

# The News and Observer.

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RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1900.

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## Leads all North Carolina Dailies in News and Circulation

### STRIKE BEGUN BY SOUTHERN'S MEN

#### The Telegraphers and Other Station Men Involved.

### REASONS FOR THE STRIKE

#### President Powell Says 90 Per Cent of the Men Are Out.

#### R. R. OFFICIALS AT ATLANTA SAY 10

#### The Order to Strike Affects All Union Operators From Alexandria, Va., to Meridian, Miss.

#### Sympathy of Non-Union Men in the Strike.

Atlanta, Ga., April 12.—The telegraphers on the Southern Railway system who are members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers were ordered on strike by President Powell at 11 o'clock this morning. The Southern Railway officials claim tonight that but ten per cent of the men have quit work while President Powell says ninety per cent of them are out. There has been considerable delay to both passenger and freight traffic, but the effect of the walk-out is not yet known to the extent which would warrant an accurate assertion as to the exact situation.

It was given out tonight at the office of Assistant General Superintendent Thompson of the Southern, that the places of the seven men who had struck in Atlanta had been filled and that the dispatchers on all divisions centering here are at work. No serious delay, the officials say, has been caused, excepting in the case of the Washington limited due here at 4 p. m. and a local passenger which left this morning for Richmond. The Washington limited arrived four hours and a half late and the Richmond local was taken up near Cornelia, Ga., by the vestibule which left here for Washington at noon.

Mr. W. V. Powell, President of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers gave out the following statement tonight: "Reports from every division of the Southern Railway show that the entire system with the exception of the Louisville branch is tied up completely so far as freight trains are concerned and that passenger trains are being run only under great difficulty. All passenger trains are from three to seven hours late and are making very slow time.

"Our members on the Birmingham, Knoxville, Charlotte, Danville, Chattanooga, Asheville, Washington, Columbia, Raleigh and Lynchburg divisions write that the condition of affairs is very encouraging to the men and that fully ninety per cent of the telegraphers and dispatchers are on a strike. On the Alabama Great Southern every man struck except one north of Birmingham. I am in position to state positively that more than ninety per cent of the telegraphers quit work, the claims of the company to the contrary notwithstanding."

It was ascertained at midnight that the officials of the Southern, anticipating the strike of the telegraphers gave orders several days ago that in case of a walkout that all freight trains be held up and that the engineer run passenger trains by the card schedule. This bears out Mr. Powell's assertion that freight traffic is completely tied up and explains the delay to the passenger trains.

### THE ORDER TO STRIKE

#### "Turn Your Board Red and Quit Work at 11 O'clock."

After a strike had been determined upon and the preliminaries had been arranged, a few minutes before eleven o'clock, President Powell sent the following wire message to all the telegraphers on the Southern Railway System, extending from Alexandria, Va., to Meridian, Miss.:

"Atlanta, Ga., April 12th.

"To all telegraphers employed on the Southern Railway:

"Turn your board red and quit work at 11 o'clock today, Thursday, April 12th. Perform no service of any kind. Stand firm and victory is ours. (Signed) W. V. POWELL, President Order of Railroad Telegraphers."

Responses to this order began coming into the headquarters of the telegraphers at 624 Kimball House, rapidly, stating what action had been taken by the operators on the different divisions. A force of clerks at the same time was busily engaged mailing a circular statement, officially signed by President Powell calling upon the telegraphers to quit their work and unite in a determined effort to bring a successful conclusion of the strike.

#### PRESIDENT POWELL'S CIRCULAR.

The statement contains the grievances of the telegraphers. It says: "In accordance with the constitution of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, I hereby approve a strike on the lines of the Southern and Alabama Great Southern Railways, effective 11 a. m., April 12th, 1900, all efforts to effect an amicable settlement of the difficulties having failed.

"The strike is on.

"Six hundred and eighty-five telegraphers and other station employees voted in favor and one hundred and thirty-one against.

tion employees of the Southern and Alabama Great Southern Railways are determined to make a united stand against industrial oppression.

"The strike was called for the following purposes: "To secure reinstatement of its members who were discharged by the Southern Railway.

