

Whether the consent of the governments mentioned can be obtained, will, it is believed here depend entirely upon the sufficiency of any guarantee that can be given for the faithful discharge by President Castro of any obligations he may assume as the result of Mr. Bowen's efforts. The allies feel that they must be assured against the consequences of another revolution and the repudiation by the president who may follow President Castro in his undertakings.

The effort to induce the United States government to act as guarantor, it is safe to say, will not succeed, and it is beginning to appear that there is likely to be a mixed commission appointed to receive all Venezuelan customs and settling apart a certain portion for the maintenance of the Venezuelan government, disburse the remainder among the powers until their obligations are met.

The government of France has now entered the field as an active party in interest in the Venezuelan trouble. The French government has through its ambassadors and charges and ministers served notice upon the governments of Great Britain and Germany and Italy, and by way of information has also told Secretary Taft, that any plan made for the settlement of the claims against Venezuela must recognize the pre-eminence of the French claims. The French government has assurances from the other governments that any arrangement made would provide for the security of the French interests in the Venezuelan customs.

Interview With President Castro. Caracas, December 18.—Early this morning the correspondent here of the Associated Press saw President Castro and questioned him regarding the report published in the United States that the Anglo-German ultimatum had been accepted by Venezuela. The president became furious with rage and said there was no truth in the report. He added:

"The acceptance of an ultimatum cannot be coupled with arbitration. Besides the Anglo-American ultimatum is not, properly speaking, an ultimatum."

When asked if it was true that Venezuela does not propose to determine on any steps while the proposition for arbitration that the legation of the United States was charged to present to Great Britain and Germany remains unanswered.

Lopez Baralt, Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, has transmitted to United States Minister Bowen a document signed by President Castro as constitutional president of the republic and counter signed by himself as minister of foreign affairs in which Mr. Bowen is recognized as the only representative of Venezuela in the matter of effecting a settlement of the present difficulty.

According to the terms of this document, Mr. Bowen may act without restriction and he is to use all means possible to protect the interests of Venezuela. The document was submitted to correction last night and again this morning before delivery. The state department at Washington has been notified of the transmission of this instrument to Mr. Bowen.

Events here are dependent upon the receipt, through the state department of the answers of the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the proposal of arbitration advanced by Venezuela. These answers are expected tomorrow. Should they be favorable to the Venezuelan government, strongly desires that a conference of the ambassadors of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the United States be held in Washington and Mr. Bowen leave La Guaira December 23rd for the United States of the Red D. Line steamer Caracas, which is due to reach New York December 29th. Mr. Bowen will meet the ambassadors in Washington. No meeting to discuss terms of settlement is to be held on Venezuelan soil.

Germany Expects an Apology from Venezuela. Berlin, December 18.—Aside from the financial claims mentioned in her ultimatum, Germany expects some form of apology from Venezuela, for the diplomatic insults which the foreign office says are more serious and more gross than those of which Great Britain complains. The foreign office officials point out that Premier Balfour's remark yesterday evening in the British house of commons about Germany having other than financial claims must be understood as applying to diplomatic reparations for these insults and not to a material indemnity, like money or territory.

The foreign office is again calling attention to the suspicions in the United States lest Germans effect a landing in Venezuela. It says a refutation of such suspicions ought to be perceived in the slender forces at the disposition of Germany. There are scarcely three hundred men who could be spared from the squadron, not a sufficient number to take La Guaira, let alone form an expedition into the interior.

It is not settled whether the notification of the commencement of the blockade will be made public in Berlin and London simultaneously or take the form of a communication from the two commanders of the squadrons to the Venezuelan authorities. The publication will, apparently, be delayed a day or two.

The officials of the foreign office say that the reply to Venezuela's arbitration proposal has not yet been sent. The foreign office is still exchanging views on the subject with London. Although the foreign office does not give the least hint of the character of Germany's reply it seems certain that arbitration will not be accepted, though the refusal may be accompanied by fresh suggestions.

