

Develop Air Service

ONE of the obstacles to the rapid development of northern B.C. is the high cost of railway and highway construction. Whereas the new CNR line from Sherridon to Lynn Lake in Manitoba cost \$95,000 per mile, the line from Terrace to Kitimat is costing \$217,000 per mile.

As for highways, it is estimated that the cost of construction in B.C. is at least twice the average for the rest of Canada, and perhaps four or five times the cost in the prairie provinces.

This, among other reasons, is why it is so imperative to develop air transportation in this part of the country.

We note with interest that a new airport has been opened at Castlegar. This, of course, is excellent. All through the Kootenay area there is great development in progress, and at Castlegar in particular there is promise of a busy future in view of the plans to establish a large pulp industry there.

Yet it must be remarked that this and all the rest of the southern part of the province are already well served by other means of transportation. When flying conditions there are poor, the traveller has the choice of a railway or a highway which, in most sections, is good.

Up here the highway defies classification and, at the important western end of the line between Terrace and Prince Rupert there is no air service at all. It is difficult to see why this growing part of the country should be so penalized.

Countries are developed on faith, and the people who live up here have this quality in good volume. How much longer must they wait before it is reciprocated?

A Roof Overhead

FOR critics of Canada's new National Housing Act, there's some interesting information coming from a Toronto builder.

Under the new legislation, he obtained bank mortgages and was able to offer attractive small homes worth \$12,100 for down payments of \$1,925.

Before the change in the law it would have taken a \$575 larger down payment to buy the same house. But the builder was able to anticipate bigger demand with its consequent savings from large-scale production and cut the price by \$300. Easier terms did the rest.

In the first three or four days he sold 58 homes. And shortly after, sales totaled 109. Now he has opened lots for 100 or more houses.

No one expects the new legislation to father thousands and thousands more houses this year. No one expects it to put a house on every suburban hilltop, or on every ravine lot with everflowing stream close to schools and transportation.

But here is a definite case of helping Canadians with small down payments to move into houses of their own. And that, by itself, is achievement.

—Financial Post.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Hailie Selassie, emperor of Ethiopia, has been honored by Montreal and Quebec. The Lion of Judah wears the uniform of a Field Marshal. His height is five feet, three inches, and there are seven rows of ribbons. What sort of strategy did he use in finding room?

"What's an operetta?
"Don't be foolish; it's a girl who works for the telephone company."

The population of the United States has grown to a total in excess of a hundred and sixty-one millions. This is a good sized family for Ike and Mamie to watch, particularly to see they don't remain out too late.

THE DANGER EXISTS

North coast defence came into the picture in the debate in Ottawa, not long ago, with Howard Green (Vancouver-Quadra) submitting questions concerning the Radio Act and its general maintenance. Said Mr. Green in part: "Take, for example, the situation on the west coast where actually new? Nevertheless, they have done, and are continuing to do a lot of good.

Always drive so that your license expires before you do.—Digest.

WENT ALL RIGHT

About 1,500 Democrats paid \$100 a plate to hear Harry S. Truman speak at the Jefferson-Jackson banquet in Washington. The ex-president was in good form, had something to say, and said it. "We cannot fulfill our responsibilities if we are to insult our allies and friends who helped us to win the second world war." It was costly to listen to, but the crowd didn't mind.

HOW THEY ARE SITTING

Hansard prints the remarks of a Federal member who doubtless will discover numerous Canadians in full agreement with him. Mr. MacInnis says: "The old age security payments have been a Godsend to a great many people, particularly those people who had small savings and can now use those social security payments to augment them. To use the vernacular they are sitting pretty. They are economically secure.

Mrs. John Dunbury, says a London daily, is slowly changing into a man. She is 28, dark-haired and slight and believes a divorce is quite possible. Both herself and husband are agreeable to the change. As for social life in future, one should be quite without anxieties.

As I See It



by
*Elmore
Philbott*

Need Flag Poll

THE Prime Minister of Canada has told his colleagues that he is against parliament trying to select an official Canadian flag in the near future.

He is aware that there is a possibility of deep cleavage on the question of whether or not an official flag of Canada should retain the Union Jack, whether the flag of Canada should be entirely Canadian.

