

Destroy the Sparrow Nest.

Destroy the English sparrows. Owing to a local argument over the benefits of the English sparrow, and the point as to whether or not the bird should be systematically killed, The News wrote to Prof. Lawrence Bruner, the famous University of Nebraska scientist, recognized all over the world as an authority on bugs, for an opinion. Mr. Bruner turned the matter over to his assistant, Myron H. Swenk, who is even a better bird student than Professor Bruner, according to the latter. Mr. Swenk says the English sparrow destroys song birds' eggs and steals their nests, and that he does not eat destructive insects to a great extent. The only danger in wholesale killing is the danger of killing the native sparrow, as there are thirty or thirty-five species of sparrows in Nebraska. But constant destruction of English sparrows' nests is advised. Following is Mr. Swenk's interesting opinion:

Lincoln, Neb., June 10.—Editor The News: The question as to whether or not the English sparrow is a bird deserving of our protection is one which is frequently asked and one of which each side is apt to have its supporters. In framing an intelligent answer it is well to put sentiment aside and consider the question from a strictly economic standpoint.

Steal Other Birds' Nests. The charge most frequently brought against the English sparrow is that it drives away much more valuable native birds which otherwise would abide commonly near the habitations of man. Such unmistakably useful and beautiful birds as the house wren, bluebird, purple martin, barn swallow, robin, red-eyed and warbling vireo, catbird, rose-breasted grosbeak, etc., are attacked and persecuted by the foreign intruder to such an extent that they commonly desert their former nesting places about our homes to seek more secluded spots where the sparrow does not follow.

The English sparrows habitually use boxes put up for wrens, bluebirds or martins and do not hesitate to destroy the eggs and young of these birds in order to secure the desirable nesting places in their possession. Where it builds nests these are exceedingly bulky and composed of straws, feathers and all sorts of similar refuse, which often becomes a considerable nuisance. The presence of these unsightly nests and the continual defiling of buildings, ornamental plants and other articles about our homes by the large numbers of these birds which soon accumulate in a locality where they are undisturbed, makes them still further obnoxious. The birds have no song but an exceedingly noisy chirp which often becomes monotonously disagreeable, especially when contrasted with the pleasant songs of the species they are supplanting.

Destroy the Fruit. English sparrows are known to be distinctly destructive to cherries and grapes by injuring considerable numbers of the berries without actually entirely devouring them. To a lesser extent they attack other fruits, and the buds and flowers of a number of cultivated fruits and flowers. In the garden they pick up newly planted seeds, nip off tender young vegetables as they appear and devour the seeds as they ripen. The bulk of the food of this bird consists of seeds of one sort or another and in addition to the seeds secured while foraging in the garden it picks up such waste material from the streets, grain in the fields when newly sown and when ripening and during the fall and winter a large amount of weed seed.

Eats Weed Seed. This habit of eating weed seed is a point very much in favor of the English sparrow. It does not eat injurious insects to any very helpful extent though there are instances here and there of this bird proving of minor help in the control of insect outbreaks. On the whole if one judges the evidence fairly the conclusion usually reached is that the English sparrow does not do enough good to justify any protection from us.

Must Protect Native Sparrows. But I do not mean to advocate a wholesale campaign against sparrows. The chief danger from such a procedure lies in the fact that our native sparrows are likely to suffer severely. We have in Nebraska thirty or thirty-five different species of native sparrows in general closely resembling the English sparrow and by the uninitiated person easily confused with that species, which are without exception all exceedingly valuable birds destroying tons of weed seed in each year as well as great numbers of injurious insects. Anything which would in the slightest endanger these native sparrows should not be countenanced. Experience has shown that in campaigns against English sparrows, as for instance under a bounty system, more harm than good is done because of the wholesale destruction of our valuable native sparrows. This is particularly true where the birds are secured away from the towns since the English sparrow clings very closely to the cities and the farm houses of the more closely settled districts. The English sparrow is so hardy, cunning and aggressive and multiplies so rapidly that it is doubtful if its complete extermination is now possible at all. In general it is advised that if the nests be kept continually destroyed about the houses and outbuildings these birds can be kept down to fairly normal numbers.

Myron H. Swenk, Assistant Entomologist.