No Answer Yet Made. London, December 18.—No answer has yet been sent or decided upon regarding Venezuela's arbitration proposition. The cabinet met this afternoon to discuss the matter, but possibly nothing final will be arrived at today. The question of a guarantee for the fulfillment of the decisions arrived at, remains the great difficulty in the government's view in the way of the acceptance of arbitration.

Venezuelan Warships Seized. Berlin, December 18.—Commodore Scherer cabled today from Wilhelmshafen, Curacao, that the reports of German losses at the bombardment of Porto Cabello were untrue. The Germans suffered no loss whatever.

Another telegram from Curacao says all the Venezuelan warships have been seized, with the exception of the Niranda, which fled up the Orinoco river. The Venezuelan beacon lights, it is announced, are no longer reliable.

French Cruiser Expected at La Guaira. Caracas, Venezuela, December 18.—The French cruiser D'Assas is expected at La Guaira. Her commander has received orders not to do anything which might wound the susceptibilities of the Venezuelans.

Blockade Will Become Effective Saturday. Caracas, December 18.—It has been learned from an official source that the allies today will notify the Venezuelan authorities at La Guaira of the blockade to become effective Saturday, December 20th at 3 p. m. of the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Maraicao, Carupano and Barcelona.

Belgium Has Claims Against Venezuela. London, December 18.—The Brussels correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says in a dispatch that Germany is supporting the claims of Belgium against Venezuela which amount to \$1,250,000.

French Note of Claims. Washington, December 18.—It was learned tonight that France had addressed a note to her charge d'affaires at Caracas for submission to the Venezuelan government stating the position she will maintain with reference to claims of her citizens against Venezuela. France makes a distinction between claims arising before Castro's assumption of power and those arising since. In the note sent to Caracas, France takes the position that claims arising since 1899 when Castro became president should have as favorable treatment as is given to claims of Germany, Great Britain and other countries. As to claims prior to 1899 France says that they shall be met according to the most favored nation treaty clause and out of the customs receipts.

On Trial for Conspiracy. Freehold, N. J., December 18.—The trial of Miss Laura Biggar, Dr. Charles Hendricks and former Justice of the Peace Samuel Stanton, on a charge of conspiracy to secure the estate of the late Henry L. Bennett, of Farmingdale, began today. A jury was secured without any difficulty. Miss Biggar asked to plead as Laura Bennett, but her request was refused.

Floods Feared in West Virginia. Huntington, W. Va., December 18.—Floods are feared in Southern West Virginia. All the tributaries of the Ohio are bankful and heavy rains continue. A million dollars worth of timber is afloat on the Guyandotte and Big Sandy rivers.

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ABSOLUTE SECURITY.

Genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Must Bear Signature of

See Fac-Simile Wrapper Below.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. FOR HEADACHE. FOR DIZZINESS. FOR BILIOUSNESS. FOR TORPID LIVER. FOR CONSTIPATION. FOR SALLOW SKIN. FOR THE COMPLEXION.

FUNERAL OF GEN. MOORMAN

Remains Temporarily Laid to Rest in Metairie Cemetery.

New Orleans, December 18.—The remains of General George Moorman, the late adjutant general of the United Confederate Veterans, were temporarily laid to rest today in the tomb of the army of Tennessee in Metairie cemetery. Memorial Hall was crowded with veterans when the funeral ceremony began. Dr. A. Gordon Bakewell spoke feelingly of the life and character of the deceased.

General J. B. Gordon, who is ill at Lemon City, Fla., telegraphed as follows to Mrs. Moorman today: "From my sick room I send this to tell you how shocked and overwhelmed I am at the death of your noble husband. His loss to me and to our confederate organization is irreparable. Mrs. Gordon unites in heartfelt sympathy."

FREIGHT DISCRIMINATIONS. An Organized Effort to be Made to Overcome This.

(Special to The Messenger.) Greensboro, N. C., December 18.—In response to a strong presentation of facts regarding the necessity for concert of action of chambers of commerce and business organizations by President John W. Hanes of the Winston chamber of commerce, the various business organizations of Greensboro will soon hold a meeting to consider the question of freight discrimination against North Carolina cities.

