

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO.

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THE SHORT BALLOT IN NEBRASKA.

Some things are not to be accomplished through the heat of partisan controversy. If the state of or improving the efficiency of government, the movement must have the support of men and women of all parties. The moment any party leaders attempt to make political capital out of advocating or opposing such development, the cause is menaced. It is sincerely to be hoped that the short ballot conference called for Lincoln on June 7 will be left free from any party considerations.

The principle of the short ballot is founded on the belief that no citizen can possibly have a wide enough acquaintance to be able to judge the qualifications of the contenders for all the various offices that now appear on the ballot. Its advocates consider that with the public attention concentrated on the major offices to be filled, choice for the minor offices is a good deal of a lottery.

Of course there is no democracy in a lottery. However, some people hold the impression that under the short ballot certain rights and powers would be taken away from the citizenry and placed in the hands of an executive. This is because the elective offices that are abandoned under the shortening of the ballot would become appointive. Important as the election of a square and competent governor now is, under the short ballot it would become more so, since he would be called upon to fill a larger number of offices by appointment.

But, say the advocates of the short ballot, if people are not confident of their ability to select the right man for governor, how can they maintain that they will be able to choose the right men for the minor positions? They assert that only by the abbreviation of the ballot can a thoroughly intelligent and conscientious vote be polled. It is indeed impossible for the average citizen to acquaint himself with the merits of each individual candidate for public office. Because of the great number of candidates for the great number of offices confusion results and a good deal of voting becomes merely guesswork. The contest narrows down to the more important offices and the careful selection of the others is neglected. Thus the argument goes, and unless one believes in the casting of a straight party ballot under all conditions, it is a difficult one to answer.

Prominent members of both the republican and democratic parties have united in calling a convention at Lincoln to organize a campaign to add a short ballot amendment to the state constitution of Nebraska. Their plan is to initiate an amendment reducing the number of elective offices from nine to two or three. Such a movement can never succeed unless there is an overwhelming sentiment for such a radical change. The petitions for an election alone requires 40,000 signers. This question becomes the most important one of a political nature at this time. It should be discussed fearlessly, frankly, intelligently and calmly by every newspaper in Nebraska. Each man and woman also is called upon to give this matter serious consideration. The short ballot is not a thing to be condemned nor approved off-hand, and judgment should be based on thorough investigation of all its phases.

FINANCIAL PILOT OF THE WAR.

Claude E. Kitchin will belong to history because of his position as chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives during the war. It was under his direction that the great revenue law of 1917 was framed and passed.

When considering the achievement as a whole, the wonder will be that it was so well done, under the circumstances that surrounded the proceeding. One of the features of the unpreparedness, which had been so rigidly maintained that no question could be raised as to the sincerity of our national attitude of neutrality, was that congress had devised no plans for levying the heavy taxes that were needed. Almost nothing of a preliminary nature had been accomplished. The Underwood tariff law had been the last tariff measure put through congress, and it had been amended in some respects at the behest of President Wilson, but that was all, and it was far from being enough. Mr. Kitchin was at the head of the committee that must bring forth the measure that would provide the needful, and the income and excess profits tax law of 1917 was the result.

As floor leader for his party Mr. Kitchin was active until stricken by paralysis in 1920, and retained the position until his death, although the duties were looked after by other democrats from the south. He was a southern democrat in the fullest sense of the word, intensely partisan, and unrelenting in his advocacy of what he conceived to be the right. It was this quality that gained and held for him the position of influence he maintained during his long service in congress.

HONKING FOR FORD.

There is something about Henry Ford's candidacy that tickles the popular imagination. The disfigurement of democratic politicians over the entrance of such a variable and unknown factor into the situation adds to the general enjoyment of the occasion. A straw vote taken by Collier's shows the flivver statesman running next to President Harding in the number of ballots received, and far ahead of McAdoo, Gox, Underwood, Smith and all the other democratic presidential possibilities.

