

## AMUSEMENTS.

Messrs. Woodward and Burgess are branching out in the stock company business in a manner which will soon place them among the leaders in that line of the amusement business. Some time ago they signed a lease for a new house in Kansas City which is being built for them and which they expect to open on Christmas eve. Their latest move is the securing of control of leading theaters in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The houses in each of these cities which have been leased are the Metropolitan, each having a seating capacity of upwards of 2,000. They get possession on November 13. The company now playing at the Creighton in this city will be taken to St. Paul for at least eight weeks. An entirely new company will be secured for the Minneapolis house, and also a new company for the Kansas City house when it is opened.

The taking of the company now at the Creighton to St. Paul will for the present work an entire change of program at that place of amusement. For two weeks, commencing November 13, traveling combinations will be played, and for the following weeks the house will be given over to vaudeville. The proprietors announce their intention to make this short season of vaudeville a brilliant one. At the conclusion of the eight weeks, or about the middle of January, either the present stock company will be brought back from St. Paul or an entirely new company put in the house, just which course will be pursued has not been definitely determined upon.

An analysis of the amusement combinations in the country as compared with last year is instructive. The companies classed as dramatic constitute over one-third of the total and show an increase of twenty-two as compared with last season. Comedy companies on the contrary show a decrease of five; musical comedy, no change; two more opera companies; a decrease of four in the number of comic opera companies; two more vaudeville and four more of minstrel attractions. The most significant feature of the combination however is the great increase in the stock companies, which have increased in number during the present season from twenty-one to forty-two. The total increase in the number of companies of all kinds is forty-one. The stock company is the leading feature of the season, the total increase of the booking syndicate but aside from placing a weapon in the hands of the house managers it has many other commendable features and bids fair to remain after having accomplished the purpose which brought it into being. If the present rate of growth continues instead of being able to keep non-syndicate attractions out of houses all over the country the syndicate itself may be looking for houses in which to play its attractions.

The week just closed has been another successful one with all the amusement places. Sunday evening, as a rule, opened a little light on account of the delightful weather, which was the reason for the increase in attendance. The cooler evenings which followed on served to pack the houses again.

At the Boyd Roland Reed monopolized the entire week, opening with his amusing "The Wrong Mr. Wright." This was followed by "The Girl in the Red Dress," "A Woman Hater." He concluded the week with his new play, "The Voyagers." Mr. Reed has a personality which is all his own. In a great measure his is always the same, though he always has something bright to say and says it in an amusing manner. There are few if any who come to Omaha who has the personal following that Mr. Reed has and he is always assured not only of a good house, but with a sympathetic audience. Concerning his new play, "The Voyagers," it follows in a line in one respect which is entirely unusual. Whenever a playwright seeks to interject a newspaper reporter into the cast he always considers himself bound to make him a cheeky monstrosity or a vivid creature who is not possessed of enough sense to come in when it rains. As a matter of fact the modern newspaper reporter is a gentlemanly, sensible individual, about whose methods or life there is neither glamor nor foolishness. He pursues his calling in a matter-of-fact way, just the same as men in other occupations. The hummering idiot or the self-important cheeky reporter of the playwright would not last a week on any modern newspaper.

The Stock company at the Creighton presented "Prisoner of Algiers," the production of Mr. Frank Linden, one of the members of the company. It is a strong play, with sustained interest and some stirring climaxes. In dramatic construction it bears the impress of considerable tact and literary merit. As a sequel to the "Count of Monte Cristo," it is a trying thing through forced construction with a great success which by cast and repetition has become somewhat hackneyed.

The Trocadero keeps on winning out with the regularity of a clock. During the week the capacity of the house has been taxed and in return the management has presented some of the best vaudeville acts which have graced the stage since the opening of the place.

**Announcements.** "Yon Yonson," which will be the attraction at Boyd's theater for three nights and one matinee, starting with matinee today, is pretty firmly established in public favor. For five years it has drawn large and pleased audiences with its extraordinary popularity. Yon Yonson exploits a new field and has given to the stage an entirely new character and one that has attracted universal attention, because of its striking originality.