The business interests and men of Greensboro will respond with a hearty good will to the capital suggestion of Mr. Hanes, who is recognized as one of the most clear headed, long headed and practical business men of the state. A manufacturer here said today, that of all towns in North Carolina, Greensboro, in spite of its central location had more cause for complaint from railroad freight charges and discriminations than almost any other.

The Reasons for "Foxy Grandpa."

"I created 'Foxy Grandpa,'" says Schultz, with a quiet smile, "because I needed the money, and I kept him alive because the desire for the same commodity has never since left me. It has never been quite clear to me why this old gentleman is so popular with the masses unless it is for the reason that he never seems to have any work on hand. He is a standing protest against the strenuous life, and a monument to inactivity. If I had a grandfather with his money I would treat him a good deal better than those two grandsons do. If I ever do have any grandsons I promise the neighbors that they will be better behaved than the descendants of 'Foxy Grandpa.' When I first began to draw this series I was afraid that the antics of boyhood would give out early in the game, but I have since found that the quiet, gentle, unobtrusive manners which marked my childhood have been constructed for domestic use and that I would not be popular today. I am always ready to receive suggestions, and find that childless people are most ready to offer them. The old maid of 60 knows more about children than a mother who has raised ten boys and the bachelor who lives in the clubs invents deviltries for 'Foxy Grandpa's' boys with a most amazing fertility. The trouble with most of these suggestions is that they bear upon the progeny of some relative with whom the artist is not on speaking terms. To be perfectly frank, these characters have not been thought out and made popular at once, and their development was rather the result of those combinations which requires a man to pay his bills. Necessity is, indeed, the mother of invention."

"Many artists like to work in quiet, but I would rather work out my ideas in a Devery convention than to sit on the steps of a manseum.—Bookman.

GENERAL MOORMAN DIES SUDDENLY. Distinguished Ex-Confederate Expires at His Desk While at Work.

New Orleans, December 18.—General George Moorman, adjutant general of the United Confederate Veterans died suddenly tonight aged 61 years. He was on the staff of General N. B. Forest and other confederate leaders during the war, earning many special decorations, and was commander of Moorman's cavalry battalion. He has been adjutant general of the U. C. V. since its organization. He expired while at his desk in his New Orleans office.

BURGLARS AT MONTMORENCI. Safe of Leading Merchant Blown Open and Robbed of Contents.

Columbia, S. C., December 18.—A special from Aiken to The State says that on Tuesday night burglars blew open the safe of J. T. Shuler at Montmorenci, Aiken county, and took nearly eight hundred dollars in cash, checks, stamps, etc. Mr. Shuler is the leading merchant, railroad agent and fruit grower of Montmorenci, and owing to sickness in his family had not been able to come to the city for some days and deposit his funds. The burglars broke into a blacksmith shop, and took a drive to work with, and used nitroglycerine as an explosive.

Police After Robbers. (Special to The Messenger.) Fayetteville, December 18.—Chief of Police and Officer Benton were this morning striving to catch a clue to the perpetrators of two robberies last night. The larder of the Perry hotel at Liberty Point was entered, and the thief or thieves carried away a turkey, a ham and a very fine turkey gobbler that was carried off. The packing house of the Armfield Wholesale Grocery Company on Upper street suffered from a loss of a quantity of meats and other valuable stuff.

Knoxville and Ohio Railway. Knoxville, Tenn., December 18.—Henry Fonde, general agent of the Southern Railway at Knoxville has been elected president of the Knoxville and Ohio railway by the board of directors. A. B. Andrews was elected first vice president and W. W. Finley second vice president. C. H. Ackert was made general manager and the jurisdiction of other general southern officers extended to this local line, which is a valuable and profitable one.

Washington Timber. "Pennsylvania avenue at one time had trees down the center, I believe," was the remark I made to a Georgetown man I met in a trolley car.

"Yes," was the gentleman's reply, "and now you can find presidential timber on nearly every street in Washington."—Yonkers Statesman.

Cereals with eggs or vegetable oil furnish all the food elements necessary to sustain a man in health, no matter how laborious his occupation.