"For the right to be heard through committees in the adjustment of individual grievances.

"For a set of rates and pay to govern train dispatchers, telegraphers, agents and other station employees, in their employment, discipline, etc.

"Twelve consecutive hours work per day where one or two telegraphers are employed, including one consecutive hour for dinner; ten consecutive hours, including meal hour, in all relay, dispatchers' offices and offices where more than two telegraphers are employed, except that this rule will not make working hours more than those that may now be effective.

"Eight consecutive hours for train dispatchers.

"Pay for overtime for telegraphers, dispatchers and others in excess of the above hours, but nothing less than twenty-five cents per hour.

"To abolish the practice of compelling agents to load cotton and the performance of other menial labor.

"A minimum wage scale of \$45 and \$50 per month, according to territory or location.

"One hundred and twenty dollars per month for truck dispatchers.

"The securing of fair and equitable rules regarding promotion."

#### CAUSES LEADING TO STRIKE.

Regarding the causes leading up to the present strike, President Powell said today:

"This action was made necessary by the refusal of the company to treat with its employees in the telegraph department. Instead of treating with the men the company waged an outrageous secret warfare on the telegraphers, discharging the men who dared to represent their brother operators by serving on committees. More than twenty committeemen have been discharged. Dozens of members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers employed on the Southern have been discharged because of their membership.

"Failing in their effort to secure hearings from the local superintendents and then from the general officers of the company at Washington, the men had no other alternative than to appeal to the organization to which they belong for protection.

"I proposed in this message to Mr. Cannon that if the company and its telegraph employees were unable to agree as to the matters in dispute they desired to present to the telegraphers would agree to submit the matter to arbitration, three arbitrators to be appointed, one each by the company and telegraphers and the third by the two arbitrators so selected. This proposition was made for the sole purpose of suggesting a means by which the differences might be adjusted without resorting to a strike with its consequent loss to the community.

"I also agreed to submit the matter to Mr. W. H. Baldwin, Jr., President of the Long Island Railroad Company, of New York.

"All of these overtures on behalf of the telegraphers were rejected by the company and the officers refused absolutely to treat with their men.

"In the effort to secure a peaceable adjustment of the troubles, the matter was appealed to Mr. Samuel Spencer, President of the Southern Railway, at New York, who was asked to intervene with the view of averting a strike. Mr. Spencer's secretary wired me yesterday that the President of the Southern had been very ill several weeks and was not able to consider such an important matter.

"I closed the door to the telegraphers, they having exhausted every means in their power to secure hearing by the officials. There was nothing left to do except to strike and this morning I called out all the members of my organization employed on the Southern Railway and the non-union members who are in sympathy with us."

#### TRAFFIC NOT INTERFERED WITH.

Strike of Operators on Charleston Division of the Southern.

(By The Associated Press.)

Charleston, S. C., April 12.—Nine operators on the Charleston division of the Southern struck today in response to orders from President Powell, of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers. These were at Ridgeville, Fort Motte, Elko, Windsor, Warrentonville and Langley, in South Carolina, and at Wrenn's, Mitchell and Gibson, on the Augusta Southern, in Georgia.

General Manager Sands said this afternoon that traffic had not been interfered with by the strike. The operators at all important points on the division remained at their keys.

#### OPPOSING STORIES TOLD.

Macon, Ga., April 12.—Superintendent Jones of this division of the Southern railway says that only three telegraphers between Atlanta and Brunswick went out on strike today.

Representatives of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers claim that a majority of the men in the division went out on strike.

#### OPERATORS BACK THE STRIKERS.

Meridian, Miss., April 12.—The telegraph operators of the Southern and Alabama Great Southern Railroads walked out today. They are backed up by all the other railroad telegraphers in the city who refuse to handle Southern and Alabama Great Southern business and all trains are tied up except on time card schedules.

#### NEARLY ALL TRAINS LATE.

Charlotte, N. C., April 12.—Superintendent Ryder, of the Charlotte division, makes the following statement: "Every agent on the Charlotte division is and has been attending to his duties. Every telegraph office has been represented since the strike was ordered. Only three night offices have been closed.