The play represents a life in a new aspect not commonly understood in the past, seen, the scenes and incidents of the piece being located in the lumber regions of the northwest. The play made quite as favorable an impression on eastern audiences as it did upon the western stage-goers. Mr. Ben Hendricks in the title role, is said to have opened up a new field in his study of the Swede and in an artistic sense the success of the piece is said to rest upon his delineation of the Scandinavian character. The play has always been considered strong in regard to plot and situation and the scenery and effects are novel, spectacular and thrilling. Aside from its strength as a drama of contemporary life, it lays claim to attention as an elaborate and picturesque production of more than ordinary magnitude. The scenery used is all special and is said to picturequely present true to nature scenes of life as it truly is in the pine woods district of the northwest. There are several scenes of the most elaborate being, it is said, a representation of the breaking of a tremendous log jam in the second act. The Lumbermen's quartet will be heard during act two in a program of pleasing and up-to-date popular songs.

"Ole Olson" will be seen at Boyd's theater for two performances only, next Sunday matinee and night.

An elaborate production of the bright and lively extravaganza, "Gayest Manhattan," under the personal management and direction of John F. Harley, will be seen at Boyd's theater next Friday and Saturday matinee and night. Koster & Bial, at their music hall in New York, first introduced this piece to the public. The length of its New York run and the universal praise accorded it during a forty-week season on the road have served to firmly establish it as one

of the most popular productions of the present day. Now since the days when the Chicago Opera House extravaganzas were recognized as the superior productions in the way of spectacle has there been an organization that as near approaches the Henderson productions as does that of the Koster & Bial Extravaganza company presenting "Gayest Manhattan." The organization in many respects is upon similar lines as those made famous by Mr. Henderson. The cast numbers twenty high-class artists, who are augmented by a strong ensemble chorus of forty people. The company carries with it all its own special scenery and costumes, properties and electrical effects. One of the important and excellent points of resemblance to the Henderson productions is the fact that the composer of all the music is Mr. W. H. Batchelor, who wrote the well-rendered measures of "Ah Baha," "Alladdin, Jr.," "Blue Beard," "Crystal Slipper," etc. Mr. Batchelor is also musical director of the Gayest Manhattan company.

Melodramas, which were the most popular theatrical attractions a quarter of a century ago, are again assuming popular sway. People demand, however, that they shall not be incongruous, nor grate harshly upon the sight or hearing. Sutton Vane, the English playwright, has been very fortunate in catering to the popular idea and his plays, while thrilling in the extreme, contain an element of comedy and a directness of dialogue which holds and pleases the listener. His successful play, "Humanity," is to be produced at the Boyd theater next Wednesday and Thursday with a superb cast, including Ross O'Neal and Miss Kizzie B. Masters, and a wealth of novel and novel scenery. In the war tableau over sixty people are seen upon the stage and the scenic effects are said to surpass anything ever before presented on the stage.

Commencing with the matinee today the Woodward Stock company at the Creighton will be seen in a revival of Charles Dickens' three-act comedy, "Innocent." This play made an instantaneous hit when last presented by the Woodward company, and the production to the comedy the Creighton will have a novelty this week; the great Clivette, direct from Koster & Bial's New York, advertised as the Man in Black, premier entertainer, juggling, shadowgraph and other mysterious feats, which have been reduced to the old standard and will remain as usual during the balance of the season. Next week, "The Iron Master," a new play for Omaha, which will close the engagement of the Woodward company for a short week, as it goes to Minneapolis for eight weeks.

The weekly change of bill at the Trocadero occurs at the matinee today and a varied and excellent program is promised by manager Cole. The current week's attractions consist of the great Clivette, a performer within the vaudeville ranks with the particular stellar light, Arthur Dunn, the diminutive comedian, in his original sketch, "The Actress and the Bell Boy." Mr. Dunn is assisted by the clever sous-brette, Miss Mattie Nichols, in the sketch upon real life which gives ample scope for Mr. Dunn to introduce his peculiar, original specialties and Miss Nichols' characteristic singing and acrobatic dancing is reported to be a good card. To those who have not seen the original Anna Held, this week introduces Miss Pearl Light, who has won distinctive success in her clever impersonations of this famous French chanteuse and is widely known in vaudeville as "The American Anna Held." Miss Held, the fortunate possessor of many of Miss Held's original handsome gowns which were made in Paris prior to her debut in this country. Perhaps the most interesting act on the bill will be the first appearance here of Liska in his exhibition of legions. Liska is the acknowledged successor to Hermann, the great. Upon the list of favorites will be seen the clever tragic comedians, Million and Shields, in their knock-about potpourri of comedy gyrations. Other features of marked prominence include the roster, including therein The Del-Sabos European sensational acrobats, McCabe and Emmett, comedy sketch artists; the experts upon triple horizontal bars, Leroy and Morris, and the Howard trio, German character comedians. With this week this popular resort closes its winter season and during the coming weeks it is promised that nothing but the best attractions will appear.