Don't brood over the past nor dream of the future, but seize the instant and get your lesson from the hour.

AN ILLUSTRATED VILLAGE.

Little Swiss Town One of the Quaintest in Europe.

When next you go to the Lake of Geneva, by all means pay a visit to the little known village of St. Legier, near by, on the road between Vevey and Blonay, one of the quaintest villages in Europe and one of the proudest on account of its extraordinary adornments. St. Legier and the adjoining village of La Chiesaz are nothing more or less than illustrated villages. They are as profusely illustrated as the modern magazine, for nearly all the houses bear on their outside walls some striking picture or colorful caricature from the brush of a great man in the village. M. Alfred Beguin, a painter of local renown and not unknown in Paris, says Pearson's Magazine.

A house in St. Legier has no use for a signboard to tell the world that it is an inn, a cycle shop, a forge or a dairy. M. Beguin's picture does that. On a stable wall he draws a picture of a spirited runaway horse knocking down men as he leaps for freedom; on the white wall of the little village forge are pictures of men making horseshoes for dear life and shoeing a frisky steed; on the wall of the dairy a dairy maid balances a pail of milk on her head, while scenes of local life, as pictures of the annual summer exodus to the mountain pastures with the cows and goats, and caricatures of the local bigwigs make a bright picture gallery of the village. M. Beguin lives in one of the most imposing houses in St. Legier, whence he obtains a full view of the crooked little village street and of the Dent du Jaman towering up in the distance. For many years past he has amused himself by painting the houses, and in the first place he acquired most of his skill and boldness in painting in this way.—Detroit Free Press.

HORSEHAIR SNAKES.

Peculiar Habits of These Threadlike Little Serpents.

The "horsehair snakes" are small, flesh colored mites which live principally in stagnant water. After going through various transformations they come to the surface of the water in the shape of very slender, purplish looking threads. When they reach this last stage, they leave the water and work their way up the stalks and leaves of aquatic plants. When opportunity affords, they attach themselves to the feet, legs, wings and other parts of larger insects, often, as one authority states, creeping under the wing case of beetles. In the case of the cricket, katydid, grasshopper and other insects of that ilk, whose legs are hollow, the tiny horsehair takes the advantage and creeps up the hollows into the very vitals.

This accounts for the fat and clumsy condition of some individuals of the above named species, single specimens of the cricket having been caught with over two dozen of these threadlike "snakes" attached to and inside of their bodies. After heavy rains, which frequently drown crickets and katydids which are weighted down by these parasites, the "horsehair snake" emerges from the carcass of the insect a full fledged miniature serpent. In this mature state he is the delight of the curiosity seeker and a mine of study to those who delight to delve in nature's bypaths. Those which have been fortunate enough not to have been carried very far from water by the insects which they encumbered during life make their way back to the ponds to lay their eggs. They then wrap themselves around the eggs, which soon hatch into the little flesh colored mites mentioned in the opening. About this time the parent "snake" dies to make room for its progeny.

What the Witness Saw.

"Do you mean to swear," said the foreman of the jury to the witness, "that at the time of the quarrel that constitutes the cause of this action you saw the prisoner with a coal scuttle in his hands making ready to heave it at his wife?"

"Not exactly," said the witness, with considerable hesitation. "I mean to swear that I saw the prisoner with a coal scuttle in his hands."

"In what attitude was he then?" asked the presiding judge.

"Well, now, since your lordship has asked, I'll tell the truth. The prisoner was lying down with the coal scuttle over his head and his wife on the top of it."

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.—London Chronicle.

Blessings Born of Sorrows. The world's greatest blessings have come out of its greater sorrows. Said Goethe, "I never had an affliction which did not turn into a poem." No doubt the best music and poetry in all literature had a like origin. If we could only know its whole story. It is universally true that poets "learn in suffering what they teach in song." Nothing really worth while in life's lessons comes easily and without pain and cost.

