Horticulture.

NEW SPECIES OF WILLOW.

A Discovery of Interest to All Students of Arboriculture.

Charles S. Sargent, Professor of Arboriculture at Harvard, is now about completing the sixth volume of his "Sylva of North America." In this volume he treats exhaustively of the many varieties of the willow which abound in all portions of the United States. He recently made a trip to Jackson County, Mo., in search of a new species of willow and returned with a complete description of a variety of the tree never before discovered. It will occupy a prominent place in his volume on the North American trees. He considers his long trip well repaid and will give to the students of trees another topic for discussion.

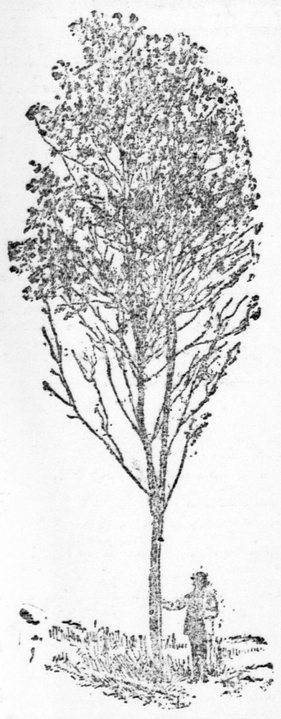
For many years the deep, alluvial bottoms of the Missouri River in Jackson County, have been noted for the heavy growth of the willow which luxuriated in impenetrable thickets and defied the advance of the farmer. Among these trees was a giant willow, towering above the rest, and this tree attracted the attention of Mr. B. F. Bush, who is in the service of the Missouri Botanical Gardens at St. Louis and whose home is at Independence, Mo. He made this tree a study and came to the conclusion that it was of a different species from any other willow he had yet examined. Mr. Bush is a personal friend of Prof. Sargent, and, knowing that he was issuing a volume in which the willow would take a prominent place, called Prof. Sargent's attention to his discovery. The result was the trip to Missouri.

Prof. Sargent stopped at the St. Louis Botanical Gardens, and was accompanied to Independence by Prof. William Trealease, of that institution, who is also interested in trees and their culture, and with Prof. Bush, of Independence, they made their tour.

They found the new tree and at once knew it to be different from any they had ever seen. They pronounced it a local species, as it has not been found in any other place but in Jackson County, Mo., along the river bottoms. It has heretofore been confused with Diamond Willow (Salix Cordata Vestita) of Dakota and Western Nebraska, and this is probably the reason it has never been catalogued before. Prof. Trealease was equipped with a camera, and he photographed this new species with Mr. Bush standing beside it, to show the comparative size and height. On either side of the willow are sycamores, whose white trunks show in great contrast, and in the background are smaller trees of this new species of willow.

This was the only picture secured by the party, and the leaves were at this time not developed to an extent which would give an idea of their peculiarities. Mr. Bush, however, was commissioned to secure and press the full-grown leaf and to also secure cuts of the cross sections of the tree, and the forthcoming sixth volume of Prof. Sargent will contain all these cuts.

This nondescript species of willow may be recognized at once by its straight upright, smooth trunk and branches, the dark, almost black appearance of the whole tree, the thick, dark twigs and branchlets which are densely tomentose, while other species of willow have slender, smooth and shining twigs



The leaves are long, wide, thick and bright green above and very glaucous below; the staminate catkins are from two to four inches long and quite thick, and are produced early, often in February; the pistillate catkins are from two to four inches long, and begin to shed their fruit much earlier than the heart-leave willow, with which it has been confused, and which is a straggling bush, or at the most at all shrub with slender yellow twigs and small staminate and pistillate catkins which appear in April. The wood of this species is a dark yellow and quite hard, and is said to be durable. It is used for posts and rails.

This new tree of the willow species will be of great interest to all students of arboriculture, of which study the willows form an interesting and ornamental group of trees. They are found in America from Labrador to Florida downto Mexico and thence northward to British America, and have been studied and catalogued from the beginnng of the work in this country. They are found along the little branches and creeks as well as along the larger streams, but their special habitat is the large overflowed, sandy, bottoms along the Missouri River. There are many species in the United States, especially in the Atlantic States, and as far west as the Mississippi Valley, and in Missouri there are at least sixteen species, including this new discovery.