All this talk of Ford for president is interesting, but it is also deceptive. It is a good deal like a practical joke or a political sideshow. Judging from the past, there is not the slightest chance of his parking his car in front of the White House. As a business man and an employer, Ford has attracted the public imagination. His rise to the position of America's wealthiest man has been made by a new method, and in defiance of all the old rules and methods. In this he has appeared as a sort of industrial prophet. Between his prophecies and his profits he has become an outstanding public figure.

But prophets in America have never found success in politics. Vastly useful in their way, contributing greatly to the national good, yet that way does not lead to public office. Neither our greatest prophets nor our greatest profitmakers have ever been elected to the presidency.

DEDICATED TO PEACE.

Not Americans alone, but the world will find comfort and encouragement in the words of the president, delivered at Arlington Heights on Memorial day. Mr. Harding there voiced as nearly as it ever has been done the genius, the aspirations, the great purpose of the United States of America in her relations to all other nations—the message of true Americans to their brethren and sisters everywhere. He said:

"I spoke a moment ago of the deeper gratitude expressed in action. My thought was not of compensations or of pensions, or of the government's care for the disabled. These are obligations, and their discharge is a duty. There can be a gratitude of action which is a still finer and nobler thing. There is another gratitude of action which surpasses all expressed in the others, which I hope to see recorded in the last days of the civil war veterans and to add fullness to the lives of the world war veterans, and to tranquilize the lives of all America and the world. I devoutly wish the United States to do its full part toward making war unlikely if not impossible. While I would not abhor a pacifist America, I would rejoice to have the United States proven to be unafraid, and yet the most peace-loving and the foremost peace-promoting nation in all the world."

Nobler, loftier sentiments of patriotism and humanitarianism were never spoken in simpler phrases. No trace of ambiguity, no tincture of philosophic sophistry, marks the clarity of that expression. It contains all that Woodrow Wilson meant when he spoke at Philadelphia in reference to the Lusitania incident, and used his unfortunate phrase that "We as a nation are too proud to fight." Subsequent events disclosed how far from Mr. Wilson's thought was the act of abject submission in order to avoid a conflict. Mr. Harding's use of the word "unafraid" is a far happier choice.

This is not a time for the splitting of hairs, however. It is good to know that the patriotism of the man in the White House is beyond any question or doubt, that he sincerely desires that all nations dwell in concord, and that America show them the way. Yet in the pursuit of this end so greatly desired by all, the United States will be at all times mindful of her own peculiar interests, and those of her citizens. No threatening gesture is involved in this utterance, for it is merely the restatement of the policy that has characterized the nation since its foundation. Never aggressive, never oppressive, never seeking that which rightfully belongs to another by unworthy means, Americans have battled only for their own rights and for liberty to all.

We will remember our dead, we will carry on the work they have so well begun, and constantly strive to bring about a day when war, if not impossible, will be less frequent. The oft-repeated statements that we have lost our leadership in the world are not true. Only recently the statement of Great Britain and Japan simultaneously announced that the naval armament pact, entered into at Washington, is being carried out in letter and in spirit, and these and others have also testified that the Pacific agreement has solved more of the perplexing problems of world relationship than was ever expected.

Warren G. Harding's devotion to his own country is not at issue, for it long ago was admitted. The people, however, are coming to understand that the partisan allegations of his adherence to a policy of aloofness and exclusion of the United States from a proper part in the business of the world have no foundations. His Memorial day address is a direct answer.

OUT OF THE RIVER, ON TO THE LAND.

Once in a while Omaha is able to render some signal service to other parts of the state. Its latest opportunity has been in the extension of irrigation in the west. D. W. Davis, assistant secretary of the interior, has stated that his tour of inspection would not have included Nebraska at all if it had not been for the insistence of the business men of Omaha. Having traveled for five days over the projects, both those now operating and those proposed, he will take back to Washington a new interest and understanding of the Nebraska situation.

Some of the biggest men Omaha has grown left their private affairs to conduct the federal reclamation party over the territory. Carl R. Gray, John L. Kennedy, Walter W. Head and G. W. Holdrege deserve the gratitude of the state for their success in interesting these government officers in the project of supplemental irrigation in Gosper, Phelps, Kearney and Adams counties.