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NON-UNION MEN HAVE A DAY

Testimony to Show That a Reign of Terror Existed in the Coal Fields

THE BOYCOTT SEVERELY CRITICISED

A Large Number of Witnesses Were

Called and They Testified to Boycotts, Brutal Attacks and Attempted Burning of a House of a Non-Union Man—Chairman Gray Gave His Opinion of the Use of the Boycott—The Lawyers for the Non-Union Men Will Call More Witnesses to Prove Existence of a Reign of Terror.

Scranton, Pa., December 18.—The coal strike commission listened today to further testimony tending to show that a reign of terror existed in the anthracite coal fields during the five and a half months of the mine workers' strike. About a score of witnesses were called during the two sessions by the attorneys for the non-union men. They told of serious boycotts, brutal attacks by rows of men, women and boys, and an attempt to burn the house of a non-union man.

The lawyers for the miners objected frequently to the admission of testimony on hearsay and sometimes objected because of irrelevancy of certain other statements. Chairman Gray said he was not bound by any strict rules of evidence, but asked counsel to confine themselves, in examining witnesses as nearly as possible to direct evidence. He said it was too difficult in trying to prove that boycotts existed to get information on the subject. The commission, he said, wanted to know whether a reign of terror existed in the anthracite region and it could not get that information if the strict rules of evidence were applied. "The coward who will go to the store keepers," he said, "and tell them not to sell necessities of life to a poor woman, usually seeks the obscurity that the law of evidence throws around him. If a girl is discharged from her position in a store because she rode in a street car in inclement weather while a street car strike was on the coward who discharged her is coward enough to refuse to testify."

He recognized he said, why some merchants will not come forward and tell who forced him to refuse to sell necessities of life to certain boycotted persons, but if he (Chairman Gray) were a store-keeper, he thought he would risk his all in order to assist in breaking up the cowardly business.

The witnesses that were called testified that their wives were insulted on the streets, the children were beaten by other children and could not be safely sent to school, that local unions requested store-keepers to refrain selling goods to any one related to a man working in the mines; that their houses were stoned, that they were stoned, shot at and hung in effigy and that life was generally miserable for them and their families. Most of the witnesses connected strikers with the offenses alleged.

The lawyers for the non-union men said tonight they would continue calling witnesses to prove that a reign of terror existed during the strike. The commission will adjourn about noon on Saturday and will reconvene in Philadelphia on January 5th.

PARLIAMENT RE-CONVENED

Annually Long Address of the King Delivered at Opening Session.

London, December 18.—Parliament was prorogued this afternoon by royal commission. Only a score of members of the house of commons were present when Black Rod summoned the lower house to the house of lords to hear the king's speech, which was an unusually lengthy recapitulation of public events since January, including the action taken in connection with Venezuela, regarding which the speech said:

"I regret that the constant complaints which my government found it necessary to address to the government of Venezuela, in regard to unjustifiable and arbitrary acts against British subjects and property during the last two years have been persistently disregarded and that it has become necessary for my government, acting in concert with that of his imperial majesty, the German emperor, which also has serious causes for complaint against her republic, to insist on measures of redress."

The speech refers to the conclusion of the South African war and adds: "There seems to be every reason to hope that material prosperity greater than any the Transvaal and Orange river colonies have yet experienced, may visit these regions and that all sections of the population may live together in friendship for each other and loyalty to the crown."

Parliament was prorogued until February 17th.

Fatalities Caused by Earthquake. Tashkend, Asiatic Russia, December 18.—Three officials, two soldiers and 150 natives, mostly children, were killed by the earthquake which destroyed the town of Andijan, Russian Central Asia, Tuesday. In addition three hundred natives and seventeen soldiers were injured and nine thousand houses of natives and 130 Russian residences were destroyed.

Schools to Suspend for Christmas. The public schools in the city will suspend next Tuesday for the holidays and will remain closed till Monday morning, January 5th. This will give the children a Christmas and New Year holiday, and there is no one who doubts that they are in great need of it. It is probable that when the schools close at noon Tuesday there will be some appropriate exercises.

Richmond, Va., December 18.—The legislature today agreed to adjourn on December 23rd and reconvene on January 5th. A bill was passed under suspension of the rules in both houses, appropriating \$5,000 to defend the recent suits against the new constitution, and the Jamestown Exposition. Appropriation bill asking \$200,000 for the great show in 1907, was offered in the house, and referred.

