

CHAPTER VI.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATION IN 1837.

The district of Hazaribagh was formed in the year 1833. The last District Gazetteer published in 1917, quotes verbatim a letter from Capt. Bird, Officer in charge of the district to Capt. Wilkinson, the Governor-General's Agent. This letter is dated the 12th August, 1837, and gives an interesting account of education shortly after the district was formed. It was in reply to a query made by the Sadr Board of Revenue regarding establishment of a school in Capt. Bird's division and enquired if financial support could be had from the local people. Bird replied to say that no financial support could be expected as "several zamindars with one or two exception are involved in pecuniary difficulties" and as "the wealthy *mahajans* are too much interested in keeping the several *clakadars* in that state of ignorance of which they have already taken advantage to enrich themselves". Regarding the possibility of getting pupils for the school, he mentions that since it is "an isolated situation" not many Government servants bring their families there and "the respectable part of the Native Community do not look upon this station as their home, having their families at Gaya and Patna and if inclined to send their children to a seminary avail themselves of the one established at the later station." He mentions a small school where instruction was confined to the vernacular language and which was attended by 18 to 20 boys.

EDUCATION IN 1855.

The report of Ricketts, Member of the Board of Revenue, published in volume XX of *Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government* (1855) contains the following passage: "There is no Government school at Hazaribagh. At present I do not recommend that a Government school should be established at Hazaribagh. There would be no advantages commensurate with the expense, but I think there will be much advantage in the gratuitous distribution of the cheapest elementary school books to the village schools".

EDUCATION IN 1872.

From the "Statistical account" it appears that there was no Government school of any kind until 1865; and 5 years later Government support was confined to one district school which taught English, 4 Vernacular schools and 3 aided English schools. Altogether these schools had 403 pupils. There was a number of *pathshalas* but they were ordinarily meant for boys of the upper castes. In 1871 when Sir George Campbell's scheme for improving primary education was

receiving attention 3 old *pathshalas* and 43 new ones received aid. In 1872, when a scheme was introduced the number increased to 76 and a training school for *gurus* was opened. There was, however, a lack of enthusiasm in the public about education. This general indifference is ascribed to innate conservatism and disrespect of any immediate return in the shape of employment".

EDUCATION IN 1915-16.

According to the last District Gazetteer, there were 790 institutions out of which 765 were recognised. The total number of pupils in the recognised institutions was 21,323. This number included 164 students at the St. Columba's College which was established in 1899. The percentage of literacy was 23 persons per thousand and of the total population literate males were 43 and literate females were three per thousand.

REASONS FOR SLOW GROWTH.

Compared to other districts with the exception of Palamanu, Hazaribagh had the lowest proportion of literates in the State in 1911. From the year 1927 even Palamanu scored better in this respect than Hazaribagh. According to the quinquennial review published by the Department of Education of the Government of Bihar the following were percentages of children in the total population in Patna, Palamanu and Hazaribagh in the years quoted against them :—

Year.	Patna.	Palamanu.	Hazaribagh.
1926-27	4.2	2.3	2.0
1931-32	3.8	2.3	1.8
1936-37	4.6	2.5	2.02
1941-42	4.91	2.52	2.32
1946-47	5.5	2.8	2.4
1951-52	6.6	3.8	3.07
1952-53	...	...	2.9
1953-54	...	...	3.9
1954-55	...	...	3.9

There are several reasons for the low incidence of education in Hazaribagh district. In the first place, the population contains a large aboriginal element which has to a great extent been absorbed into Hinduism. As such it made no direct appeal to the Missionary agencies which have done so much in the way of education in Ranchi and the Santal Parganas. It is only after Independence in 1947 that a large number of schools for backward communities have been opened. The second reason was the same as mentioned by Capt. Bird quoted earlier. The gentry was impoverished and uneducated. It suited the wealthy

mahajans to keep others in ignorance as long as possible. Till the Government was not putting money and effort in educating the public no progress was possible. Again till the desire for education and consciousness of what it could do was awakened in the masses it tended to be only a one-sided effort from the Government. Yet another reason which Lister furnishes in the last District Gazetteer and which held true for sometime, runs thus: "The immigrant Hindus from Bihar who made their permanent homes in the district gradually became isolated from their kindred. Living in a remote and unknown land they were suspected of all kinds of ceremonial neglect and the natural affection of parents combined with religious scruples resulted in their refusing to give their daughters in marriage to residents in Hazaribagh. Thrown on their resources, these latter failed to maintain the same standard of culture as their relations at Gaya and in Patna". This picture, however, does not hold true any longer due to better communications, more facilities for education and for closer contact with the other parts of the State.