In his speech at the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Secretary Davis expressed a thought that only now is coming to the fore in Omaha, that by putting a little water on the farm lands production can not only be doubled, but insured as well. At a time when all the rage is for larger farms he pointed out the fact that under irrigation small units are best. Forty acres, he said, is a good sized farm in an irrigated district, with eighty acres desirable in some instances. One of the troubles with irrigation has been that too many land owners, struck with the speculative possibilities, hold tracts too large to be cultivated economically.

If, as he declares, better profits can be made off smaller acreage, then indeed is the future of irrigated districts bright. A more intensive agriculture, doubling or tripling production, supporting three or four families on tracts that formerly gave a bare living to one—that means more wealth and more population. Omaha is as solidly back of the proposal to increase irrigation as any of the towns located in the midst of these districts.

The housewife whose diamond ring was found embedded in the ice in the family refrigerator now knows the nature of one of the experiments the class in elementary physics always tries.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davis

MY LITTLE BOY.

He's a lively little codger,
Cute and cunning as can be,
And his mother calls him Roger,
But he's simply "Son" to me.
There is mischief in his glances,
Genuinely boyish he is,
Up and down the hall he prances
With cherubic pride and glee.
How completely he erases
Wrinkled furrows of dismay
When he swamps me with embraces
At the sunset of the day.
How his wholesome smile enhances,
And his tiny fingers play,
And how rapturous his glance is
When I rock him in my arms.
He's a lively little codger,
Good as any boy can be,
And his mother calls him Roger,
But he's simply "Son" to me,
And I love to see him growing,
And to rock him on my knee,
For it seems a way of knowing
That I once was young and free.

The Omaha Morning Bee: Friday, June 1, 1923—Page 8

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

A Friend of Sportsmen.

From the Nishel Leader.

Governor Bryan is credited with an intention to displace W. P. O'Brien as superintendent of the fish hatcheries in Nebraska. He has already taken action putting Mr. O'Brien and the hatcheries under the control and jurisdiction of Game Warden Koester. Mr. Koester is a good game warden, but is not to be compared with Mr. O'Brien in knowledge of fish propagation. Mr. O'Brien has been in his present position for 30 years under democratic, populist and republican regimes. He was placed there in the first place by Lew May, as radical a democrat as ever lived in Nebraska.

The writer has known Mr. O'Brien and been familiar with his work for more than 20 years, but does not know what his politics is and does not care. He has tended strictly to business of propagating fish and the effort to stock the streams and lakes of Nebraska. It cannot be questioned that he is one of the expert men in his line in the nation and so far as a job is concerned being let out in Nebraska means little or nothing to him, for he can easily find another job.

His services, however, do mean much to the sportsmen of Nebraska, for now, for the first time since his removal from office the department has the funds to really accomplish something in the direction of fish propagation, since the fish and game license money goes to that purpose and is not used to produce results under skillful guidance. Men who thoroughly understand the breeding and rearing of young fish are scarce, and if Mr. O'Brien's services are dispensed with, it is doubtful if his equal will be obtained to take charge of the work. His long tenure under all administrations belies the claim he has made of his state high finance, and the governor's motives, therefore, in displacing him are difficult to understand.

Off Again, On Again.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Gelett Burgess, too, has been writing in a popular magazine about white manners. There is an apparent revival of interest in this perennial subject. The revival itself may be more apparent than real, and if real it may be attributed, rightly or wrongly, to the large increase in the number of new rich people, most of whom feel very uncertain of themselves, and are willing to sit and learn at the feet of almost any person calling himself a "manner" expert.

Mr. Burgess relates that he was once with a surveying party the members of which "combed their mustaches with their forks." We would be left to infer that Mr. Burgess did not use his fork as a mustache comb in the outdoor camps, but for his good sense, or that if he did not conform, he immediately was forced to conform to more formal living. But why may we not assume, with equal safety, that the other men in that party did, on getting back to formal life, abandon their fork habits? Everyone who has been in a camping party has committed, and seen other men commit, eating atrocities there which would be unthinkable at any well set table, either as host or guest.