Prof. Sargent is held in the highest esteem in Japan, where he spent several years. Some years ago the Japanese sent this country and other nations which had advanced in the arts, many of their young men and they studied the methods of government and especially agriculture. Among them was the official who held the place in Government circles which would be called here Secretary of Agriculture. He studied under Prof. Sargent, and from him learned for the first time how plants were fertilized, either by insects or by the wind. To the class fertilized by the wind belong the corn, wheat, oats, rye and the rice. This Japanese agricultural secretary was called Sudi, and when he returned home with his new knowledge of fertilization of plants he knew why the rice crop was sometimes a failure.

He was walking on the great dykes one day when the rice was in bloom and here was not, nor had there been for a long time, a breath of wind, and he knew that unless the plant could be fertilized while in bloom the crop would be a failure. Calling workmen, he made a them take long ropes and drag them across the fields of rice, and as the rope passed over the plant it would bend and right itself and shake as in a wind, and the fertilization was accomplished. This plan was adopted throughout Japan rice plantations, and a failure of the crop has not occurred there since. Sudi was nominated Tsudi Tsin, which means Tsudi, "the rope," and by that name he is honored to-day, in his country.

Horticultural Notes.

If hollyhocks show signs of disease, spray frequently with Bordeaux mixture; hoe frequently between the plants. If the disease has got a strong hold, remove some of the worst affected leaves, and keep up spraying at intervals, on the others.

It requires knowledge of the variety and habit of growth of a tree to prune it as it should be. Some varieties naturally run up, and their central shoots must be checked to encourage a more spreading habit. Nearly all pear trees will grow like a church spire if the central shoot is not pinched back. In most varieties the center needs trimming out down to where the branches put out from the trunk. The Seckel pear is one which naturally grows a round head and requires less severe pruning than most others. The pruning should be done before the leaves put forth, except in the rare instances when the tree is making too much wood, and pruning while in leaf is resorted to to increase the formation of fruit buds.

To the violet family we owe very much of the pleasure which early spring affords us. Besides the wild forms, all of which are good in cultivation, there are varieties which have been found and cultivated. Taking the wild cucullata, for example, there is a pure white, rosy blue and one striped and blotched white and blue. This one is called Cucullata picta. It is a profuse bloomer, and its two colored flowers are very much admired. Another wild one, sagittata, has been known to produce a white variety. The bird's-foot violet, Viola pedata, is of a light blue. There is a steep hillside near here, where perhaps there are thousands; and in the early days of May, when these are in bloom, there may be distinguished many shades of colors among them. Some are nearly white. This sort, pedata, likes a dryish situation, while almost all other kinds prefer a moist one.

In pruning fruit trees, attention has to be given to the manner in which the particular kind bears its fruit. The cherry and the pear both bear their fruit on short spurs, and in trimming, therefore, the effort should be to produce a large quantity of healthy fruit spurs. Summer pruning does this admirably. The branches that we want to remain as leading shoots should not be touched, but the weaker ones may be pinched back, about midsummer, one foot or two thirds of their growth. This will induce the swelling of a number of buds that will produce flowers instead of branches, and in this way fruit spurs can be obtained on comparatively young trees, but with such kinds as the grape vine the fruit is borne from the buds of last year's growth, so the effort should be to throw all the vigor possible into those branches that we want to bear the shoots next season. To do this we pinch back the shoot that we do not want to extend, or even pull these weak shoots out altogether. A little pruning is then necessary in the winter to shorten back these strong, bearing canes, or to prune out altogether the weaker ones that we check by pinching back during the growing season.

Arboriculture.

The Northwestern Lumberman notes that Baron Michling, a cultured and wealthy gentleman of Germany, was in Chicago the past spring, and when asked by a reporter what he did not like about the United States replied: "The destruction of your forests. In every other way the keenest, most far-sighted nation the world has ever seen, the people of the United States seem to have been blind to the consequence of the wholesale destruction of their timber lands. The matter does not interest the public as it should. In some states now the original forests have already been exterminated, and practically nothing is being done in the way of planting. The people of America will find themselves obliged before many years to pass forestry laws, such as Germany has had for years. Already you have practically exterminated several varieties of the most valuable woods. Let me tell you this: Within 20 years you will be bringing American woods from Germany. For years we have been systematically planting American walnut, maple, cherry and other trees. When your supply is exhausted we can supply you. I now have growing on my estate in Hesse-Thuringen thousands of American trees, which I secured mainly through the kindness of my friend, Mr. Fernow, who is the head of your forestry division of the agricultural department. Pardon me for saying that the people of the United States have been ungrateful. God gave to them the grandest trees on the face of the earth—the giant sequoia of the Yosemite Valley. I now have quite a number of them growing in Germany which I sent from California. They are about four feet high, and I am very proud of them. You have not learned to love the trees for themselves, as we do. To the average American, the first question about a nice tree is, How many feet of lumber can I get out of it?" It is often the case that others see us more clearly than we see ourselves. We may not fully appreciate the truth of Baron Michling's remarks, but our children will experience it, and wonder why their progenitors were so wasteful of material which is so slowly produced.