DESTROYED SONG BIRDS' EGGS. L. Sessions, Former Friend of Sparrow, Watches Their Piracy. The English sparrow knows the world over as the "little street Arab," who was reported as probably one of

the agents which has helped to kill some of the beautiful Norfolk lawns this spring, by destroying song birds, was dealt a hard blow by a Norfolk citizen who is well versed in birds. L. Sessions, who has been a friend of the sparrow, has lost his loyalty. When it was reported that the sparrow was destroying the song birds and that the death of the blue grass could be traced, perhaps to the little arabs, Mr. Sessions upheld the many good traits of the sparrow. Although he was not sure whether the sparrow killed the grub worms which, it is believed, is doing away with lawns, he denied emphatically that the sparrow killed the song birds and in detail told of the great benefit the sparrow is to the country. He cited one instance where the government figures showed that a saving of \$30,000,000 was made the farmers of the United States by the sparrow which destroyed the weed seed.

Another instance where the sparrow really did help the husbandman is cited by Mr. Sessions: One Nebraska farmer, who at one time was an enemy of the sparrow, today is the sparrow's friend. Some time ago this farmer, who has a large rose plantation, from which place the roses are sent to the market and sold for much money, discovered that his plants were being destroyed by rose slugs. He employed hundreds of men, women and children who went from bush to bush with tin pails gathering these slugs, but nothing seemed to exterminate the pest. He had almost given up hope of saving his roses, when suddenly he noticed hundreds of sparrows flocking around his rose plantation.

Curious to know what the sparrows were eating, he killed one and upon an examination of the little street Arab's stomach he found it to be filled with the rose slugs. A few days later the slugs had disappeared and later on the sparrows had disappeared, having done the work that hundreds of human beings could not do, thus saving the farmer much money.

But Mr. Sessions now, after telling of the work of the sparrow, went to his residence where the garden is the playground of nearly every kind of bird that inhabits Norfolk. Here a large water tank is built for the birds. One valuable song bird had built a nest in one of the trees and eggs were ready to hatch. Mr. Sessions was looking over the variety of birds and noticed a number of sparrows fly to the nest where they destroyed the eggs. His kindness for the sparrow ceased and he says now that his former statements of their value had no foundation as far as not destroying song birds is concerned.

The sparrow can be seen in probably every country in the world. To the globe trotter they are an old acquaintance. He who has travelled around the world, can appreciate but one natural sight in foreign countries and that sight is the busy little street Arab. A Norfolk traveller who a few years ago finished an around-the-world tour says although he was many times lonesome when arriving in a strange port he was often made happy by watching the sparrows in the streets.

In Honolulu, Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, through the Suez, Naples, Rome and all over Europe the Norfolk man was met by the thousands of sparrows whose actions and looks were the same as he left them in the United States. Some say the English sparrow will destroy the American song bird, altogether. "If we estimate the English sparrow at 5,000,000,000 at the present time," says John Davey of Kent, O., "you can safely multiply by five annually, and at this rate in ten years it is certain that many of our most valuable species of birds will be extinct, never more to be seen."

Beels Visits Madison. Madison, Neb., June 11.—Special to The News: George N. Beels, who has filed as a candidate for representative subject to the republican primary, was in the city looking after his political fences.

Treat T. R. Like a King. Rome, Italy, May 3.—Special to The News: We have seen Rome! The city whose glories rest and slumber in the heads and tongues of polished marble which await the resurrection of both the just and unjust. The poet George Gordon Byron, in writing upon the downfall of Rome, says: "Alas! the lofty city! and alas! The trebly hundred triumphs! and when Brutus made the dagger's edge surpass The conquerer's sword in bearing fame away! Alas for Tully's voice and Virgil's lay, And Livy's pictured page!—but these shall be Hef resurrection; all beside decay. Alas for earth, for never shall we see That brightness in her eye she bore When Rome was free."

Rome is a city where one can stay for a year and then have only a bird's-eye view of the famous temples and palaces. The hotels are full of American tourists and at Hotel Bavaria, where we are, there will be 104 Americans who will arrive on May 8. We visited the Church of the Cappuccini, underneath which is a cemetery where 4,000 monks are buried. They all served the church at some time in their lives. After the bodies decomposed their skulls and bones were taken and made into ornaments, and the ceiling in some rooms are covered with the skulls of these men. Every night two monks stay in these rooms and pray all night for the souls of these dead monks in order to keep their souls out of purgatory. How can they stay in such a place during the night? We visited the church of S. Maria Maggiore, which is large and beauti-

Through Nero's Palace.