Nobody can be at constant guard or attention. The man who cannot find fault in a condition in a camp will find it in a restaurant, where he can loaf and invite his soul, either at a table or on a stool at a counter. My family kitchen is full of kitchen habits which she can find opportunity to enjoy in neglect the flavors of her favorite dishes, and without losing a particle of her good table manners which distinguish her from the ordinary. Mr. Burgess illuminates the subject in one particular. He says that King Edward VII. picked his teeth at table. That is illuminating, for the subject, but we fear it will confirm many of the new-rich in this one of their old habits, however Mr. Burgess may change some of their bad table manners in other ways.

Questions Harding's Advisers.

From the Omaha Tribune.

The great issues of the last campaign have been the League of Nations. Now there are two kinds of issues, the real and the artificial, and it is hard to determine with which category the league should be placed. Whether or not all the mischief prophesied by the opponents of the league would have happened to the United States had we joined the league, God knows. As a general proposition, nations do whatever is to their advantage.

Daily Prayer

The Lord is mighty unto all them that call upon Him.—Ps. 145:18.

O Thou, God and Father of us all, Thou art over all Thy church—over all their joys and sorrows, God blessed forever. Thou art the light of the living, the refuge of the dying, and our eternal home. Thou hast placed us here in this world, and dost unite the hearts that make the happiest homes. Thou hast led us most graciously in the past. Thy mercies are luminous with Thy yesterday. Through dangers and uncertainties, through doors which have opened as strangely as by an angel's hand, Thou hast led us, and always safely. On the shining surface of life Thou hast waited us by favorite breezes, and when the surges of trouble arise, we trust that we shall not be borne away from Thee, but nearer to Thee, and into the arms of Thy love, the only real and abiding world—the spiritual. Comfort the mourners. Walk with them all their life's journey. Sing when they sing, and when they weep, be with them. Thou art the Lord of life and death. If we are united to Thee by a living faith, nothing can separate us from Thee and Thy love and grace. As the distance shortens, and the flesh fails, may mind and heart become more and more stayed upon Thee. May every duty become more joyful because done unto Thee, and a part of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Amen.

REV. DANIEL BORCHERT, A. M. D.,
Lexington, Mass.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for APRIL, 1923, of

THE OMAHA BEE
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Sunday 82,588

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
A. BRIDGE, Circ. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of May, 1923.
W. H. QUIVERY,
(Seal) Notary Public

We Nominate---

For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



A. E. SHELDON of Lincoln, secretary of the Nebraska State Historical Society, has done much to popularize the history of our state among its citizens. In addition to much writing and editing for Historical society, and the state legislative reference library, of which he was director 15 years, he has published two volumes of historical sketches, "Poems and Sketches of Nebraska," and "History and Stories of Nebraska." Mr. Sheldon has lectured for many years at the University of Nebraska on our state history and institutions.

He is a man of great courage, regardless of moral camouflage, and it is very doubtful if the United States would have fulfilled all the obligations assumed by its joining the league. But, in any event, we should view the matter with suspicion. The world, had we shirked any of those obligations, and there was no good reason why we should have put ourselves in such a position.

The same applies to the world's court, another issue which cannot be clearly declared a "real" issue. Nevertheless, it remains a fact that international law is working under high pressure for the participation of the United States in the international court, and that fact suffices for the great mass of the people to view the matter with suspicion. The democrats are heart and soul for it. Why, then, should the republican party follow its example and displace the league? In so doing the republican party eliminates a good and attractive issue and puts itself in a wrong attitude before the public, because if it accepts the world court idea, it would inferentially also accept the League of Nations.

The great mass of the people do not recognize any hair-splitting differences between these two institutions. One Wesley Wait of Newburgh, N. Y., has earned the doubtful merit of calling the world's attention to a crime committed by the legislature of his state. That crime is the repeal of the state prohibition law, which Wait brands as treason. He asks the president to suspend every member of the legislature who voted for the repeal, together with the governor, in case he approves the repeal. The president's answer to Mr. Wait, from a legal point of view is, to say the least, not unassailable, and is probably not meant for an expert legal opinion. Mr. Harding is not a jurist and has never claimed to be one. It is much more significant that on the same day a declaration was made from the White House regarding the president's attitude on the prohibition issue.