The most important cause, however, is the general state of poverty and even the small children in the family have to contribute to the family income.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION.

The following table gives the picture of the progress of education in the Hazaribagh district for 1915-16 onwards:—

Year.	Number of schools		Total.	Number of pupils.		Total.
	For boys.	For girls.		Boys.	Girls.	
1915-16	..	..	764	..	..	21,159
1921-22	686	55	741	26,007	1,444	21,451
1931-32	714	63	777	24,734	2,170	26,904
1941-42	774	58	832	45,692	3,120	48,812
1946-47	712	56	768	37,122	3,281	40,403
1951-52	930	71	1,001	54,214	6,923	61,137
1952-53	981	71	1,052	50,863	6,497	57,360
1953-54	1,101	72	1,173	58,426	7,770	66,196
1954-55	1,316	75	1,391	66,276	8,208	74,484

It will be observed that though in the year 1921-22 and in 1946-47 the number of institutions decreased, there was no consequent reduction in the number of pupils. On the contrary there is an actual increase in the number of scholars. The decrease in the number of schools in 1921-22 is due to the abolition of a number of inefficient

primary schools due to the schools and been a result. The incident the previous respectively. to note that and the res quinquecentu

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primary schools. The decrease in the number of schools in 1946-47 is due to the amalgamation of lower primary schools with upper primary schools and upper primary schools with middle schools. There has been a remarkable increase in the decade from 1941-42 to 1951-52. The incidence in the number of scholars is +12,325 as compared to the previous two decades when it was +21,908 and +5,453, respectively. Even in the decade from 1942 to 1952, it is interesting to note that in the first quinquennium the incidence was only +1,278 and the rest of the increase, i.e., +20,734, occurred in the latter quinquennium after Independence.

CONTROL OF ORGANISATION.

There is a Divisional Inspector of Schools under the Director of Public Instruction for controlling education in the Division of Chotanagpur with his headquarters in Ranchi. He is assisted by a Special Inspecting Officer for Muhammadan Education and a Special Inspecting Officer for the Education of the Depressed Classes.

During 1949-50 when there was an expansion of Basic Education one Superintendent of Basic and Social Education was attached to the office of the Divisional Inspector. There is an exclusive District Inspector of Schools for Hazaribagh district. He is directly responsible to the Divisional Inspector and acts as the Educational Adviser to the District Board and Municipal authorities in all educational matters. For each subdivision there is a Deputy Inspector of Schools who is immediately responsible to the District Inspector of Schools and acts as the Educational Adviser to the Local Board in his subdivision. There are 13 Sub-Inspectors of Schools to look after institutions in the various circles of each subdivision. There is only one Inspecting Officer for girls' education, the District Inspectress of Schools, with her office at Hazaribagh. Prior to 1950, the District Inspectress of Schools, with her headquarters at Gaya, was in charge of the three districts of Gaya, Palamu and Hazaribagh. In 1950 with the increase in the number of institutions there was a redistribution of the jurisdictions. The present jurisdiction of the District Inspectress of Schools of Hazaribagh is Santal Parganas and Hazaribagh.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

There is only one college in Hazaribagh which is now affiliated to the Bihar University. St. Columba's College was founded in 1899 in the central part of the present Post Office building by the Dublin University Mission. The college started with 23 students and with a donation of Rs. 3,000 from Raja Ram Narayan Singh of Ramgarh. In 1904 it was raised to the status of a first grade college. In 1908 it

moved into its own building. Government granted a sum of Rs. 50,000 for building laboratories. In 1912 another sum of Rs. 30,000 was given by the Government towards addition to hostel and another sum of Rs. 27,000 in 1913 for additions to college building. Till 1917 the college was affiliated to the Calcutta University. From 1917 to 1952 the college was affiliated to the Patna University and since then to the Bihar University.

