

Chatham Observer.

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PITTSBORO, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1902

50 CENTS A YEAR

KILLED IN OIL EXPLOSION

Spectators of a Fire Near Pittsburg Are Overwhelmed.

CAUSED BY A RAILROAD WRECK

Scenes of Horror, Where Many Died, and Suffering, Maddened Men Trod Down the Weak-Houses Wrecked by Gas Main Igniting—Sheet of Flame Descended on Hundreds of Onlookers.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Four distinct explosions have wrought ruin in the Charities Valley. It was estimated twenty-five persons were dead and between 100 and 150 were burned, many of whom would die. The first explosion occurred in the Sheridan yards of the Pan Handle Railroad, about five miles from the Union Station in this city. Switchmen were shifting a train of cars, to which were attached two cars of refined oil and one of naphtha.

The Pan Handle Railroad Company has thirty-six tracks through Sheridan and has succeeded in keeping communication open. The property loss will amount to at least \$500,000.

As the cars were pushed along the track the oil came together with a crash, smashing the couplings and breaking a switch light. The oil tank was jarred, and oil flowed down on the light. It ignited and made a trail to the tank. A flame shot into the air, and before the trainmen knew what had happened an explosion occurred, and in a flash the burning oil spouted into the air.

This occurred about 4:45 p. m. An alarm was sent to Sheridanville and McKee's Rocks, and the local fire department responded. No water could be had, and the heat was so intense no one could get near enough to couple an engine to the other two cars and haul them away.

About 5:15 the second car of refined oil exploded, and by this time fully 1000 persons had gathered on the hillside. The Pan Handle tracks lie in a valley flanked by steep hills on each side. No one thought of any danger.

The heat from the burning cars generated gas in the naphtha tank near by. It had a gas dome. Shortly after 6 o'clock the naphtha tank exploded. The dome shot into the air and fell on the hillside amid the jam of spectators. The tank split in twain, and the naphtha, like fiery serpents, shot into all directions, spraying the thousands of people, among whom were laborers, women, children, and railroaders.

Immediately there was a rush for safety. Hundreds who were sprayed by burning oil tore their clothes off their bodies. Women and children screamed and men swore and ran hither and thither like wild men. People set fire to each other. Some crawled into the dirt, others ran and fanned the flames with the wind. Dozens of naked men beat their bodies among the bushes seeking to relieve the pain, while others, sand exhausted, never to rise again.

The heat from the burning field which had spread over the valley separated the parties occupying each hillside. A similar scene was being enacted on both hillsides, while down the valley hope came out alive.

The burning oil trickled into a small ditch known as Cork's Run. It floated past the village of Espin and into the Ohio River. At the edge of Espin and the Pittsburg city limits a group of houses are situated along the hillside and on the level. A natural gas main occupies a ditch. There was a leak in the gas main.

As the burning oil reached it, the gas main exploded, wrecking all the houses in the group and killing several people, maiming about twenty more. One building contained a large pool-room, where were congregated a dozen men, and all were killed or injured.

Thus, at two distinct places, more than two miles apart, lives were lost and help was needed. By this time the railroad company had organized relief crews among their Pittsburg yard men. Every physician in the city was telephoned to lend his aid. Special trains were made up to take the doctors down in groups. Ambulances were put aboard flatcars and rushed down. Every hospital was ordered to get ready for an overflow, and rescue work was soon under way on a large scale.

FRANCHISE TAX LAW VALID.

It is Declared Constitutional by Judge Robert Essel.

Albany, N. Y.—One step in the legal fight against the bond franchise tax was judged when Robert Essel, former Chief Justice of the New York Court of Appeals, acting as referee under appointment by Justice D. Cady Horlick, filed an opinion in the Third Judicial Department upholding in every point the constitutionality of the law.

Should this opinion be confirmed by the appellate courts it will add \$3,000,000 a year to the treasury of New York City and about \$12,000,000 in back taxes, with seven per cent interest. As corporation values increase with the growth of the municipality the amount of the tax also will be swelled, and it is estimated by experts that in five years, should the law be upheld, the annual payments in the greater city will be \$6,000,000.