The 1951 convention of the Young Liberals voted unanimously for a flag "exclusively Canadian." However, it is fair to say that the real issue was not debated—and hence some of the delegates may not have realized that the vote would be interpreted in the press as favoring a flag without the Union Jack.

I DO NOT think there is any way to settle this flag question in Canada, except by a free vote of the people.

However, no government of Canada is soon likely to choose a flag, and then stand or fall by the flag at the next election.

The whole flag question is so backed with political dynamite that all the party leaders are certain to treat it with the utmost caution.

Moreover, even an official plebiscite held in connection with a general election, would be a risky business from the standpoint of national unity. We might, or might not, find the country split right down the middle, not only by percentages of the total vote, but also racially and geographically.

I WOULD like to see all the newspapers of Canada conduct a coast to coast flag poll, on some day agreed on in advance.

To hold such a poll it would first be necessary for some committee to select about three or four flag designs. Two of these designs might contain the Union Jack in the upper corner and two of the designs might be without that Union Jack.

The flags could be shown in full color in special magazine sections (like *Weekend*), or by special inserts.

On the agreed day (but on no other) all the newspapers of Canada might carry a special ballot on which the people could mark their choices for the four designs shown—marking them one, two, three, four. Each newspaper could print its own results.

IT IS JUST possible that such a coast to coast flag poll—national in scope but unofficial in its effect—might pave the way for a final agreement on this flag question.

Once we had a coast-to-coast poll, we would no longer need to guess about the general basis of the new flag. If no clear choice emerged, the whole question could be allowed to subside.

New Dock Slated For False Creek

VANCOUVER (CP)—A new fisherman's wharf which, when completed, will accommodate 200 boats, is to be built on False Creek in the near future by the federal government, city officials have announced.

The wharf, expected to cost between \$800,000 and \$900,000 when completed, is to be administered by the city. A grant of \$350,000, to cover cost of preparatory earth moving and road building, has already been made in Ottawa.

HISTORIC UNIVERSITY

Queen's University, opened in 1842 at Kingston, Ont., was the first in Canada to introduce student self-government.

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.