Since 1946 B.Sc. classes have been started. In 1952 a Biology block was completed with monetary help from the Government. The college is affiliated for I.Sc. and B.Sc. examinations in Botany and Zoology. The college also admits girl students. There are at present more than 500 students on the roll.

The Bihari Girls' School and the Mount Carmel School have coaching classes up to I.A. standard for girl candidates who have to appear at the University Examination as private candidates.

Another College at Giridih known as Giridih College, was established in the year 1955, and in the same year it was affiliated to the Bihar University up to Intermediate standard both in Arts and Science subjects. With effect from the session 1956-57 the College has secured affiliation up to Degree standard in Arts. In I.Sc. it teaches Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology as optional subjects. The number of students is 400 in the beginning of the session 1956-57 as against 203 in 1955-56.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The last District Gazetteer mentions five high schools out of which one was for girls. The total number of students in the boys' schools was 883 while that in the girls' schools was 72. The following table illustrates the progress of Secondary Education in Hazaribagh district :—

Year.	Number of schools.			Number of scholars.		Total.
	For boys.	For girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	
1915-16	3	1	4	883	72	955
1921-22	3	1	4	744	30	774
1931-33	3	1	4	1,134	87	1,221
1941-42	7	2	9	1,921	403	2,324
1946-47	12	2	14	4,239	474	4,713
1951-52	17	2	19	6,897	466	7,363

The oldest high school is the Zila School established soon after the Calcutta University was founded, i.e., around 1857. The Dublin Mission High English School was established in 1894. Amongst the girls' high schools, the Giridih Girls' High School is the oldest. It was established in the year 1910. The reason why the town of Giridih which is the headquarters of a subdivision had a girls' high school before the district headquarters had one, was that being on the border of Bengal and enjoying healthy climate, a number of educated Bengalis came to settle in Giridih after retirement and, therefore, the demand for a girls' high school arose. The number of girls in the school in 1951-52 was 175. It is an aided school. The Bihar Girls' High School at Hazaribagh was established in 1914. It started as a Parda Primary school. In 1937 it became a middle school and in 1941 it was raised to the status of a high school. The middle and the high school sections were provincialised in 1950 under the Bihar Government Post-War Development Scheme. The strength of the pupils in the school in 1951-52 was 209.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

The last District Gazetteer mentions 7 Middle English schools and 4 Middle Vernacular schools with 595 pupils and 262 pupils, respectively. The statistics from 1916-17 are as follows :—

Year.	Number of Middle Schools.			Number of pupils.		
	For boys.	For girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1916-17	12	1	13	1,235	75	1,310
1921-22	14	1	15	328	87	1,015
1931-32	19	3	22	2,443	268	2,711
1941-42	40	5	45	5,447	591	6,038
1946-47	34	5	39	4,950	658	5,608
1951-52	46	4	50	7,343	850	8,193
1954-55	65	5	70	9,212	1,048	10,260

These figures would indicate that the progress of middle schools has been steady. The decrease in 1946-47 both in the number of institutions as well as the number of pupils is probably due to the number of middle schools being changed into high schools, as can be seen from the figures under Secondary Education which show high increase in that year in the number of pupils as well as institutions. The middle

vernacular schools in this district ceased to exist since the year 1944, and all middle schools taught English as a subject in their course of studies. Since the new curriculum reforms brought about in the year 1948, English no longer forms a subject of the middle school curriculum. The oldest girls' middle school was the Bengali Girls' Middle School established in 1872.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

According to the last District Gazetteer, there were 666 schools, catering for 17,241 pupils. Out of these 47 were Upper Primary with 2,531 students. The statistics for the later decades are as follows:—

Year.	Number of schools.		Total.	Number of pupils.		Total.
	For boys.	For girls.		Boys.	Girls.	
1921-22	644	58	702	16,002	1,430	18,032
1931-32	685	58	743	20,800	1,700	22,500
1941-42	720	50	770	28,181	2,099	30,280
1946-47	661	48	709	27,701	2,127	29,828
1951-52	793	63	856	32,103	3,218	42,321
1954-55	1,144	60	1,204	43,329	6,430	49,759