Protecting Melons from Cut Worms.

Cut-worms have proved so destructive to melons that growers are recommended hereafter to plow in the fall—early rather than late—and leave the land bare during the winter. Then, in the early spring, as soon as the grass begins to come up in adjoining fields, sprinkle here and there throughout the field which is to be planted to melons bunches of grass or any other green vegetation which has previously been poisoned by sprinkling with Paris green solution. Such of the cut-worms as may be present in the land will feed upon this vegetation and will be killed. It will also have the effect of destroying many of the wire-worms.

THE DAIRY

CONSTRUCTING A SILO.

John Gould, an Ohio Authority, Submits a Sensible Plan.

Silos are usually built in one or two ways, either by what is known as the double-boarded, or the single-ceiled way, and generally in either case out of pine lumber, as that seems to be the handiest and least expensive, although oak, hemlock and other woods, if sound and free of knot holes and cracks, may be used. Many silos are built in some part of the barn, to cheapen cost, because the barn walls become the outside protection and roof, which reduces the silo to a big box in the barn, this being about as handy a place from which to feed the stock as can be found. In the barn the silo needs no stone foundation. All that is required is to dig a trench the size of the silo, large enough to receive a 10-inch square sill, and bed it in mortar underneath and on the sides to firm it. Set up the 2x6-inch studding 18 inches apart from center to center, and line up on the inside with inch lumber, 10 inches wide, cross-locked at the corner, and so securely that it will be impossible to pull apart. Cover on the inside of this first lining with cheap tarred paper, then run on another layer of the same kind of lumber; put it on with a half lap, so as to break the joints in the first layer, and nail with 10d wire nails. To make sure that the corners are tight have a 3x3-inch scantling sawed through cornerwise and nail these halves into the corners, with a backing of paper well painted in with gas tar.

In place of two thicknesses of boards, single-surfaced No. 1 flooring boards may be used and the grooves filled with paint, but in this case there must be more studding used so as to make the walls extra firm. Now and then a man builds a single-ceiled silo six cornered, and puts the scantling round the pit like hoops, locking them well at the corners. In this case the lining boards must go up and down, and be jointed with extreme care. The silage is taken out by having manholes in the sides, with small doors—unhinged—set in from the inside. The pressure of the silage holds them securely in place, and then they are taken out as the feeding of the silage progresses.

When the walls of the silo are finished and painted with a paint made of three quarts of gas tar and two quarts of gasoline well mixed—taking care that no fire comes near it in mixing or applying—the floor may be made by drawing the soil from the center of the silo up to, and pounding down against, the side walls until the floor is the form of a kettle. If well pounded down and dampened in the operation, it makes one of the best of floors. The double-boarded silo, with a clay floor, is the equal of any silo made for the proper keeping of silage. Two silos of this kind built eight years ago are still in perfect condition. They hold almost 200 tons of silage and did not cost $100. They fill all the requirements of a cheap and yet durable silo. By double-boarding the walls with tar—red paper between—and by having a clay floor much lower in the center, the walls are absolutely air-tight proof. In the last six years I have not lost by mold or decay 1,000 pounds of silage along walls, or in the corners; and since I stopped covering and weighting the top, and simply wet the surface, when the heat begins to show itself, with 10 or 15 pails of water evenly distributed over the top surface, the spoiled silage on top has shrunken to less than a wagon boxful.

"Filled Cheese."

The Dairy World tells us how this miserable cheat is made, and the morality of it is as follows,

Filled cheese is an imitation cheese made from skim milk, whereto at the curd forming period certain oleaginous matter is added and mechanically taken up in the cell of the curd. In their makeup there is no chemical affinity whatever, no change of constituent elements. The skim-milk curd simply holds the added fatty matter, whatever it may be, mechanically. The curd is the capsule, the fat is its contents. If heat dissolve, or incision disrupt the covering, then the fat exudes. Take a sample of filled cheese and rub it in your hands and you rub out all the fat and separate the curd and its contents. Your hands will then be covered with grease, and the curd which held it will be separate and distinct. A pile of boxes of them in a hot summer's day will drip grease and make a pool of refuse upon the store floor about them as they stand. Practically, the neutral oil and the curd might just as well be served at a table in separate dishes as to have the oil conveyed to the consumer in the capsule of the cheese curd.