It is very interesting to ramble through the palaces of the emperors on the Palatine hill. We were through those of Augustus, Caesar, Hadrian, Septimius Severus, Tiberius, Caligula and the Golden House of Nero. Having a good guide, a Mr. Windham, we got important lessons from a visit to the Forum.

The gardens and parks in the city are very beautiful. One of the most interesting places for Christians is the Mamertine prison, where Saint Paul the apostle was imprisoned and from which he was taken by Nero's order and executed. While in this prison, just before his execution Saint Paul wrote the Second Epistle to Timothy, in which he says, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day, and not to me only but unto all them who love his appearing." The next day after he had written this epistle he was put to death by Nero.

But, I suppose, the finest building in Rome is the Church of Saint Paul, which was built by the government as a monument to Paul. In it are eighty columns, each of which cost \$5,000. The interior decorations are elegant. Some Italians speak English, and when you tell them you are an American they at once ask if you are from New York city. They think that is all of the United States.

The kingdom of Italy has 35,000,000 inhabitants, and the whole country can be pitched into our own state of Nebraska. Thus you can readily see how thickly populated the country must be. But they are coming to America by the millions.

Napoleon's Good Roads. Talk as we may about the cruelty of Napoleon, he did one good thing, and that was he built many good roads through the country, and for automobiles these roads are exceedingly fine. Rome is now a city of 600,000 inhabitants, and as it is rapidly growing it will soon have a million people. We find an abundance of art and sculptor work in all these countries. Even in the streets and along the roads are marble carvings that we as Americans would be glad to have in our libraries and museums. These Latin races have a wealth of treasures that is priceless. Almost everyone seems to have a heritage of artistic art. The galleries and museums are simply packed with the finest of masterpieces.

Despite the opposition of the vatican, the Methodist church is growing very rapidly. There are now fifty churches and the Italian conference has forty ministers. The Cranford Hall college for girls, supported by the Woman's Foreign Missionary society, is flourishing, having now 300 girls in attendance. Their old college building, bought some years ago at a cost of \$40,000, was recently sold for \$120,000, and beautiful new grounds have been bought in the center of the city for \$90,000. The college is in great favor with the Catholics as well as the Protestants.

Treated T. R. Like King. I met the private or assistant secretary of Ambassador Leishman at the American palace. In calling I found Mr. Leishman absent on account of sickness. The assistant told me that a most remarkable demonstration was given ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, as though he were an emperor or a world ruler, on his visit to Rome. All classes showed him great respect and everywhere the people seemed proud of our noted statesman. May it always be so of our rulers and officers.

All through Italy their laws are very strict. Even servants at the hotels, as well as other laborers, must have eight hours of sleep in a day of twenty-four hours. There are many people here who are to be pitied on account of the fact that there are so many people who have no chance of even making a decent living, but are compelled to live on bread and water.

So much for the famed city of Rome, that saw "her glories star by star expire."

Hear of Edward's Death. Venice, Italy, May 11.—Special to The News: Once more from the scenes of oriental beauty I greet the readers of The Norfolk Daily News, but this time after a very strenuous program. On leaving Rome we heard of the death of the great and good king, Edward VII of England, whose death is being mourned by all the nations of the earth. Kings and queens must pass over the river as well as the frail mortals of the dust.

After a run of 162 miles we reached Pisa, a city of 100,000 people. We hired carriages and began to see the town at once. The great attractions here are the cathedral and the leaning tower. The Duomo or Cathedral has one very noted picture, the patriarch Abraham offering up his son Isaac. This of the seven wonders of the world. It is 180 feet high and the top leans fourteen feet from a perpendicular. On the top are seven bells which represent the musical scale. It was my privilege to visit this tower and climb it three years ago. Besides these buildings, Pisa is an ordinary town.