Bundesrath Approves Tariff Bill. Berlin, December 18.—The Bundesrath today approved the tariff bill in the form in which it passed its third reading in the Reichstag.

ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE?

This Question Decides Whether Very Large Insurance Shall be Paid.

Louisville, Ky., December 18.—It developed today that R. C. Whayne, a Louisville business man who was found dead last night in the vicinity of Jacob Park, with a gunshot wound in the breast, carried insurance on his life of \$340,000 and had applications pending for \$50,000 more. The policies were distributed as follows:

Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York \$200,000; Providence Savings Life Assurance Society of New York \$120,000; Union Central Life \$10,000; New York Life \$5,000; Northwestern Mutual Life \$5,000.

Mr. Whayne had applied for a policy of \$55,000 with the Manhattan Company and the policy was to be issued December 22nd. Another application had been made to the Mutual of Vermont for an equal amount and this policy was to be dated December 24th. It was upon this fact that Mr. Whayne carried such a large life insurance, and was said to be suffering from rheumatism that a theory of suicide is based.

Coroner Kelly went to the scene of the death this morning. He said the circumstances were such that the case would require exhaustive investigation. The inquest will be held Saturday. Near Mr. Whayne's body, but on the opposite side of a wire fence, was a shot gun with one barrel empty and the other loaded and cocked. His friends and family declare that death was due to accident and that the gun was discharged while he was climbing through the fence.

REPORT ON EIGHT HOUR BILL

Senate Committee Will Report Favorably on the House Measure.

Washington, December 18.—The senate committee on education and labor today agreed upon a favorable report of the house eight hour bill. The agreement was reached after many hearings and three days of executive sessions. Many amendments have been made.

The principal changes in the bill relate to transportation of contract work and the purchase in the open market of goods wanted by the government.

The bill makes it specific that all purchases, whether articles or materials shall be exempt. The language relating to the transportation of goods is made more plain and definite than in the house bill. Another amendment provides that the act shall not prohibit a workman from engaging on other work for an additional two hours after working on government work for eight hours. The bill probably will be reported to the senate on Saturday.

MR. VANDERBILT'S CONDITION

Bulletin Announces Progress of His Case Which is Very Grave.

New York, December 18.—The following bulletin was issued at the house of Cornelius Vanderbilt this afternoon by Doctors Flint and Janeway:

"Since the issue of the last bulletin (last night) Mr. Vanderbilt's condition remains about the same, with a tendency of his temperature to decline, and thirty-six hours ago he developed a small area of inflammation over the spleen. This subsided and it showed no tendency to spread till today when it developed a general peritonitis. His condition is of course grave."

NOTABLE WEDDING IN WASHINGTON

Representative Blackburn of This State Married to Miss Louise Palmer.

Washington, December 18.—Representative Edmond Spencer Blackburn, of North Carolina, and Miss Louise LeVaun Parker, daughter of Colonel Myron M. Parker, of this city, were married at the bride's home in this city today. A notable company was present, including Speaker Henderson. A reception followed the ceremony and the couple left later on their honeymoon trip, the destination being kept secret.

Supreme Court Opinions.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., December 18.—Supreme court filed the following opinions: Green vs. Green, from Jackson, error; Watkins vs. Mfg. Co., from Jackson, affirmed; Love vs. Atkinson, from Jackson, no error; Ravelle vs. Ingram, from Macon, affirmed; Harris vs. Quarry Co., from Henderson, new trial; Farthing vs. Rochelle, from Durham, affirmed; Elmore vs. S. A. L. Railway, from Wayne, petition to rehear allowed and new trial awarded.

Measures Before Virginia Legislature. Richmond, Va., December 18.—The legislature today agreed to adjourn on December 23rd and reconvene on January 5th. A bill was passed under suspension of the rules in both houses, appropriating \$5,000 to defend the recent suits against the new constitution, and the Jamestown Exposition. Appropriation bill asking \$200,000 for the great show in 1907, was offered in the house, and referred.

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