Judge Essel's opinion will be fought all the way to the United States Supreme Court by the corporations. The legal procedure will take about three years, and in the meantime the traction companies, the consolidated gas and the electric light corporations will refuse to pay the tax as assessed under the franchise law.

IN HONOR OF MCKINLEY

The Cornerstone of Memorial College Laid by President Roosevelt.

Institution Will Be Devoted to Studies Embracing Diplomacy, Arbitration, Civics and International Law.

Washington, D. C.—In the presence of a large assemblage President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the McKinley Memorial Ohio College of Government of the American University, a few miles outside this city in the northwestern part of the District of Columbia. When completed the building will be devoted to studies in diplomacy, municipal government, arbitration, civics and international law.

The ceremonies began with a hymn written for the occasion by Rev. Dr. J. E. Rankin, President of Howard University. Responsive readings from the President and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Perry, of Chicago, followed. Senator Dooliver then spoke briefly of the life and character of President McKinley, and said it was fitting that his name should be connected with a school of political science, because he was not only great as a statesman, but he was greatest in his comprehension of the humble duties of American citizenship.

Senator Hanna was the next speaker, and from the beginning of his remarks until the end his voice trembled with emotion.

Commissioner MacFarland, Dr. F. M. Bristol, who was President McKinley's pastor, and Bishop Mallien followed with brief addresses.

The speechmaking closed with a brief address by President Roosevelt.

"Ladies and Gentlemen—I am to say but one word. Nothing more need be said than has been said already by those who have addressed you this afternoon—the statesman who worked with McKinley and the pastor under whose ministrations he sat.

"It is indeed appropriate that the Methodists of America—the men belonging to that religious organization which furnished the pioneers in carrying out of the West what is now the heart of the great American republic—should found this great university in the city of Washington and should build the college that is to teach the science of government in the name of the great exponent of good and strong government who died last fall; who died as truly for this country as Abraham Lincoln himself.

"I thank you for having given me the opportunity this afternoon to come before you and to lay the cornerstone of this building."

The President then, with trowel in hand, threw in the mortar and the stone was lowered slowly into position. At some later date it will be raised sufficiently to permit the placing of a number of relics in the zinc box within. The Doxology was sung at the President's request, and the services closed with a benediction by the Rev. Dr. H. R. Naylor, of Washington.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees resolutions were passed providing plans to raise funds to complete the building.

NIXON RESIGNS LEADERSHIP.

Tammany Chiefmen Charged "Kitchen Cabinet" Had Usurped His Powers.

New York City.—Declaring that a "kitchen cabinet," led by Andrew Freedman, had usurped his powers and hampered his every move, Lewis Nixon has resigned as leader of Tammany Hall. His formal resignation has been forwarded to George M. Van Hoesen, Chairman of the General Committee.

As an immediate result of Mr. Nixon's retirement, John F. Carroll, formerly Richard Croker's deputy, issued a statement in which he said Tammany should never again be governed by a "boss," but that the district leaders should rule.

Speculation as to the executive head of the organization began at once, from Senator Timothy D. Sullivan came a formal tender of his support to former Dock Commissioner Charles E. Murphy, who agreed to become a candidate. James J. Martin, it was announced, is also in the field, but conservative members of the organization suggested that some other than a district leader should be chosen.

DIME NOVELS LED TO MURDER.

Bore Legitimate Fruit in Life Sentences of Two Youth.

Chicago.—Guy Locke, eighteen years old, and Edward C. Buefy, twenty, were sentenced to penal servitude for life for the murder of Peter Fafinski. "You ought to be hanged—yuh deserve it," but being minors protect you," said Judge Brentano, in pronouncing sentence.

Buefy ran away from his home in New York City with the idea of seeing some of the wild life he had read about in dime novels. Locke's home was in Rowlett's, a village in Hart County, Ky. The murder was committed when the boys were attempting to rob Fafinski's grocery.

ALL FRANCE REPUBLICAN.

Loubet Notes That No Monarchist Remains For Parliament.

Brest, France.—President Loubet, on his arrival here on his way to visit the Czar in St. Petersburg, said in response to a toast at a lunch given by 1500 civil officials of Finistere.