It will be observed that the highest incidence of increase is in the last decade, the incidence is +12,041 and for the last five years of the same decade is +12,493. This was probably due to the concentrated efforts of the Department of Education for removing illiteracy and on account of primary education, i.e., up to class V having been made free and in some places even compulsory since June, 1949. The decrease in the year 1946-47 is due to the amalgamation of lower primary schools with upper primary schools and for closure of inefficient institutions.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Compulsory primary education only for boys of the age group 6 to 10 years has been in force in all the 17 towns of the State and the same was introduced in the town of Hazaribagh (municipal area) from the 20th November, 1939.

Due to several socio-economic factors governing the lives of the masses the reports on the working of the compulsory scheme in the district have never been satisfactory. The children who should have been at school keep away from it either due to the lethargic attitude of the

parents or to the economic causes which make it imperative for the child to assist the parents in odd jobs to augment the family income.

The following statistical data in respect of the schemes of compulsory primary education in force in the district will prove of interest :—

Year.	Number of schools under compul- sion.	Number of pupils under compul- sion.	Educated number of boys of compulsion age (6 to 10 years).	Percentage of pupils under compulsion to the estimated number of boys of compulsion age.	Percentage of average daily attend- ance.	Total expen- diture.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1942	25	1,708	Not available.			
1943			Not available.			
1944	Not available	1,460	1,508	96.8	92	13,296
1945	Ditto	1,614	1,749	93.2	92	12,793
1946	Ditto	1,646	1,821	90.4	93	12,718
1947	Ditto	1,628	1,871	87	85	15,129
1948	Ditto	1,599	1,904	84.7	88	16,498
1949	24	2,198	2,240	98	56.9	Not available.
1950	22	2,289	2,637	86.80	81.28	17,584
1951	22	2,295	2,618	86.66	81.69	27,318
1952	20	1,507	2,709	57.95	80	24,044

BASIC EDUCATION.

Basic education was for the first time introduced in this district in 1949 when the Marangmarcha and Marumandhe basic schools were opened on the 1st of March. At present there are 21 Basic Schools, out of which nine have been converted from Middle schools into Senior Basic, and nine have been converted from Primary into Junior Basic. Only three schools are entirely new out of which one is at Bokaro and another at Bihar Military Police Camp and the third is located at Bachhai, Chauparan Police-station. In the year 1951-52, there were 1,794 boys and 48 girls in the nine Senior Basic schools and there were 869 boys and 109 girls in the 12 Junior Basic schools. All these institutions are co-educational. The number of students in these Basic schools in 1954-55 was 1,877 boys and 141 girls in the Senior

Basic and 752 boys and 17 girls in Junior Basic schools. The expenditure on the Senior Basic schools for 1951-52 was Rs. 44,105 from the Government funds and Rs. 11,271 from other sources totalling up to Rs. 55,376. On the Junior Basic schools the expenditure in 1950-51 was Rs. 57,427 out of which the Government contribution was Rs. 47,890. For 1951-52, the State Government spent Rs. 28,573 and income from other sources was Rs. 1,250 which totalled up to Rs. 29,823. The total expenditure on the Senior Basic schools for the year 1954-55 was Rs. 84,687 of which Rs. 81,445 was incurred by the State Government and Rs. 3,242 furnished from other sources. On the Junior Basic schools the expenditure in 1954-55 was Rs. 43,363 out of which the Government contribution was Rs. 42,502 and Rs. 861 came from other sources.

REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

Hazaribagh Reformatory School is a unique institution. After Queen Victoria's Proclamation a European Penitentiary was established at Hazaribagh in 1858. In letter no. 1035, dated the 16th August, 1881, from the Home Department, Government of India, a proposal was made to utilise the vacant European Jail buildings at Hazaribagh as a Reformatory School for all juvenile offenders convicted in Chota Nagpur and Bihar. The Government of India, Home Department, in letter no. 484, dated Simla, the 8th April, 1882, sanctioned the establishment of the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh under the provision of Act V of 1876. This institution was placed under the Judicial Department of the Bengal Government and the Superintendent of the District Jail was given an allowance of Rs. 100 for the task of running the Reformatory School. The control of the school was subsequently transferred to the Education Department in 1900.