### AYCOCK'S RETURN LIKE A TRIUMPH

#### A Governor's Salute Welcomed Him to Goldsboro.

### THE TOWN IN GALA ARRAY

#### From Seven Thousand Throats Burst Shouts of Rejoicing.

#### RAIN COULDN'T QUENCH PEOPLE'S ARDOR

#### A Procession Formed, and Aycock in a Richly Decorated Carriage Escorted to an Immense Warehouse Where He Makes a Speech.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Goldsboro, N. C., April 12.—Hon. Chas. B. Aycock came to Goldsboro this afternoon, the train arriving at six o'clock. Centre street was beautifully decorated in honor of the occasion, and notwithstanding the rain seven thousand people were at the depot to welcome home North Carolina's most distinguished citizen. Just as the train came in sight cannon from a battery of the Goldsboro Rifles boomed the Governor's salute, and amid cheers and shouts of rejoicing from seven thousand throats the beloved Aycock alighted from the train and was conducted to a carriage beautifully decorated with flags of the State and Nation, and drawn by four splendid horses.

Mr. Joseph E. Robinson and Capt. T. H. Bain rode with Governor Aycock, and the great procession in the following order took up the line of march to the immense warehouse, where the exercises were held:

Detachment of police, Knights of Pythias brass band, Company D, State Guard, carriage containing Hon. Charles B. Aycock, Rufin Lodge, Knights of Pythias, carriages containing Mayor, Aldermen and other city officials, Company B, North Carolina State Guard, three fire companies, six hundred graded school children, citizens in carriages and on foot.

Mr. Aycock was presented to the immense throng in a beautiful speech by the talented and eloquent Joseph E. Robinson, of the Goldsboro Argus. The very sight of the beloved Aycock set the people wild and his speech thanking his people for the great welcome and their goodness to him was just such a speech as he always makes, warm from a brave, sincere and loving heart.

The programme arranged was as follows: The various military and civic organizations of the city met in front of the Hotel Kennon at 4:30 in the following order: Detachment of Police, K. of P. Band, Co. D, 2nd Reg. N. C. S. G., Carriage containing Hon. C. B. Aycock, Nominee for Governor, Rufin Lodge, K. of P., Carriage containing City Officials, Goldsboro Fire Co. No. 1, Eclipse Fire Co., Electric Fire Co., Graded School, Citizens in Carriage and on Foot, Co. B, 1st Reg. N. C. S. G.

#### LINE OF MARCH.

Down East Centre to Spruce street, down Spruce to John street, up John to Walnut street, thence to court house square, where reception took place.

The committee in charge of the arrangements was composed of: T. H. Bain, Jos. E. Robinson, Dr. W. H. Cobb, C. B. Miller, Joe Rosenthal, Jno. L. Borden, F. K. Borden.

#### BOERS LIKELY TO BE ENTRAPPED.

#### Military Men Hear That Roberts is Employing His Army Effectively.

(By The Associated Press.)

London, April 13.—(4:05 a. m.)—In a roundabout way London hears that Lord Roberts, when writing to the Prince of Wales, at Copenhagen congratulating upon his escape from assassination, added two or three hopeful sentences portending an early advance with wide reaching combinations.

Quiet assurances are passed around among military men that Lord Roberts is employing his great army effectively, and that the adventurous Boer commandoes are likely to be emeshed. Scraps of news—a detail here and another there, have reached England tonight over comparatively idle cables, but they do not illuminate the situation.

The Colonials at Wepener still hold off the Boers. Lord Methuen has worked eastward until he is within 80 miles of Kroonstadt. Boer scouts have gone around Ladysmith and have appeared at Dewdrop and other places on General Buller's flank and rear. The officers of Buller's irregular horse estimate the Boers in Natal as 15,000, but these figures are probably excessive, 10,000 being regarded here as the outside number.

After General Hart's brigade leaves him, General Buller will still have close upon 25,000 men. It is generally assumed that this brigade is going to join Lord Roberts, but its destination is really unknown.

The Boers have issued a note to Portugal regarding the use by the British of the Beira route for the transportation of troops to Rhodesia and this may, if the

Boers act against Portugal, lead Great Britain to land troops at Lourenzo Marques. This possibility has been seriously discussed and is referred to at length in the morning papers today.