An exceptionally strong show will be given at the Wonderland theater this week. It is the intention of the management to keep on improving and give the best attractions possible and make this one of Omaha's permanent and popular resorts. There is nothing about these entertainments but that appeals to the finer sense of the audience, making it indeed a place where women and children may go unattended. In the curio hall or museum may be found many quaint and curious things of interest as well as a good line of individual performers, such as fire eaters, snake charmers, magicians, flying trapeze, etc., with the Bijou stage well taken care of in Prof. Kneess' marionettes and Professor Warner's shadowgraph, while down stairs in the main theater a strong company gives a performance of over an hour and a half.

Gull's Concert Garden still continues to be a popular resort in the north part of town, as evidenced by the good attendance up to date, the indications of the weather seeming to have no effect whatever. Several new faces will appear this week.

**Along the Midway.** Lunette, the Maid of the Moon, may be seen at the Palace of Mysteries today and tomorrow for the last time in Omaha. The show will go to the east immediately upon the close of the exposition. No entertainment offered the patrons of the exposition has given such entire satisfaction as this most successful production, and wherever it may be exhibited it should enjoy the patronage of all. It is well worth seeing, gives one something to talk about, to speculate about and leaves a pleasant memory. Manager Tebbetts has conducted the Palace of Mysteries in an unexceptional manner.

"Psycho," the sensation of the Midway at the Transmississippi Exposition from Imperial Hall, London, by Mr. Morris, is a little wonder. It is a drama in a fantastic Turkish costume, but it is Psycho's world that confuses and mystifies people. In front of Psycho is a holder or quadrant on which are placed in regular order cards on which are the numbers from 1 to 6. At the word of command Psycho picks out these cards with unerring accuracy. He solves mathematical problems, answers questions, shakes hands, does the bidding of any one in the audience and finally winds up his performance with an exhibition of mind reading that is little short of marvelous. There is an illusion called Rolla which is very good, and here again the audience is allowed a very close inspection and Rolla proves nearly as much of a mystery as Psycho.

Mr. Morris expects to take "Psycho" through the south this winter and to London and Paris in the spring.

The Japanese Tea Garden and Curio Store is attracting crowds of visitors who seek

in the highest terms of the management and wonderful curios on sale.

Griffith's Scenic Railway is the only place on the Midway where you can take your family and sweethearts and enjoy a ride up and down the great inclines. The ride is so wild and exhilarating that it actually inspires you with new life, and the excitement in going through the tunnels is so great that children and especially wedding parties and lovers are quick to realize the fact that the second ride is more enjoyable than the first and off they go again.

"The Flying Lady," the wonder of the Paris exposition, a beautiful woman floating in space, overcoming the law of gravity, and the Marble Statue turning to life and back to stone again are the greatest features of the East Midway.

Streets of Cairo is making elaborate preparations for Monday, closing day. The natives there with their costumes and trapping. New acts will be added to the ring show and the torture dancers will perform at their best. The world's greatest oriental acrobats and athletes have been engaged, while Amena and the original Little Egypt of Seely fame will dance in the Egyptian theater. The Streets of Cairo will finish in a blaze of glittering oriental splendor.

La Belle Patima, the grizzly bear, which has created such a furor on the West Midway during the last few days, is one of the latest trained wild animal attractions at Hagenback's exhibition. In the educating of La Belle Patima the acme of success has surely been attained by her trainer, Prof. R. Delbeaux, as is interestingly shown in the superior exhibition of all other trained wild animals at Hagenback's, every one of which it can truthfully be said has never been excelled by an animal performance given in America. To such a wonderful degree of high-class training La Belle Patima attained in her public exhibitions that a well known official of an Omaha bank, on visiting Hagenback's with a friend on Thursday afternoon of last week, was so amazed at the appearance of the animal and the remarkably strong balance in action and in posing erect to that of a man, that he actually refused to believe that the animal was a real bear. Though his friend was not disposed to be so skeptical and argued that La Belle Patima was the genuine thing, the banker still refused to make a wager of \$25 that he was right and his friend was wrong. The matter was appealed to Mr. Bostock, probably one of the best known trainers and dealers in wild animals in the world, who very kindly convinced the banker that La Belle Patima was a genuine bear beyond all further doubt on the banker's part, who gracefully yielded up his check for twenty-five good American dollars, much to the merriment of a party of close chums.