In this declaration, Harding says he expects the republican party in the next campaign to come out for 100 per cent prohibition. He promises to do all in his power to prevent incumbent to make prohibition effective and, if re-elected, will make that one of the most important points of his campaign. The president emphasizes especially that he stands not only for strict observance of the 18th amendment and the Volstead act, but that he considers prohibition as an economic and moral factor of the greatest importance.

One sometimes hears the remark that Harding is only a politician. Nothing is further from the truth. His predecessor soundly abused the politicians, but only in order to give the impression that he, from his exalted position, looked down upon the trivialities of the politician. He is tending to the duties of his high office as chief of a great people. That was a conscious pose, because Woodrow Wilson was a politician through and through, the most astute that ever occupied the White House. Harding is not a politician. He does not allow his decisions to be influenced during his campaign by the clamor of the political expedient. He submits too much to the influence of advisers, who have little or no conception of the requirements of the people or understanding of the welfare of the party.

England's Way.

England has put a ban on March dancing for the same reason that padded cells were invented—to keep lunatics from destroying themselves.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Unreconciled to Science.

Meadow Grove, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Forty distinguished Americans issue a statement denying that there is any antagonism between science and religion. Naturally such a declaration carries considerable weight.

Now, with all due respect to the integrity of these eminent signatories, they do not speak ex cathedra. The fact remains that between science and the religion of the Bible there is a very pronounced antagonism. Science repudiates the Bible story of creation and substitutes the ape-man theory. The fall in the Garden of Eden, the virgin birth, resurrection, and other Bible doctrines are denied as being unscientific. In a word, it is evolution versus creation.

Certainly, there is no antagonism between science and the modern evolutionary religion. But there is a vast difference between the religion of the Bible and the modern religious-scientific amalgamation. The modern product is a compromise between Christianity, paganism and oriental philosophy, with a tinge of science that tickles the atheistic mind. Instead of maintaining a strict course along the "narrow way" marked out by the Master, the church locked arms with the world and sold its religious birthright for a mess of scientific potage and has lost all claim on the Bible as a standard of faith.

The conquest has all along been on the side of science. At no time has science yielded to religion. But religion has surrendered at every point of conflict until the church is honeycombed with skepticism and doubt.

The Rev. Albert Kuhn says in a recent issue of The Omaha Bee: "It was the lack of a gripping science, enlightened by a true Christian religion, that brought the world war with all its misery." Certainly! And this false, scientific ape-man religion with its "lack of a gripping science," will bring the next world war, with all its misery, and the next world war will be still more scientific, and still more religiously inspired.

The religion of Jesus Christ, if applied, would eliminate war. Science will do nothing of the kind. And just to the extent that religion, any religion, dabbles with and absorbs a false, theoretical science to that extent does it weaken its moral fiber and lose its grip on the conscience, and when religion is thus perverted there will cease to be any antagonism.

E. E. LONG.

Brookhart's New Political Creed.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: United States Senator Smith Brookhart of Iowa, about to sail for Europe to make a personal investigation of conditions there, was questioned regarding his attitude on current commercial and political affairs.

"I am opposed to everything Gary is for," answered the Iowa sharp-shooter. "If Senator Brookhart is organizing a new political circus we bespeak for the job of carrying water to the elephant because this is going to be a real show."

Having been born within the shadow of a steel mill where the head of the family worked before those "living hell" furnaces were installed, Brookhart is in the steel industry. Ex-Senator Kenyon has expressed practically the same conviction that Brookhart states and Kenyon ought to know, for he served as special assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice in a vain endeavor to convict those commercial criminals. Judge Gary is neither a steel expert nor a judge. He is simply a strong-arm financial brigand.

Gary is the living exponent of the "Buckeye Plan" freight steal. This means that if the steel being used to build the new steel building on Ninth street came from the Mesaba range in Minnesota and was manufactured in Chicago that when the way bill was presented to the railroad in Chicago that \$7 per ton advance charges to equalize the same with the rate from Pittsburgh was exacted. This simply means that the Bankers' Reserve Life Insurance company will have to pay a bandit's ransom of \$7 a ton on every ton of steel that goes into that skyscraper.