The work of the Boer peace commissioners has begun. Mr. Fischer has asked Italy to intervene, and the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Marquis Di Visconti-Venosta, has replied that while he would receive the envoys, the best he could do would be to transmit their proposals to London, thus following the course of the United States.

Sir Alfred Milner when replying to a deputation of clergymen in Cape Town yesterday (Thursday) said: "Never again" must be the motto of all thinking and humane men, but not from lust of conquest or a desire to trample on the gallant, if misguided, there must be no compromise or patchwork in the settlement, and no opportunity for misunderstanding, intrigue, the revival of impossible ambitions, or the accumulation of enormous armaments.

"The British will no longer tolerate dissimilar and antagonistic political systems in a country which nature and history have declared to be one."

In these absolute utterances of Sir Alfred Milner he speaks for the Imperial Government.

It is calculated that Lord Roberts now has 24,000 effective troops, with 12,000 more afloat or under orders. The War Office has instructed officers not to take any more expanding bullets to Africa for revolvers.

Hildyard Steyn, brother of President Steyn in the course of an interview at Bloemfontein, said: "The original war plan of the Boers was to overrun all Cape Colony, but on becoming involved in the sieges of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the burghers found the design spoiled. To this I attribute the Boer failure to conquer the British. I expect the war to last until Christmas."

The seventh month of the war is beginning with Easter tide and the morning paper editorials expatiate upon the need of sobriety.

### EXPLANATION OF BOER ACTIVITY.

#### It is Necessary in Order to Keep the Troops Together.

(By The Associated Press.)

Bloemfontein, Wednesday, April 11.—According to information received here the Boer activity eastward of the railroad and in proximity to the border is largely due to the fact that Presidents Kruger and Steyn have found they are unable to keep their forces together in inactive, the burghers declaring they are unwilling to remain with their commands unless actively employed. It is believed the Boer movement was originally designed to oblige Lord Roberts to weaken his force at Bloemfontein in order to protect the railroad, when the Boers would have attempted to re-capture the capital. But the burghers are evidently ignorant of the enormous forces Lord Roberts has at his disposal.

Advices from Karee Siding say the Boers are busily entrenching their position east of Brandfont running parallel with the railroad, while still strongly holding the Waterval Drift water works.

### THE BRITISH RETIRING.

Pretoria, Wednesday, April 11.—Advices from the Boer headquarters in Natal, say that after a heavy bombardment the British are retiring in the direction of Ladysmith and the Federals are going to their old positions.

### THE BATTLE FOR THE BOERS.

Pretoria, Wednesday, April 11.—Advices from Wepener, where a British force is surrounded, say the battle continues favorable to the Federals. About 1,500 British troops are said to be there.

### HEAVY CANNONADE HEARD.

Pretoria, Wednesday, April 11.—A heavy cannonade was heard this morning in the direction of Bullfontein, situated midway between Winburg and Boshof in the Orange Free State and north of Brandfont.

### MORE CANADIANS ARRIVE.

Cape Town, April 12.—The British steamer Monterey, Captain Parry, which sailed from Halifax, March 17th, with Lord Strathcona and the Mount Royals contingent of Canadian troops on board, has arrived here.

### LEAVE TO PLANT CROPS.

Pretoria, Wednesday, April 11.—The Free State Gazette, publishes orders to the effect that no person who has been commandeered for active service has the right to send a substitute without the consent of the Landrost.

In reference to leaves of absence, the Gazette says that ten per cent. of each command will be relieved by ballot for periods of 12 days. This is intended to meet the wishes of the burghers desiring to plant their crops.

### REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN JOHNSTON

#### Weakest Ever Held in the County. 40 Whites and 3 Negroes Present.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Smithfield, N. C., April 12.—The Johnston county Republican convention met here today to elect delegates to the State and Congressional conventions and elect an executive committee. J. D. Parker, editor of the Smithfield Courier, seems to be the most prominent figure in the Republican party of Johnston county, since the death of Mr. P. T. Massey, the former county chairman. Mr. Parker was elected chairman of the executive committee, elected delegate to the State and Congressional conventions and endorsed for United States Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of Mr. P. T. Massey, deceased. Resolutions were passed favoring putting Eastern North Carolina under control of the Legislature.