The Art at Florence. Another leap and we passed through a very beautiful country and reached Florence, once the capital of the kingdom. Here are paintings and works of art that the world cannot buy. In the city hall is a bronze statue of a boy holding a fish, not over two feet high, that our own Washington, D. C., offered ten million dollars for, but it was refused.

Florence is in a valley divided by the beautiful Arno river, which also runs through Pisa and empties into the sea. This river will forever be liked with Girolama Savonarola, the

Thornberg Children On Stand.

The Misses Dola and Anna Thornberg, aged 19 and 14 years respectively, and Alfred Thornberg, aged 17, daughters and son of Frank M. Thornberg, who is charged with the murder of August Rakow on Thursday, October 7, were on the witness stand yesterday. The examination of these young people was of a mild form, and nothing of a startling nature developed by their testimony.

Killed Rabbits With Revolver. During the afternoon session Mrs. Thornberg was placed upon the stand. She testified to the washing of the blood from the face and hands of her husband when he was in the house and before they started for Neligh to secure medical attention. She also identified the clothing he had worn that fatal morning, and also stated that it had been the custom of the family for years to secure rabbits to feed the chickens. This was also sworn to by the entire family. Although there were two shotguns in the Thornberg home, it was the general custom of the father to secure these rabbits with the .32-calibre revolver.

Thornberg Greggy On Stand. At 2:35 in the afternoon the defendant was placed upon the stand. At 6 o'clock he was still being cross-examined by Senator Allen when adjournment was taken until the usual morning session. The rigid and severe cross-examination of the senator was telling on the witness before the closing hour.

"When Rakow was in the middle of the load of hay and seven or eight feet from you, and had the fork in a raised position, at the same time uttering this oath, why did you not then get off the rack?" The witness hesitated an unusual length of time to this question, and when he did answer, it was: "I don't recollect."

This was the same answer given to similar questions on this line a number of times. It certainly is a puzzling case, and those who have had the opportunity of attending each hour of the day are unable to guess what the verdict of the jury may be. To a certain extent sentiment is divided as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. It is thought by some that the jury will not find him guilty of first or second degree murder, but may find on the charge of manslaughter.

Sioux Falls, S. D., June 10.—Latest reports show the following totals on governor: Robert S. Vessey, progressive, 21,970; George W. Egan, independent, 20,991; S. H. Elrod, stalwart, 17,793. Pierre, S. D., June 10.—All factions today concede the re-nomination of Vessey, progressive, for governor and Burke and Martin, stalwarts, for congress.

The official returns may be necessary to decide nominations of the others in the ticket. Cries "Fire" at Film Show. Omaha, June 11.—Giving a terrifying shout of "fire" during a moving picture exhibition at Workman temple, South Omaha, last night, a man, unidentified at present, created a wild panic and in the rush for exits several persons were bruised and slightly injured.

The auditorium of the moving picture theater was in total darkness at the time while the views were being thrown upon the screen, and in the stampede several persons were trampled upon or crushed against the seats. During the panic the man who uttered the cry of terror disappeared and has not been apprehended. It is thought by the police that he is a miscreant and instigated the stampede purely from mischievous motives.

During the excitement a fire alarm was turned in and company No. 3 answered the call. Near Twenty-fifth and M streets one of the big horses stumbled and fell, receiving injuries from which it died within a few moments.

1,000 Acres in Vineyard. Niobrara, Neb., June 11.—Special to The News: In addition to the \$20,000 worth of land bought of B. G. Foreman, F. Jaeggi and J. G. Mosbacher purchased about \$10,000 worth of land from Fred Lantis and A. Pease who live near here. These buyers expect to use nearly 1,000 acres for a vineyard. They will turn Ankara goats onto 400 acres to eat the willows and bothersome undergrowth. Mr. Jaeggi is a millionaire whose family is now in Europe. He and Mr. Mosbacher expect to make their homes in Niobrara, it is said.

In a recent dispatch telling of Mr. Foreman's sale of \$30,000 worth of land, it was stated he had made \$24,000 profit here in ten years. This was in a general business way and not on this particular land deal.