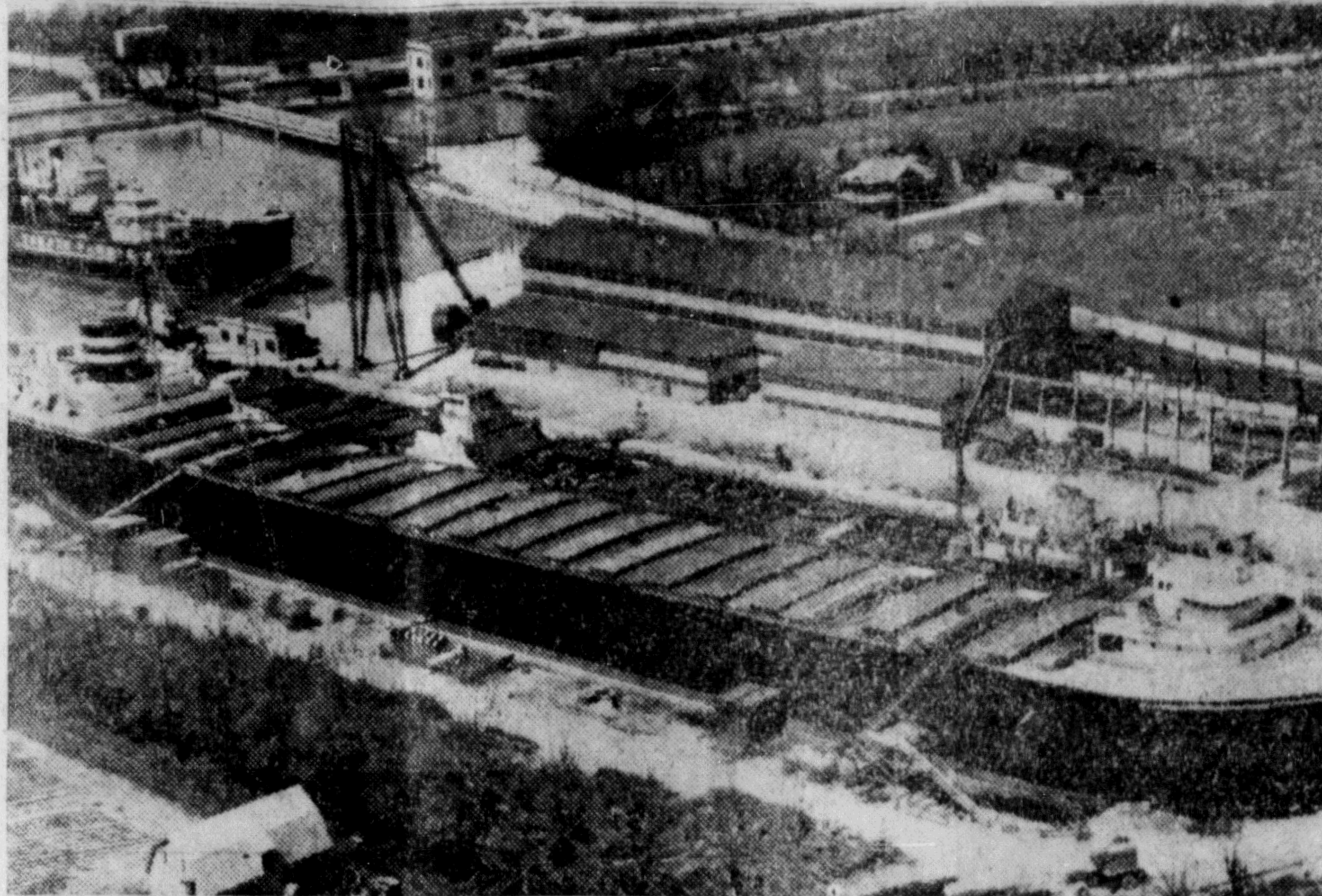
1954

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

This is to advise all citizens that from June 7 until June 15 (inclusive dates), the City Forces will collect and dispose of all accumulated debris and trash, if placed conveniently to the roadway.

This service is free of charge

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THE FREIGHTER SCOTT MISNEK, shown getting the finishing touches in dock at the Port Weller, Ont., shipyards, prior to her launching May 26, may be the last big ship built on the Great Lakes for some years. The ship, of more than 32,000 tons gross, has cost her owners, Colonial Steamships, about \$5,500,000. Capt. Scott Misener, Colonial president after whom the ship is named, said construction costs are so high that his firm will order no new ships until costs come down to the level of six or seven years ago. Builders blame unemployment in shipyards and lack of building orders on present high costs. (CP Photo)

Thousands of Canadian Brides To Forego Wedding Bells in Favor of Civil Ceremony

By WALTER GRAY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP)—No wedding bells will ring for thousands of Canadian brides this year. They will have no elaborate trousseau or fancy church wedding.

There are the ones who choose the civil marriage, performed in a judge's chambers or magistrate's office.

The simple ceremony is free of ecclesiastical ties, requiring only the presentation of the marriage licence to the judge or magistrate or in some provinces, the marriage commissioner.

IN FIVE PROVINCES

Civil marriage has been adopted by five provinces—Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Last year, British Columbia had the highest rate of civil marriages—12½ per cent of the total number of marriages. Alberta had 5 per cent, Ontario and Manitoba 2½ per cent and Saskatchewan less than 1 per cent.

Ontario adopted civil marriage in 1950, after the four western provinces. In 1953, 1,500 of the 45,446 marriages in the province were civil ceremonies.

R. J. Cudney, Ontario's deputy

provincial secretary, said in an interview that the province made the ceremony legal at the request of the churches.

The legislature made the ceremony legal in 1950. Since then, more than 4,000 civil marriages have been performed.

SOME TAKE BOTH

Some Europeans, following the custom of the homeland, are married in civil ceremony, then go through the church ritual.

Under Ontario's Marriage Act, civil ceremonies may be performed only by county court judges and police magistrates between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"We didn't want the Hollywood-type of marriage—getting the justice of the peace out of bed at midnight," said Mr. Cudney. "We wanted to maintain a certain amount of dignity."

The act states that no particular form of ceremony is required, except that in some part of the ceremony, in the presence of the judge or magistrate and two witnesses, each of the parties must declare:

"I do solemnly declare that I

do not know of any lawful impediment why I, John Doe may not be joined in matrimony to Mary Green."

FORM OF CEREMONY

And each of the parties say to the other:

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, John Doe, do take thee Mary Green to be my lawful wedded wife or husband."