"France is now unanimously Republican. Not a single candidate solicited the suffrages of the electors as a Royalist or Imperialist. I hope the Deputies are sincerely Republican, and that they will not allow their electoral promises to go to protest."

RELIEF FOR MARTINIQUE

Congress Votes \$200,000 For the Aid of the Needy.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

Consul Ayme's Report That 50,000 Persons Are Homeless and Hungry Brings Immediate Response—President Directing the Government Relief Measures—He Asks Congress For \$500,000

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt has sent the following message to Congress:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives:

"One of the greatest calamities in history has fallen upon our neighboring island of Martinique. The Consul of the United States at Gaudeloupe has telegraphed from Fort de France that the disaster is complete; that the city of St. Pierre has ceased to exist and that the American Consul and his family have perished. He is informed that 30,000 people have lost their lives, and that 50,000 are homeless and hungry; that there is urgent need of all kinds of provisions, and that the visit of vessels for the work of supply and rescue is imperatively required.

"The Government of France, while expressing their thanks for the marks of sympathy which have reached them from America, inform us that Fort de France and the entire island of Martinique are still threatened. They, therefore, request that, for the purpose of rescuing the people who are in such deadly peril and threatened with starvation, the Government of the United States may send, as soon as possible, the means of transporting them from the stricken island. The island of St. Vincent, and, perhaps, others in that region are also seriously menaced by the calamity which has taken so appalling a form in Martinique.

"I have directed the Departments of the Treasury, of War and of the Navy to take such measures for the relief of these stricken people as lies within the Executive discretion, and I earnestly commend this case of unexampled disaster to the generous consideration of the Congress. For this purpose I recommend that an appropriation of \$500,000 be made, to be immediately available.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

President Roosevelt cabled the President of France the sympathy of the American people in the calamity that had befallen Martinique. The French Ambassador personally delivered a message of thanks from President Loubet for the expression of sympathy from this Government.

Word was received from United States Consul Ayme, who proceeded to Martinique from Gaudeloupe. He informed the President in a message from Fort de France confirming the worst reports of the disaster at St. Pierre, that 30,000 people perished and 50,000 are homeless and starving. There is urgent need of all kinds of provisions.

Both the Executive and the Legislative Departments of the Government were busy preparing for the work of rescue and relief in Martinique. This Government was ready to aid France without her asking it. Without the least doubt the resolution passed by the Senate would have been passed by the House in any case; but in the meantime the French Government had informed President Roosevelt that American help was needed; that rescue as well as relief was needed; and the President forwarded this news to Congress in a special message urging immediate action.

The House responded by passing a resolution appropriating \$200,000, as a substitute for the measure passed by the Senate appropriating \$100,000. The Senate concurred in the amendment, and the resolution went to the President for his signature. Later the appropriation may be increased to the figure suggested by the President.

Anticipating the action of Congress the Executive Departments hastened the work of fitting the Dixie relief party. Secretary Root directed the purchase of \$70,000 worth of provisions, \$20,000 worth of clothing, and \$5000 worth of medical supplies.

Captain Gallagher, of the Commissary Department, in Washington, has been ordered to proceed to Martinique and take complete charge of the distribution of relief.

STRIKE ORDER OBEYED.

President Mitchell Said That 140,000 Anthracite Workers Went Out.

Scranton, Pa.—President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, said that the preliminary strike in the three anthracite districts, ordered pending a decision of a convention of miners, was complete. Approximately 140,000 men and boys were idle, of which number only one-half were in the Lackawanna and Wyoming region. In every instance Mr. Mitchell said the order to suspend operations had been obeyed. About 20,000 mine workers were out in the Lehigh district, and 30,000 in the Schuylkill field.

Airship Trip Ends in Death.

M. Severo, the Brazilian aeronaut, made an ascent in his airship at Paris, France. Soon after the start the balloon caught fire and exploded. M. Severo and his engineer fell with the balloon and were killed. Mme. Severo and the family of the aeronaut witnessed the disaster.

ASKS THE PUBLIC FOR AID

President Appeals to the Nation For Prompt Contributions.

He Names Relief Committees, With a Central Distributing Agency For the Country at New York City.