## MUSIC.

The close of the exposition will doubtless bring to a termination the work of the Exposition chorus, unless some determined move is set on-going to keep it organized. It would not be out of place here to speak a word in praise of the work of the Exposition chorus, which has been a strong factor in the success of the musical department of the exposition. The attendance and work has been kept up in admirable style and much credit is due to the superintendents of each part, seven in number, who have reported absence and absence in the work. The way in which these people have exerted themselves is phenomenal and they have sung when the rain was beating into the bandstand as well as when the Auditorium was heated by the sun's rays so that it was a fitting illustration of the traditional residence of the unshakable. The Exposition chorus has sung "Fair Ellen," by Max Bruch; "The Rose Maiden," by F. H. Cowen; "The Daughter of Jaeger," by Sir John Hainer, all complete works. Also, "The Hallelujah," chorus from "The Messiah," "The Hallelujah," chorus from "The Creation," "The Easter Hymn," from "Cavalleria Rusticana," "The Gloria in Excelsis," from Mozart's "Twelfth Mass," and "Babylon's Wave," by Gounod. In addition to these classics, they have sung dozens of glee, part-songs, folk songs and war songs. This reputation of the chorus for the reading ability of the Exposition chorus. The tone-quality has been favorably commented upon by all visiting musicians.

Cannot this chorus be maintained and strengthened to the extent of 200 voices, so that the good works can be given during the season and music be given an impetus in this city? There can be accumulated a fund which will pay all the expenses of a good society. With the musicians and musical people of their duty? The chorus is the for anything that will improve or assist the city of Omaha in an upward tendency, and to this end it is hoped that all persons interested in this musical project will write at once to The Bee office, addressing communications to "Musical Critic."

Mr. F. N. Innes will close the exposition music in what he terms "a blaze of glory." He has filled the Auditorium with appreciative audiences and has proved a success. His methods of conducting are self-evident, particularly his singing with the band when he wishes to procure a legato effect. This is one of the idiosyncrasies of a man of talent. Mr. Tomlins did the same thing in conducting the concerts of the Apollo club. It is to be deplored that two men of this caliber be compelled to resort to this habit, which is distressing to an audience and which certainly takes the conductor off his pedestal, inasmuch as it seems to imply a lack of rehearsal. Mr. Innes is a good conductor and it is doubtful if any band here with a finer body of instrumentalists.

Next Thursday evening will practically open the concert season, when, at the First Congregational church, Mr. Robert Cusack, who is a fine violinist, will give a concert, assisted by Mrs. Corton, Miss Anna Bishop and Mr. Jules Lumbar.

It is a pleasure to see how the international "Fantasia" of Baetens is accepted by exposition audiences. The composer is Charles Baetens of Omaha, and it was published many years ago in the old country. THOMAS J. KELLY.

**Musical Notes.** Mr. Keck announces a series of song recitals, the first to be given Friday evening, November 4, at his studio. Omaha is soon to lose one of its sweetest singers in the departure of Mrs. G. W. Johnston, who leaves Tuesday afternoon for New York city and thence to Europe, to pursue her musical studies. She was formerly Miss Louise DeSalle of Detroit, Mich., and is one of a family of singers, her brother being one of Chicago's noted tenors. She came to Omaha six years ago and soon took her stand among Omaha's musical artists. The musical committee of All Saints' church secured her to appear the last three years. It has long been Mrs. Johnston's ambition to pursue her musical studies in the east and it is with the best wishes of all her acquaintances that she leaves Omaha. Knowing Mrs. Johnston's marked ability, her Omaha friends feel sure she will succeed in all she has planned to do. While Omaha will lose an artist, and her departure will be regretted, it is with certainty that Omaha's loss will be the means of giving to the world a person bound to succeed in her artistic proceedings. Not only will her career be followed with pleasure, but Omaha's music loving people will look forward to the time when she will return to Omaha.