ANGLERS BACK FROM TRIP. How They Are Telling About the Big Fish They Hooked. Ed C. Engle, who, with William R. Jones and A. E. Chambers of Norfolk, Robert Griffin and James Hogan of Omaha and Paul Fanke of Hot Springs, S. D., has been on a fishing expedition to Wood Lake, knocked the town fisherman on a sandbar last night when he unraveled himself in regard to the fishing at this popular Nebraska fishing resort.

After Mr. Engle had told of his recent fishing expedition off the Catalina islands, claiming to have caught a 48-pound tuna, he began to tell of the beautiful Nebraska sunsets, the sandhill landscape, the rippling waters of Dewey lake and the numerous catches these figures from Mr. Engle's conversation: Mr. Engle caught a four-pound bass, "Bill" Fanke landed a six-pound bass, Paul Fanke a four and one-half-pound sunfish, "Bob" Griffin a five-pound

Madison's Interurban Plan.

Madison, Neb., June 11.—Special to The News: Mayor W. L. Dowling, who is a member of the committee looking up the railroad proposition between Madison and Elgin, said to the Commercial club last night that the cost of a 45-mile railroad from Madison to Elgin along the survey which the Illinois Central made some twenty years ago, standard gauge track, with two steam locomotives, twelve freight cars, and two gaso-line passenger and express cars, can be conservatively placed at upwards of one-half million dollars. Not considering the adjacent land for ten miles (five at each end of the line) but considering half of all the land in between, the proposed new road would afford an outlet for at least 500 square miles, or 320,000 acres—or to put it differently, 2,000 quarter sections. If it be estimated that it will add an average of \$500 per quarter to the land it accommodates, the result will be an aggregate increased valuation of \$1,000,000 or double the amount necessary to construct the road.

If it be estimated that the commodities to be carried over the road in terms of the average yield of corn, would be about 4,000,000 bushels or 2,000 carloads and if to this be added 500 cars of stock, which is a conservative estimate, it will aggregate 2,500 carloads of freight annually. It is also estimated that such a road would carry, on an average, fifty passengers per day a distance of ten miles, which may be expressed as 100 passenger miles, or \$10 per day. It is self evident that the passenger traffic of itself would be a losing proposition. It is estimated, said Mr. Dowling, that it costs 20 percent of the original cost of the road for maintenance annually. This would mean that \$100,000 must be earned by the road each year. Counting the income from the passenger traffic at \$3,500, there would remain \$96,500 to be raised by freight traffic, which would mean \$17.50 per day. Clearing an average of haul of twenty miles and 800 bushels of grain to the car, it would mean a cost of 2 1/2 cents per bushel.

CUDAHY'S BORROW 5 MILLION. The Properties Mortgaged to Buy an Issue of Gold Bonds. New York, June 11.—The Cudahy Packing company of Illinois has mortgaged property here and in the south and west for five million dollars to the Sills Trust & Savings bank and William H. Henkle of Chicago. The mortgage is to obtain a 4 percent gold bond issue. It has twenty-five years to run.

SATURDAY SIFTINGS. Mrs. Hirschlag of Hadar was here. Fred Altstadt of Madison was in the city on business. John Plimney returned from a business trip at Omaha. Frank Lamb and J. H. Lindsay returned from Madison. Miss Emil Winter of Petersburg was here visiting friends. Miss Lena Schroeder of Hoskins called on friends here. C. C. Gow returned from a business trip at Butte and Naper. Miss Mabel Tanner has gone to Omaha for a visit with her sister. Dr. E. H. Hayes of Chicago is in the city visiting with his brother, C. S. Hayes. Mrs. Braner and daughter of Oakdale were in the city visiting with friends. Tim Howard, superintendent of the Western Union electric clock system, was in the city on business. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hayes of Omaha are in the city, visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Hayes. W. H. Albright of Iowa City, Ia., who has been here visiting with his cousin, Mrs. C. S. Hayes, went to York. Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Hazen will return from Omaha this evening. Mr. Hazen was attending the meeting of the Masonic grand lodge. Rev. Edwin Booth, Jr., Rev. Mr. Rummell and Mrs. O. R. Meredith were returned from Beatrice, where they attended the convention of the State Sunday school association as delegates from Norfolk. Miss Emma Heckman has recovered from an attack of measles. Royce Hurd, a Junction lad, is suffering from a broken leg, resulting from a game of ball. Andrew Collins, nephew of P. J. Stafford of Norfolk, died at his home at Winthrop, Ia., this morning. A regular meeting of Damascus

chapter, No. 25, will be held Monday evening for work in the R. A. M. degree.