It was the weakest convention ever held in Johnston county, only forty white Republicans and three negroes being present. In the death of Mr. Massey the Republican of Johnston county have lost great strength.

### THE PORTO RICAN BILL MADE A LAW

#### The Measure Signed by the President Yesterday.

### BILL IN ITS FINAL FORM

#### United States Senators by Direct Vote of the People.

#### THE QUESTION DISCUS ED IN THE HOUSE

#### Resolution by Committee on Election For Constitutional Amendment Empowering Legislatures to Decide How Senators Shall be Voted For.

(By The Associated Press.)

Washington, April 12.—The President at 7 o'clock this evening signed the Porto Rican Tariff and Civil Government Bill, thus making it a law. Following is a summary of its provisions:

It applies to the island of Porto Rico and to the adjacent islands lying east of the seventy-fourth meridian, which are designated Porto Rico.

From the date of the passage of the act the same custom duties are levied on all goods entering Porto Rico from foreign countries as are levied on the same goods entering the United States, save that of coffee, which has free entry into the United States to pay a duty of five cents per pound on entering Porto Rico. Scientific, literary and artistic works and books and pamphlets printed in the English language may enter Porto Rico free of duty.

The tariff section of the bill relating to duties between the United States and Porto Rico is as follows: "That on and after the passage of this act all merchandise coming into the United States from Porto Rico and coming into Porto Rico from the United States shall be entered at the several ports of entry upon payment of 15 per cent of the duties which are required to be levied, collected, and paid upon like articles of merchandise imported from foreign countries; and in addition thereto upon articles of merchandise of Porto Rican manufacture coming into the United States and withdrawn for consumption or sale upon payment of a tax equal to the internal revenue tax imposed in the United States upon the like articles of merchandise of domestic manufacture; such tax to be paid by internal revenue stamp or stamps to be purchased and provided by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and to be procured from the Collector of Internal Revenue at or most convenient to the port of entry of said merchandise into the United States and to be affixed under such regulations as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe; and on all articles of merchandise of United States manufacture coming into Porto Rico in addition to the duty above provided upon payment of a tax equal in rate and amount to the internal revenue tax imposed in Porto Rico upon the like articles of Porto Rican manufacture; Provided, that on and after the date when this act shall take effect, all merchandise and all articles except coffee not dutiable under the tariff laws of the United States and all merchandise and articles entered into Porto Rico free of duty under orders heretofore made by the Secretary of War shall be admitted into the several ports of duty, all laws or parts of laws to the contrary notwithstanding and whenever the legislative assembly of Porto Rico shall have enacted and put into operation a system of local taxation to meet the necessities of the government of Porto Rico, by this act established, and shall by resolution duly passed so notify the President, he shall make proclamation thereof, and thereupon all tariff duties on merchandise and articles going into Porto Rico from the United States or coming into the United States from Porto Rico and from and after such date all such merchandise and articles shall be entered at the several ports of entry free of duty; and in no event shall any duties be collected after the first day of March, 1902, on merchandise and articles going into Porto Rico from the United States or coming into the United States from Porto Rico.

The duties collected under the above section shall be placed at the disposal of the President to be used for the government and benefit of Porto Rico until the government of Porto Rico shall have been organized when the moneys collected shall be turned into the local treasury of Porto Rico. Goods imported from Porto Rico and under bond shall pay only the duty imposed by this act."

The governmental provisions of the bill are: The capital shall be at San Juan. Persons who were Spanish subjects April 11, 1899, and who have not elected to preserve their allegiance to Spain are held to be citizens of Porto Rico and entitled to the protection of the United States. The designation of the body politic is under the name The People of Porto Rico.

The laws and ordinances of Porto Rico now in force shall continue in full force and effect, except as altered by this act, or by military orders and which are not inconsistent with the laws of the United States.

The old law forbidding the marriage of priests and ministers is repealed.