Blacksmithy, carpentry, tailoring and gardening are some of the items to keep the inmates of the institution occupied.

In 1908 the Government of India closed the Alipore Reformatory School in Bengal and amalgamated that school with this institution. The juvenile offenders of the Native States also used to be sent to the Reformatory School besides the juvenile offenders from Bengal.

The purpose of the school was to give intellectual, vocational, physical and social training to the boys so that after release they could become useful citizens capable to earn their livelihood. The jail atmosphere has been removed to a very great extent and the guards are now replaced since 1921 by educated house-fathers to take charge of the boys for their education, reformation and general welfare. The

well-equipped workshop and the qualified technical staff meant to teach different trades to the inmates were also made available for boys living outside the school. There is now an Industrial Diploma class with five years' theoretical and practical training since July, 1939. The school has an Agricultural Farm covering about 50 acres of land.

POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE.

With the separation of the three provinces (1) Bengal, (2) Assam and (3) Bihar and Orissa in 1912, the Police Training College for Bihar and Orissa was established at Hazaribagh that very year. With the separation of Orissa, the Orissa cadets and those of the Feudatory States, who used to be sent to Hazaribagh ceased to come since 1941 and 1947, respectively.

The Police Training College is housed in a pucca double storied building. Accommodation for 70 cadets can be arranged in this building upstairs while downstairs there are rooms for different classes for cadets and offices for the Principal and other Officers. There is also an armoury for keeping the rifles, etc. There are stables for 20 horses. The Police Training College has its own hospital.

About 100 literate constables are trained in the Assistant Sub-Inspectors' Wing. They are accommodated in a separate building.

The Police Training College formerly trained Indian Police Officers; Indian Police Service Officers are now trained at Mount Abu. After their training there they are sent to this Police Training College for being taught the local Acts, Police Manual, etc. The Police Training College trains Police Officers of all ranks from literate constables to Deputy Superintendent of Police. Battalion Commandants of the Home Guard, and Excise Sub-Inspectors are also trained here. There is a proposal to train here the Inspectors of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The period of their training varies according to the type of courses they undertake. New methods of training are being introduced from time to time to keep pace with the advances made in criminology and other allied sciences. The chief subjects taught are: (1) Criminal Law, (2) Police duties, (3) Parade, (4) Riding, (5) First Aid and Medical Jurisprudence, (6) Motor mechanism (7) Survey, (8) Photography and (9) Criminology.

The staff comprises of the Principal, who is a Senior Superintendent of Police, six Inspectors, one of whom acts as the Superintendent and is the Second-in-Command (usually he gets the honorary rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police), six Sub-Inspectors, one Riding Master, five

Havildars and one Medical Officer. Besides the above instructors, there is one Excise Sub-Inspector. Cadets are sent here for training every six months.

On the 25th November 1952, Dr. S. K. Sinha, the Chief Minister of Bihar, presented Colours to the Police Training College. This is a great honour to the institution being the first unit to receive Colours.

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE.

The oldest Noviciate for young Jesuits of Bihar and Bengal was started in Hazaribagh Parish in April, 1873, and lasted only till 1887. The new Noviciate was opened in Sitagarha in March, 1932. The new building was occupied in 1935. The Tertianship was added to this early in November, 1950. Jesuit Noviciates and Tertianships form the three years of spiritual training of a Jesuit's formation that lasts normally from 12 to 15 years. The Indian Jesuits from Bihar and Bengal usually start their first spiritual training at Sitagarha. Young Indian Jesuits who started their training at Hazaribagh in past years are now found throughout India in colleges in the various cities and also in the mission fields.

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE IN SITAGARHA.