A regular practice meeting of the Norfolk band was held last evening. The band is anxious to start the summer concerts. James Hamons of Albion has accepted a position at the Pacific hotel as night clerk, succeeding William O'Brien, who has accepted a position at the Fair store. L. H. Hinds, who has just returned from a business trip throughout Iowa, reports that the Iowa corn is looking very bad. The corn is very yellow and sickly looking, he says, due to lack of moisture. Ransom & Anderson report the sale of the Mrs. Mary Wood property at the Junction to Conductor W. E. Pender. The C. W. Evans property, also at the Junction, was sold to J. C. Koerber. Graduation exercises at the St. Paul Lutheran church will take place Sunday morning, when the students will be confirmed. The Christ Lutheran and the St. Paul school's last day of school takes place next Friday. A large band of gypsies who are camped on the west edge of the city were in town "doing" everybody they could. One of the women, however, entered a local shoe store and purchased an elegant pair of patent leather pumps, for which the clerk demanded payment in advance. According to the early exploding of firecrackers which commenced Friday the same Fourth is apt to turn out badly unless something is done to check some of the shooting. A number of reports show that already the blank cartridges in cheap pistols have been put to use in the residence district of the city. Shooting in the east part of the city yesterday was investigated by the chief of police, who found that after a long wait one citizen had shot to death a large cat which had devoured about thirty of his chickens. The owners of the cat are endeavoring to have the citizen arrested. C. A. Johnson, vice president of the Nebraska National bank, was in the city enroute to his home at Fairfax from Yankton, where he attended the South Dakota Bankers' association convention, which he says was a decided success. Among the other Rosebud bankers at the convention were Mr. Lillibridge of Burke and Mr. Mitchell of Lamora. Allen Trulock has a sprained wrist and Harold Davey is bruised and cut about the head and face as the result of a fifteen-minute fight in an alley yesterday afternoon. The fight was witnessed by a number of people, who say it was a fast one in which Trulock sprained his wrist in endeavoring to connect with Davey's head. The fight, it is said, was the result of a quarrel in a pool room. Owing to the fact that the manager of the railroad men's baseball team did not make his appearance last evening at the city hall where three other baseball managers and a number of fans were waiting to organize the city league, the meeting was postponed until Tuesday evening, when it is hoped that all those interested in the city baseball league proposition will meet at the city hall. Manager McMaster of the U. C. T. team, Ramsey of the clerks and Kennerson of the Bremen are anxious to get the league started.

"HARK! DOGS DO BARK!" The Beggars Have Come to Town. Rifled Moses Clark. "Hark! Hark! The dogs do bark. The beggars have come to town; Some in rags and some in tags, And some in a velvet gown." The cohorts of gypsies swept down upon Norfolk yesterday afternoon and began to make citizens stand and deliver. Moses Clark was one of the first victims. Failing promptly to pass over his cash to these modern brigands, a woman of the tribe went through his pockets and took a dollar from them. Chief of Police Marquardt immediately got busy and drove them out of town. They then fell upon the Junction like the wolf on the fold and were finally driven south of the river. Country people to the south should take in their valuables and turn loose their dogs. SWIMMING SEASON STARTS. "Come on in. The water's fine." The swimming season has opened in Norfolk. The first plunges were taken yesterday afternoon after several pairs of fingers had announced that the time had come. At the milldam a bunch of youngsters first felt out the water and then announced their finding. The balance of the crowd began stripping and shortly there was splashing in the deep and treacherous Northfork. There was no drowning last year, but the water of the Northfork, fed by cold springs underneath, is conducive to cramps and if persisted in, will claim its victims. Is Not Long With Circus. The circus career of Veron Gill, who ran away and joined the Gollmar Brothers show when they played here June 8, was of very short duration. His father, J. B. Gill of 1213 Taylor avenue, went to O'Neill and brought the lad home. In explaining his act Veron, who is 17 years old, says he was endeavoring to work his way to North Dakota, where he has an uncle. The show is scheduled to play through that state. The boy was working in one of the side shows when found.

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