The vessels of Porto Rico are to be nationalized and admitted to the bene-

fits of the United States coasting laws. Quarantine stations are to be established. Porto Rico coins are to be retired, the peso being rated at sixty cents in the exchange. Three months after the act takes effect Porto Rico coins are not to be legal tender. Property usually under the control of the United States will so continue and other properties acquired by Spain will be administered by the Porto Rican Government. The Governor is to be appointed by the President, and hold his office for four years, having the powers conferred on governors of territories of the United States, but is to make his reports through the Secretary of State to the President.

An executive council will be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, consisting of a Secretary, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, Commissioners of the Interior and Education and five other persons to hold office for four years. The council is the upper branch of the Legislature, five of them shall be natives of Porto Rico. The other branch shall be a House of Delegates, to consist of 35 members, elected bi-annually by the qualified electors. Porto Rico is divided into seven districts each with five delegates. The qualifications for voters are: "at such elections all citizens of Porto Rico shall be allowed to vote who have been both legal residents for one year, and who possess the other qualifications of voters under the laws and military orders in force on March 1st, 1900, subject to such modifications and additional qualifications and such regulations and restrictions as to registrations as may be prescribed by the executive council.

"No person shall be eligible to membership in the House of Delegates who is not twenty-five years of age and able to read and write either the Spanish or the English language or who is not possessed in his own right of taxable property, real or personal, situated in Porto Rico."

Provision is made for enacting legislation similar to that in other territories. The judicial power is vested in courts already established, the chief justice and associated justices and marshals to be appointed by the President, judges of the district courts and other officers by the Governor of Porto Rico. There is also a United States District Court established similar to other territories. The salaries of all officers appointed by the President are:

Governor, \$8,000; Secretary, Attorney General, Auditor, Commissioner of the Interior, \$4,000 each; Treasurer, \$3,000; Commissioner of Education, \$3,000; Justice of Supreme Court, \$2,000; States district judge, \$5,000; State justice, \$4,500 each; each \$3,000; district attorney.

No export duties are to be levied, collected, and paid upon like articles of merchandise imported from foreign countries; and in addition thereto upon articles of merchandise of Porto Rican manufacture coming into the United States and withdrawn for consumption or sale upon payment of a tax equal to the internal revenue tax imposed in the United States upon the like articles of merchandise of domestic manufacture; such tax to be paid by internal revenue stamp or stamps to be purchased and provided by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and to be procured from the Collector of Internal Revenue at or most convenient to the port of entry of said merchandise into the United States and to be affixed under such regulations as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe; and on all articles of merchandise of United States manufacture coming into Porto Rico in addition to the duty above provided upon payment of a tax equal in rate and amount to the internal revenue tax imposed in Porto Rico upon the like articles of Porto Rican manufacture; Provided, that on and after the date when this act shall take effect, all merchandise and all articles except coffee not dutiable under the tariff laws of the United States and all merchandise and articles entered into Porto Rico free of duty under orders heretofore made by the Secretary of War shall be admitted into the several ports of duty, all laws or parts of laws to the contrary notwithstanding and whenever the legislative assembly of Porto Rico shall have enacted and put into operation a system of local taxation to meet the necessities of the government of Porto Rico, by this act established, and shall by resolution duly passed so notify the President, he shall make proclamation thereof, and thereupon all tariff duties on merchandise and articles going into Porto Rico from the United States or coming into the United States from Porto Rico and from and after such date all such merchandise and articles shall be entered at the several ports of entry free of duty; and in no event shall any duties be collected after the first day of March, 1902, on merchandise and articles going into Porto Rico from the United States or coming into the United States from Porto Rico.

The duties collected under the above section shall be placed at the disposal of the President to be used for the government and benefit of Porto Rico until the government of Porto Rico shall have been organized when the moneys collected shall be turned into the local treasury of Porto Rico. Goods imported from Porto Rico and under bond shall pay only the duty imposed by this act."

The governmental provisions of the bill are: The capital shall be at San Juan. Persons who were Spanish subjects April 11, 1899, and who have not elected to preserve their allegiance to Spain are held to be citizens of Porto Rico and entitled to the protection of the United States. The designation of the body politic is under the name The People of Porto Rico.

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