That such a clumsy provision of grease should be supposed to impose upon the "human" is a sorry comment upon the ability of the race to take care of itself. A public that cannot protect itself against such folly is not as competent in the selection and use of food as an intelligent horse, which, if cheese were his diet, could never be fooled by such compounds as these imitations. One thing is certain, the manufacturers of this stuff have always been and always will be severely punished by heavy losses. "Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, I will repay," has never been more fully demonstrated than in the history of this foolishness, very truly remarks an exchange.

Butter Pays All the Time.

If we want to make our farms self-sustaining we must keep more cows and less steers and other stock, as the cows pay for their keep and leave a fair profit, while it costs as much to raise two steers as we can get for three if we sell to the butchers. Therefore I should advise farmers to keep cows, make butter and feed pigs the milk. Butter always brings a fair price, with the least change in price, during all of the panic times we have had. Butter is the only farm product that has not been down to ruinous prices. Therefore, let us keep all of the good cows that we can get fodder for. This can be grown right at home on the farm in the form of grain crops, ensilage, with all of the grain, such as wheat, barley and oats, that it is possible to raise, then our farms will be self-sustaining.

Feeding Slops to Cows.

The Connecticut Experiment Station Bulletin says that there is a prevalent opinion that feeding cows on watery food gives a milk containing less solids or more water than will be produced from very concentrated foods. Cows fed at one of our stations were given freely warm slop feed. On ordinary rations the yield of milk from eight cows for two weeks was 3,962 pounds, containing 3.96 per cent. of fat. For the next two weeks when they were given slop feed once a day the yield was 3,157 pounds of milk, containing 3.82 per cent. of fat. For the next two weeks they were given slop feed twice a day and yielded 2,940 pounds of of milk containing 3.86 per cent. of fat. The experimenter says:

"In 1893, we said in the report on sloping cows—'This experiment would indicate that slopping is an expensive way to feed cows.' We would say again that there does not now appear to be any advantage in feeding cows wet meal, nor is there any evidence to prove that this method of feeding will make the milk poorer in fat to any extent."

Few dairymen will readily accredit this view of the effect of giving slop feed to cows, yet it is in accord with the statement of experimenters who have tested the influence of food on the composition of milk.

If this view is found correct it will be seen that the attempt to produce diluted or thin milk by cheap, though really expensive foods, is not only a mistake of morals but of mind. Fortunately the interests of buyers and sellers in the production of milk are one.

SIMPLE MILK COOLER.

A Leaf From the Diary of a Progressive Nebraska Farmer.

My milk cooler is a box large enough to hold all my milk and cream cans and butter crocks. It has a spout down one corner within one inch of the bottom, to allow the water to flow in, thus putting the cold water in the bottom of the tank. The warm water rises to the surface and passes off down the hose, which is hooked up as high as you wish the water in the vat around the cans. When there is less milk in the cans, lower the hose by use of the wire chain. The warm water passes off at the top of the vat and runs out on the garden, and is used to irrigate it. It does not matter how much or how little water is pumped into the vat at once, as it holds itself with the top of the hose all the time. There is no danger of overflowing or drowning the cans. Of course, there should be enough cold water pumped into the vat to keep the milk cool. I find that when my milk is at the same temperature as the water coming from the well, it is about right to raise all of the cream. I used a piece of two inch hose, and bored a two-inch hole in the box and inserted the hose. Then in order to make the hose and box water-tight, I bored a hole through a stick, which I drove inside of the hose where it passes through the tank. I had good sweet milk and good buttermilk and fine, hard butter all summer. I shipped my butter to Omaha, and received for it at the depot four and five cents per pound more than we could get at the store at home. I also grew in my garden after July 8, (at which time I was hailed out and lost my entire crop), one pail tomatoes, one bushel of turnips, eleven cabbages, four bushels of radishes, one-half peck of beans, lots of lettuce and a few onions, by irrigation from our tank.

CHOICE FARM BUTTER.

Unless Everything is Kept Clean It Cannot Be Secured.