## BRANCH LINES IN THE FOLD

Union Pacific Taking Full Control of Some Auxiliary Companies.

SUCCESSORY RECEIVERSHIPS ARE ENDED

Omaha & Republican Valley, Kearney & Black Hills and Union Pacific, Lincoln & Colorado Are Finally Assimilated.

On November 1 the possession of the Omaha & Republican Valley railway, the Kearney & Black Hills railway and the Union Pacific, Lincoln & Colorado railway, aggregating nearly 800 miles of railroad, will pass from Oliver W. Mink and Thomas P. Wilson, successory receivers, to the Union Pacific Railroad company.

As a matter of fact the Union Pacific has controlled these three branch lines, which were originally constructed by it, through the receivership and since that period. Since the Union Pacific emerged from its receivership the branch lines have been operated by the Union Pacific receivers. So the legal change in the possession of the branch lines will not likely affect the operation of them. Circulars have been prepared by the successory receivers, surrendering the properties, and by Horace G. Burt, president of the Union Pacific, announcing that the company will take possession at midnight on October 31. The circulars for all the branch lines are identical in import. The president's circular for one of the lines reads as follows:

The Union Pacific railroad has, by virtue of sales and purchases under a certain decree of foreclosure, and subject only to the obligations imposed by such decree, become the owner of all the property described in said decree, embracing, among other property, the line of railroad formerly of the Kearney & Black Hills railway, with its appurtenances.

Notice is hereby given that at 12 o'clock, midnight, October 31, 1898, the Union Pacific railroad will take possession of and thereupon operate said line of railroad. The officers and agents named in executive order No. 1, dated January 29, 1898. All persons in the service of the receivers of the line of railroad on said date, until further notice, are authorized to act in their respective positions and capacities for this company.

Transference of business or operation by the Union Pacific railroad under the terms of any contracts of the Kearney & Black Hills railway or the receivers thereof will not be an assumption of such contracts by the Union Pacific railroad, but such transaction and operation will be merely temporary for the convenience of the parties, and may be terminated by the railroad at any time.

The mileage of the lines concerned is as follows:

Omaha & Republican Valley Railway—Miles.	189.8
Valley, Neb., to Manhattan, Kan.	189.8
Valley, Neb., to St. Joseph, Mo.	32.0
Ceone, Neb., to Albion, Neb.	32.0
Genoa, Neb., to Cedar Rapids, Neb.	30.0
St. Paul, Neb., to Omaha, Neb.	47.7
St. Paul, Neb., to Loop City, Neb.	38.8
Fortia, Neb., to Pleasanton, Neb.	21.8
Columbia, Neb., to Norfolk, Neb.	39.4
Kearney & Black Hills Railway—Miles.	65.4
Kearney, Neb., to Callaway, Neb.	65.4
Lincoln & Colorado Railway—Miles.	224.8
Salina, Kan., to Oakley, Kan.	224.8
Total	709.8

**Harbor Defense Convention.** Gen. A. B. Bell, western passenger agent of the Plant system, is in the city. He is on a trip through the western states to invite the governors of these commonwealths to attend the National Harbor Defense convention at Tampa, Fla., on February 8.

He has been in the city for the purpose of being one of the most important to the future standing of the National Guard of the various states. The object of the convention will be to discuss and suggest methods for placing state troops on the most effective footing. Questions relating to arms, equipment, tactics, clothing, food and transportation will be considered and discussed by expert authorities. Special attention is to be given to the subject of camp sites, sanitation and all precautionary measures that modern science can suggest to insure the comfort and health of troops. A large building has been arranged for an army and navy exhibit and both the army and the navy will be represented. This reputation of the convention has been issued by W. D. Bloxham, governor of Florida. Mr. Bell says he is quite confident of securing the attendance of a number of western governors and their military officers.

**Jack's on a Street Car.** A Union Pacific freight train struck a northbound street car on Thirteenth street near Marcy at 10 o'clock Friday night, injuring Mr. C. C. Buskirk and badly damaging the car.

The freight train was backing down on the Union Pacific tracks at the time of the accident. The freight train was pulled by locomotive No. 117, in charge of Engineer Williams. He was given no signal to stop until after the collision had occurred.