The Agricultural Institute in Sitagarha in the splendid setting of an organised farm with gardening, tree growing, poultry keeping, dairy farm, fishing department, etc., was started in 1950 sponsored by the Bihar Government and by Sewagram, Wardha. The total grant received by the Agricultural Institute in 1951-52 was Rs. 36,120 for stipends and Rs. 28,000 for building and equipment. In 1952-53 only Rs. 36,120 was received for stipends. The school is attended by students both from North and South Bihar, belonging to various castes and creeds. The senior course takes in students from Matric to B.A. or B.Sc. The junior course takes in middle-passed students and students of various high school standards. The institute has already rendered great services in preparing the teachers required by the various grades of Basic Education and enlightened farmers.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL.

St. Xavier's School is the first institution in Hazaribagh taken up by the group of Jesuit Fathers who have come from Australia. It was opened in January, 1952. Students from all over Bihar and neighbouring States are flocking in great numbers to this high class Cambridge School.

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NEW PARISH CENTRE.

The present centre of the Mission in Hazaribagh town is situated in the buildings given by the late Mrs. Von Fugger to the Roman Catholic Mission. A middle school with boarding is attached to this Parish which is called the Catholic Ashram. This Ashram is situated opposite to an old Christian Cemetery on the road to the Police Training College. A new church has been built in Indian style by the Rev. Fr. E. DeMoulder, s.J., Parish Priest from January, 1949 to January, 1953. The present Parish Priest is the Rev. Fr. K. Grogan, s.J., an Australian. The Parish Priest of Hazaribagh is the *ex officio* Assistant Director of the Catholic Co-operative Society with headquarters at Ranchi. Several schools and some model villages are being built in various villages and collieries. The best known model village is in Mardanpur near Chatra. Farmers of all castes and creeds are being helped in their land problems and in their efforts for village uplift.

LIBRARIES.

There are 35 public libraries in the district that receive recurring and non-recurring grants from the Government.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, HAZARIBAGH.

The Public Library, Hazaribagh, was founded on the 16th August, 1922, by a few enthusiastic students of the town with only thirty books in hand. These enthusiasts bent upon developing the library, used to sell tea during its infancy, to help it with the savings, during Durga Puja and Muharram. Now and then they used to play dramas as well to help financially their new-born institution.

The library receiving such help from its workers and from the public of the town went on growing day by day till it attracted the notice of the Government officials and eminent public men of the district who helped it both with money and advice.

Now the library has got more than 5,000 volumes and subscribe not less than a dozen of monthly and daily papers. The average daily attendance of the readers and visitors to its reading room is about 50 and an average of 75 books is daily issued. The paying members on the roll number about 150 per month.

The library was so long housed in a rented building in a lane but it has now got a house of its own in the Rukmini Bhawan to commemorate the memory of the beloved wife of Sri Krishna Ballav Sahay, the Revenue Minister.

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE LIBRARY.

The College Library was founded about 54 years ago with a very limited number of books. Every year volumes have been added and at present there are about 11,000 volumes. Till about five years back the library got an annual recurring grant from Government of only Rs. 900. Since then the annual grant has gradually been increased and at present (1953) it is Rs. 3,000.

THE UNION CLUB AND LIBRARY.

The Union Club and Library, Hazaribagh, was established in 1882 and is located in the spacious building known as Keshab Hall. It is the oldest library in the district and has a good stock of books. The attached Club Hall is the venue for public lectures on cultural and social meets. The library has a stock of 8,558 books. There are 183 paying readers and the daily average attendance is 100. In 1954-55 the library received Rs. 120 as Government grant. A new building is under construction.

THE HIND LIBRARY, GIRIDIH.

The Hind Library at Giridih was established in the year 1936. There are 2,000 books in the library. The number of paying readers is 115 and the average daily attendance is 50. It has received Rs. 90 as grant-in-aid from Government during the year 1954-55. The land for the construction of the building is under acquisition. There are also two other libraries, namely, Urdu Library and Jai Hind Pustakalaya at Giridih.

In Chatra there are two libraries, namely, Jan Sahayaka Samiti Library and V. J. Institute. The Saraswati Pustakalaya and Kodarma Union Club Library at Kodarma are serving useful purpose in the growing township of Kodarma. The Shri Krishna Pustakalaya and Bihar State Labour Welfare Centre Library are located in Jhumri Tilaiya. A small library has been started at Domchanch.

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