Washington, D. C.—The following has been issued from the White House:

"The President has appointed a committee to receive funds for the relief of the sufferers from the recent catastrophes in Martinique and St. Vincent. The gentlemen appointed from each city are asked to collect and receive the funds from their localities and neighborhoods as expeditiously as possible and forward them to the Hon. Cornelius N. Bliss, Treasurer of the New York Committee, which committee will act as central distributing point for the country. The President directs all the postmasters throughout the country, and requests the presidents of all the national banks, to act as agents for the collection of contributions and to forward the same at once to Mr. Bliss at New York City. The postmasters are also directed to report to the Postmaster-General, within ten days, any funds collected on this account.

"The President appeals to the public to contribute generously for the relief of those upon whom this appalling calamity has fallen, and asks that the contributions be sent in as speedily as possible. The gentlemen designated on the several committees are requested to act at once. The following are the committees:

"New York City.—The Hon. Cornelius N. Bliss, Treasurer; Morris K. Jesup, John Claflin, Jacob H. Schiff and William R. Corwin.

"Boston.—Augustus Hemenway, Dr. Henry S. Pritchett and Henry Lee Higginson.

"Philadelphia.—Charles Emory Smith, Provost Charles C. Harriscop, Joseph G. Darlington, Clement A. Griscom and John H. Converse.

"Baltimore.—James A. Gary.

"Washington.—Charles C. Glover.

"Pittsburg.—A. J. Logan and H. C. Friel.

"Buffalo.—John G. Millburn and Carlton Sprague.

"Cleveland.—Myron T. Herrick and Samuel Mather.

"Cincinnati.—Jacob G. Schmicklapp and Briggs S. Cunningham.

"Chicago.—J. J. Mitchell, Marvin Hughitt, Marshall Field and Graeme Stewart.

"Milwaukee.—F. G. Bigelow, Charles F. Pfister and Fred Pabst.

"Minneapolis.—Thomas Lowrey and J. J. Shevlin.

"St. Paul.—Kenneth Clark and Theodore Schurmeier.

"Detroit.—Don M. Dickinson.

"St. Louis.—Charles Parsons, Adolphus Busch and Robert S. Bookings.

"Kansas City.—W. B. Clark and Charles Campbell.

"Omaha.—John C. Wharton and Victor B. Caldwell.

"Denver.—D. H. Moffatt.

"San Francisco.—Mayor Schmitz, George A. Newhall, A. Shardoro, Robert J. Tobin, Henry T. Scott and A. A. Watkins.

"New Orleans.—The Hon. Paul Capelle, I. L. Lyons and S. T. Walmsley."

100,000 FACE FAMINE.

Provisions Are Urgently Needed on the Stricken Island of Martinique.

Fort de France, Martinique.—The United States Government tug Potomac has brought a ton of supplies to Martinique, consisting, in part, of codfish and flour.

A famine here is imminent. The northern section of the island is depopulated.

Provisions are needed here for 100,000 people immediately. A shipment of flour is also needed at St. Pierre for sanitary purposes. The stench there from the dead bodies is overpowering. Mont Pelee was still belching smoke and fire.

Words fail to describe the present situation at St. Pierre. A small detachment of French troops is making efforts to enter the dead, although the Government seems to be strikingly unconcerned as to what is done in this direction.

The looting of the dead has begun already. Five colored and one white man were turned over to the commander of the French cruiser Suchet for punishment.

Senate Votes \$300,000 More.

Washington, D. C.—In the Senate Mr. Cullom, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a joint resolution appropriating \$500,000, including the \$200,000 already appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President in such manner as will most promptly and efficiently relieve the stricken people of the French West Indies and St. Vincent. The resolution was adopted without comment.

PREACHER A MURDERER.

The Rev. John Pelet Confesses That He Killed a Companion.

Springfield, Ill.—The Rev. John Pelet, the Baptist missionary who was arrested here for the murder of his traveling companion, Charles Isaksson, has made a confession to his father-in-law, John Walker, of Jerseyville, who came to Springfield to make arrangements for his defense.

Pelet says he killed Isaksson in a moment of frenzy. The impulse to murder and rob his companion came upon him suddenly, he says, and without warning he picked up a car expeller and beat out the man's brains. He says he is ready to die for the crime.