Gary advertises that he is the boon companion of Mussolini of Italy. Birds of a feather always do flock together. Mussolini is the product of the international imperialists with Ku Klux Klan embellishments. Brookhart's challenge is thinly veiled for it is well known that it is the senior senator Albert Sidney Cummins, that is dared to pick up the glove.

The trans-Mississippi country has suffered painfully for the past several years from the political treacheries of the Allison, the Wilsons and of lesser opportunists, and if Senator Brookhart tears the veil from those masquerading political puppets he will serve his country well and restore Iowa to the position she should enjoy in this great agricultural domain.

W. H. GREEN.

His Regards to the Monkey.

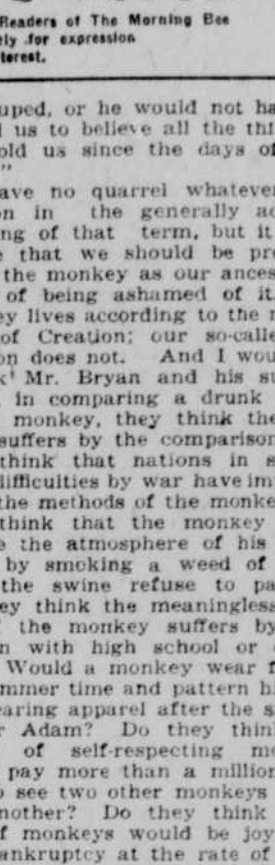
Gibson, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: W. J. Bryan is devoting a lot of time and energy to convincing the public that the evolutionary theory is wrong. He says that the evolutionists have not proved their claims; but neither has he disproved them.

As he is temporarily out of any other "paramount issue" this question will probably answer his purpose as well as would any other, but in giving his side of the argument he appeals to the sentimental and spiritual side of humanity instead of relying upon any concrete proof. He may believe what he says concerning his own origin, but he surely thinks the rest of us are descendants of the monkey or of some less intelligent quadruped, or he would not have expected us to believe all the things he has told us since the days of "free silver."

I have no quarrel whatever with religion in the generally accepted meaning of that term, but it seems to me that we should be proud to claim the monkey as our ancestor instead of being ashamed of it. The monkey lives according to the natural laws of creation; our so-called civilization does not. And I would like to ask Mr. Bryan and his supporters if, in comparing a drunk person and a monkey, they think the monkey suffers by comparison with high school or college yell? Would a monkey wear furs in the summer time and pattern his winter wearing apparel after the style of Father Adam? Do they think any bunch of self-respecting monkeys would pay more than a million dollars to see two other monkeys pound one another? Do they think a nation of monkeys would be poydring into bankruptcy at the rate of \$5,000,000 new motor cars each year? Are the wildest and most brutal instincts of the monkey comparable to the frenzy of the human mob?

And, in conclusion, may I ask is not Mr. Bryan, in a certain sense, a living example of the survival of the fittest? GEORGE LUKENBILL.

Abe Martin



"Bout th' only expense that hain't shouldered by th' consumer these days is th' wages o' sin. Th' best joke yit is th' \$15 shod an' silk hosed housewife cuttin' down on a little thing like sugar."

(Copyright, 1923.)

That he was with us in the matter, that he would circulate petitions and help in any way he could to put it across. He seemed to understand the situation well and the fact that he had been doing so much investigating along this line himself surprised me. W. M. STEBBINS.

Picks a Bone With Butler.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Police Commissioner Butler, I see, wants kids to quit playing ball in streets. He gave officers orders to arrest them. Is this a crime? Will he take fingerprints of them, as he wanted to of poor newsboys trying to make a living?

Another bad deal is trying to rest poor crippled and blind people trying to make a honest living. I give Mayor Dahlman credit; he has a big heart for a small man, and Butler a small heart for a big man. The kids will remember Mr. Butler, police commissioner of Omaha. A VOTER.

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