Flagman Reister, who is stationed at the crossing of Thirteenth street and the Union Pacific tracks, says he signalled the motorman of the street car to stop but that no attention was paid to the signal. When the freight train struck the car it pushed it down the hill, damaging the side of the car. The motorman and the conductor were upset, but the only injury reported was that sustained by Motorman Buskirk on his left arm.

**Didn't Disturb Kelly.** The law department of the B. & M. has always prided itself on its ability to capture the bad men and send them to jail. But the reputation of the department was fractured when two men casually dropped into the offices of the department at the headquarters here on Friday and walked away with a large frame wooden stand, with a wringer, and other apparatus used in copying records. The table was scrowled down to the floor and had to be wrecked quite violently to be taken away. The attendants of the office were at lunch at the time of the daylight robbery, and Assistant General Solicitor Kelly was so busy engaged in working out a fine legal problem that he never even heard the two men who helped themselves.

**New Road Enters Chicago.** CHICAGO, Oct. 29.—The Great Central Transfer railroad has practically closed a deal with the St. Louis, Peoria & Northern railroad which should add \$125,000 to its annual income. The road is seeking a terminal at Chicago, it being proposed to extend the line from St. Louis, now terminating at Peoria, to this city. It is understood that the terminal facilities at Chicago will be furnished by the transfer company for \$125,000 a year.

**New Union Pacific Locomotives.** Two brand new locomotives arrived in Omaha yesterday for the Union Pacific railroad and they promise to make a notable addition to the rolling stock in service on this road. They are large, 1,300-class engines intended for freight service on the Wyoming division of the Union Pacific and will be sent out there at an early date. They were built by the Brooks Locomotive works at Dunkirk, N. Y., and were ordered several months ago, at the same time a larger order was given to the Schenectady Locomotive works at Schenectady, N. Y. The new engines are numbered 1312 and 1313. They were inspected this morning by a number of the officials of the Union Pacific, who said the new engines appeared to be all right.

**Lake Shore Will Make No Cut.** CLEVELAND, Oct. 29.—Through freight rates over the New York Central and Lake Shore roads will not be reduced November 1, according to a statement made by President Newman of the Lake Shore road today. "It was rumored that freight rates would be reduced," said Mr. Newman, "because of the action of the Great Western in lowering rates through Madison and Milwaukee. Those are simply 'division rates,' and have no effect whatever on the rates from New York, through to the north and northwest." President Newman also discussed the reported change in the relations of the Lake Shore and the New York Central. Said he: "There is absolutely no truth in the reports of any further consolidation, because the two roads are practically owned by the same interests now. It is foolish for anyone to talk of the Central leasing the Lake Shore. A company would not lease what is really its own property."

**Injunction to Restrict Discrimination.** DENVER, Oct. 29.—In the United States circuit court Monday Judge Hallett will hear a motion for a preliminary injunction to restrain western railroads from enforcing discriminating rates to the Pacific coast on iron and steel products in violation of the Interstate Commerce commission's order.

The action is begun by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. Damages of \$100,000 are asked. The Southern Pacific railway company, it is alleged, has given notice that after November 7 the rates from Pueblo to San Francisco will be made the same as the rates from Chicago to San Francisco.

**Promotions on the Baltimore & Ohio.** BALTIMORE, Oct. 29.—November 1, Lyman McCarty, who for many years has been general eastern passenger agent of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad company in New York city, will be given the title of assistant general passenger agent, and S. B. Hege, for some years division passenger agent at Washington, will be made general agent of the passenger department in Washington. Manager of Passenger Traffic Martin has made these promotions on account of the splendid record Messrs. McCarty and Hege have made in their respective positions during the last six months.

**Railway Notes and Personal.** General Agent Holly of the Union Pacific at Chicago is in the city. George H. MacRae, assistant general passenger agent of the Omaha road, is in the city. J. L. Bentley, who represents the Burlington and Des Moines, and Phil Daniels, who handles the business at Butte, are at B. & M. headquarters today. They have come in to see the exposition.

The largest excursion that has gone out of Omaha for either of the Dakotas in a number of years was the special train of the Northwestern system on Friday evening taking 1,055 returning exposition visitors. They were mostly bound for Yankton and other points in South Dakota.

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