Pelet had charge of a Baptist mission at McCluskey, Ill.

MADE NEW DOCTORS OF MEDICINE

Graduating Class of Medical Department of Davidson College.

Davidson, Special.—The annual commencement of the North Carolina Medical College was celebrated Monday evening in the Shearer hall. The auditorium was packed and in spite of the hot night the exercises were greatly enjoyed. Drs. Wakefield, Strong, Russell and Nesbit, of Charlotte, were among the visitors. These gentlemen have been interested with Dr. Munroe in his dispensary in Charlotte. The exercises of the evening were opened with prayer by Dr. Graham. Rev. D. N. McLaughlin, of Chester, S. C., was then introduced as the orator. Mr. McLaughlin spoke on "The Advantages and Perils of Specializing." His address abounded in wit and humorous stories, and delighted the large audience. The degree of M. D. was conferred upon the following young men: W. H. Boone, J. A. Dowd, I. F. Hicks, H. W. Judd, L. R. Kirkpatrick, J. P. Matheson, H. S. Munroe, J. R. McCracken, A. B. McQueen, J. W. McLean, E. W. Phifer, J. A. Sisk, L. C. Skinner, T. H. Stranhecker, W. I. Taylor, S. M. Withers, E. M. Yount and James Young.

Hit His Wife With An Axe.

Charlotte, Special.—Lee Gabriel, colored, who drives a baggage wagon for J. W. Wadsworth's Sons, struck his wife, Pauline, three times with an axe Tuesday afternoon, and she will die from the wounds. He says she nagged him and attacked him and he struck her in self-defense. Pauline is unconscious and will probably die without telling anything. The tragedy occurred at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon on East Third street, at the home of Gabriel, who is betted as "Molly Darling," a soubriguet given him by Charlotte negroes upon his arrival here from Statesville some years ago. Colored people who live close to the house heard the sound of quarrelling and then of a struggle, heard the wild sobbing of a little negro girl. There was silence for a few minutes, and then Gabriel came from the house with a valise in his hand and hurriedly walked away. After his departure the neighbors entered Gabriel's house and found Pauline lying behind the kitchen stove, covered with blood. Her four-year-old child was lying half under her and between her body and the wall. Evidently she had toppled over on the child after been stricken. An investigation showed that Pauline had been hit three times with an axe, which lay close to her body. With each blow the point of the axe penetrated the skull on the top of the head, and the woman's brains came out of each wound.

New Mill For Durham.

Durham, Special.—The Erwin Cotton Mill Company is to erect another mill, to be known as Erwin Mill No. 2, at an early date. The new mill will be larger than the present one. The location of the mill has not been decided upon, but it is thought that it will be located in West Durham. At least the matter is under consideration and the people of this section are using their efforts to get it located here. Mr. W. A. Erwin, of the Erwin Mill, said that it was a certainty that the mill would be erected, and that at an early date. He said that it would have 35,000 spindles and about 1,000 looms. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$600,000, making the cost of the two mills about \$1,100,000. In connection with the new mill it is said that some three hundred new residences will be erected, the contract to be given at the same time with the other contract. It is said that work on the new plant will begin within the next 30 days. A portion of the machinery has been ordered and is now being gotten ready for shipment.

The Year's School Figures.

Raleigh, Special.—A lot of figures were added in the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office, showing what was raised for and disbursed on account of the public schools during last year. The receipts were as follows: From poll tax \$328,403; property tax \$525,257; special local tax \$15,545; special poll tax \$404; fines, etc., \$23,412; liquor licenses \$79,280; from the State Treasury \$101,401; from other sources \$45,984. Total, \$1,119,746. The disbursements were: To white teachers \$621,928; colored teachers \$219,561; Croatan Indian teachers \$1,995; school houses for whites \$43,514; and for negroes \$12,693; to county superintendents \$25,597; for county institutes for whites \$1,256; and for negroes \$506; commissions to county treasurers \$22,589; per diem of county boards \$5,728; expenses of such boards \$2,950; to city schools \$73,000; for other purposes \$13,823. Total, \$1,091,276; balance on hand July 1, 1901, \$227,534.