Then the judge or magistrate says: "I, Henry Brown, judge or magistrate of the county of York by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you John Doe and Mary Green to be husband and wife."

The ceremony costs \$10, as set out in the act.

Mr. Cudney said the Ontario judges and magistrates were in fact almost automatically an opposite side to the Socialist CCF and to the Welfare State Liberals on almost every social and economic question that has come before the House. They reversed their stand and voted against

Manufacturers' Convention Start Of Big Season at Jasper Park

SPECIAL to The Daily News
JASPER, Alta.—A bear in a china shop would hardly surprise anybody in this famed Rocky Mountain resort where the animals mingle sociably with the paying guests, but even the bears might have raised their eyebrows at some of the ceremonies that attended the opening of Jasper Park lodge this weekend.

Two hundred of Canada's top industrialists and their wives arrived here Saturday on a special CNR train from the east and ran into a real ranch-style reception staged by their western colleagues.

Few of the hosts were recognizable as captains of western industry. Jasper Park lodge was full of ten-gallon hats, spurs and silver-studded saddles. Its ballroom looked like Calgary at stampede time. In the swank main dining room stood, among other things, a genuine Indian teepee, brought several hundred miles for the occasion. For dinner the delegates ate roast steer, carved on the spot and served buffet style. After that they held a square dance right in the dining room.

The occasion was the 83rd annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association which ushered in the 1954 season at Jasper Park lodge. It was the lodge's earliest opening in years.

"This should be the biggest season we've ever had," said William B. Cornforth, manager of the lodge. "A large number of conventions are scheduled and bookings for regular guests are even heavier than they were at this time last year, when we had a record summer."

The CMA delegates are the first of some 14,000 visitors who are expected to stay at Jasper Park lodge between now and mid-September. While they are here they will take sight-seeing trips, explore some of the beauty spots of North America's largest national playground, play on the championship Jasper Park lodge golf course and, of course, discuss business.

Business sessions started today by which time the delegates are expected to number about 400. Convention topics include industrial relations, international trade, atomic energy for industry and the outlook for Canadian business.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MACLEOD

The Progressive Conservative group excels all other parties in the House in at least one not considerable achievement.

That is to say, it succeeds in keeping the correspondents in the press gallery, who supposedly are skilled parliamentary observers, in a fairly constant state of nearly complete bewilderment.

The most recent example was the avowal a few days ago of J. M. Macdonnell, the party's giant financial thinker, that he wasn't a defender of the gold standard but accepted the principle of managed currency.

Now it is well-known that the principle of a managed currency is at least as old as the Saxon kings. They used to manage the currency by mixing a little lead and other adulterants in with the silver and gold. Whenever they were caught doing it, they generally lost their heads.

Modern currency management is, of course, a vastly different art. Instead of resorting to such crudities as debasement by lead and other low-value metals, the method now is to leave paper currency unchanged to the naked eye, but to lower the purchasing power of the dollar to about 55 cents or less. This plan has the advantage over the older system that so far the governments which have undertaken it have got away with it. There's been no record yet of any finance minister being shot by an irate citizen for debasement of a country's paper currency.

Nevertheless, it came as a distinct shock to press gallery correspondents to hear the Conservative party's ultra-orthodox Macdonnell endorse "managed" money and disown sound currency based on the gold standard.

For hitherto the aim of the PC's during the present session had been to establish themselves as the group in the nation's politics which stood for free enterprise and orthodox finance against the welfare state and Socialist bureaucracy. That has been the clear distinction between themselves and the CCF and the Liberals alike which the PC's have been anxious to have the public draw.

To that end they have taken almost automatically an opposite side to the Socialist CCF and to the Welfare State Liberals on almost every social and economic question that has come before the House. They reversed their stand and voted against

he check-off. They legislation to provide a death benefit for civil servants in brief, they behaved as if they were free enterprise men. They had nothing to do with the welfare state measures. Old-time Conservatives began to feel that the really had returned to additional meetings. But Macdonnell turned his back on the gold standard and managed currency. No confusion as to what, thing, Conservative policy exists all over again.

Magistrate 41 Years
GUELPH, Ont. (CP)—Magistrate Frederic Watt has his 42nd year in office. When he concluded his court in 1913, he succeeded Mas H. Saunders who had magistered for 47 years.

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