Salem Centennial.

Salem, Special.—May 23 to 29, at the time of the annual commencement exercises, the Centennial of Salem Female academy will be appropriately celebrated. A number of prominent people will be present, crowds of former pupils will rally round their alma mater, and the corner stone of an alumnae memorial hall will be laid. This hall is designed to be a worthy tribute from the alumnae and the friends of the alumnae to the school, which for a hundred years has trained and taught the young womanhood of our land and will fittingly open a new century of usefulness and success. Our school was one of the first in the south and the third in the United States. We have every cause to be proud of this very old place.

Meeting of Grand Lodge.

Greensboro, Special.—At 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon the 69th annual session of the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. opened in the hall of Buena Vista Lodge, No. 31, with the following officers present: Grand Master R. W. Murray, Greensboro; Deputy Grand Master J. F. Griffith, Winston; Grand Warden L. B. McBrayer, Asheville; Grand Secretary B. H. Woodell, Raleigh; Grand Treasurer R. J. Jones, Wilmington; Grand Representative M. W. Jacob, Wilmington; Grand Marshal Plato Collins, Kinston; Grand Conductor J. J. Hopkins, Wilmington; Grand Herald J. G. Shannonhouse, Charlotte; Grand Guardian W. J. Hannah, Waynesville. Mr. P. G. A. M. Seales delivered an eloquent address of welcome on behalf of his lodge, to which Past Grand Representative Charles F. Lumsden, of Raleigh, on behalf of the grand master, responded.

Miss Childers Heard From.

Lenoir, Special.—The following, which is in part, a copy of a letter received here by W. C. Childers, solves the mystery connected with the recent sudden disappearance of Miss Cordie Childers, and is the first definite information received as to her safety and location:

"Sterling, Neb., May 6.
"Dear Uncle Will: I know you were a little surprised at my leaving the way I did, but I just didn't have the nerve to tell you all good-bye. I hope you were not uneasy. Please don't think hard of me for leaving the way I did. Love to every one.
"Yours lovingly,
"CORDIE."

Won Damages.

Salisbury, Special.—W. T. Lamb has been awarded \$800 damages in his suit against the Littman Cordage Company. This was a re-trial, the Supreme court having reversed a former judgment of non-suit. Lamb was a ten-year-old boy who lost two fingers by being thrown into a spinning frame by a brutal foreman.

State Notes.

Rutherfordton, Special.—The plant of the Golden Valley Hydraulic Lumber Company, which was leased by the Belk Lumber Company, at Thermal City, was completely destroyed by fire Thursday night. The cause of the fire is unknown. The loss to the Golden Valley Company is about \$6,000, partially covered by insurance, and to Belk Bros., \$2,000, with insurance. J. H. Carpenter lost about \$600 worth of lumber which was loaded on the cars. Several cars were destroyed and the railroad for several hundred feet was injured.

There are now 441 convicts at work on the Ohio River and Charleston railway in Mitchell county.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Closing Session of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows.

Greensboro, Special.—The last day's session of the 59th annual meeting of the grand lodge, I. O. O. F., was full of official business, which was completed at 1 o'clock Thursday, when a final adjournment was had, and in a brief space of time all who had not left on earlier trains had departed for home.

An interesting incident of the closing scenes was the presentation by Mr. H. B. Buchanan to Retiring Grand Master R. W. Murray of a beautiful grand master's jewel.

An appropriation not exceeding \$2,000 was made for the sanitary improvement of the Orphans' Home at Goldsboro, with authority to the trustees to duplicate the amount. A fund was also set aside for the higher education of the inmates of the Orphans' Home. All delegates who remained in the city witnessed the ball game between Greensboro and Newbern as the guests of Buena Vista Lodge. The following officers were elected during the morning session, and were duly installed by Retiring Grand Master Murray: Worthy grand master, J. F. Griffith, Winston-Salem; deputy grand master, Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Asheville; grand warden, H. C. Biggs, Scotland Neck; grand secretary, B. H. Woodell, Raleigh; grand treasurer, R. J. Jones, Wilmington; grand representative, R. W. Murray, Greensboro; trustee orphans' home, W. D. Gaster, Fayetteville.

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