Good butter must not only look well and be firm, but it must taste well. To secure this good taste is one of the most difficult tasks of butter making. Milk in all its forms is one of the most susceptible substances to taints and odors. It is sweet and wholesome as it comes from the healthy cow, and to make good butter it must be kept so. The cow stables should be clean and well aired, so as to be free from odors of mold and decaying manure. The cow's coat and udder should be cleaned before milking, and the milker's hands and clothing should be in a civilized condition. The tin milk bucket should have been scoured, scalded, and, if possible, sunned, before its daily use. The teats should be milked with dry hands, and all possible dust should be kept out of the milk. Some dairymen cover the pail with a tin-banded wire gauze sieve which catches the foam and dust particles as the milk stream is conducted through it. Hurry the milk from the stable to the house or cellar and immediately set it in for creaming in the cleanest of pans, which should be treated as carefully as the milk buckets. Cool the milk as soon as possible by aerating, setting in a stream of cold water, or even by cool air in a well ventilated place. As soon as the animal heat is removed the vessels may be covered with clean tin covers; wood absorbs taints so readily that it should be used as little as possible in butter-making. The wooden churns, bowls and ladles which must be used must be most thoroughly soaked with boiling water, and then disinfected with plenty of sunshine and pure air. A little washing or baking soda in the boiling water will help to keep things sweet in cloudy weather. The can that is to hold the cream will need the most attention, as it is desirable to keep the batch sweet as long as possible in order to have large uniform churnings. If the butter cannot be used or sold within two weeks after it is made, it should be well packed, keeping the color in each tub as uniform as possible.

Advisability of Dehorning.

If there is any doubt of the advisability of dehorning cattle in general, there can be no doubt of the advisability of dehorning the bad-tempered animal that is prone to drive his fellows from the water or feed trough, or from the shelter. This animal does not profit from the hurt it does others. The quarrelsome animal never makes as much fat or milk from its feed as it would were it quiet and peaceable, and it reduces the thrift of the animals it deprives of feed, water or shelter, if it does not injure them. In nearly every case such an animal will be thoroughly reformed by dehorning; it will be among the most peaceable among the herd. In the few cases in which this effect is not produced, the animal's capacity to injure its fellows is much lessened, and they will soon learn this and will not be imposed upon by it.

After the Strawberry Season.

As soon as the strawberry crop is off mow down the vines and when they are dry burn them. If the patch has been mulched it is just as well to rake the mulch between the rows and burn it as soon as dry enough. This will burn the tops of the berry vines and not hurt the plants. It will kill insects and the plants will spring up in a few days to renewed life and vigor. On the prairies we have seen fine crops of wild strawberries where the grass had been burned over them.

Watch the Young Trees.

When a young tree does not grow and the leaves are yellowish instead of green, dig down to the roots and endeavor to discover if some insect or parasite is not working underground. Then dig away plenty of dirt and drench the roots with strong soapsuds, to which should be added a few pounds of unleached wood ashes, or put the ashes in after drenching the roots. It will not injure the tree, and may prove of great benefit.

Giddiman—"I hear you are going regularly with Miss Dashwell."

Stiddiboy—"Not going, old man, but gone."

THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

Interesting Information About Manufacture, Commerce and Agriculture.

The Products of Skill and Inventive Genius the World Over.

Austria will tax cats.

Japan has 46 spinning mills.

In Texas 64 counties have no papers.

There are many women marble polishers.

Aix-la-Chapelle has women letter carriers.

Silk is so cheap in Madagascar that the poorest people wear clothing made of it.

Sixty thousand acres of land are devoted to celery growing in the United States.

The London and Northwestern Railway Company consume 3,500 tons of coal a day.

A French railway company has ordered clocks to be placed on the outside of every locomotive.

Mulhall is authority for the statement that there are 6,003 pieces in the modern high-grade locomotives.

By the last census there were 837,164 acres of buckwheat sown in the United States, producing 12,110,349 bushels.

Lighting trains by electricity on the New York Central, the supply of which is furnished by the revolution of the axles, as far as tested, has proved very satisfactory.

A curious new industry is reported from Paris, where the demand for small dogs is being met by rearing the pups on an alcoholic diet, which prevents their growth.

In China it is not customary to give credit. Money is obtained from lenders, who exact an interest of 8 to 12 per cent. Business is nearly always conducted on a cash basis.

Bicycles are said to have seriously affected the sale of pianos in England. The reason given is that when a girl is asked to choose between the two for a present she invariably selects the wheel.

It is proposed by means of the electrophone to connect London's churches and chapels with the hospitals, so that the sermons preached each Sunday may be heard by the patients without leaving their beds.

The French are experimenting with a single track temporary railroad that can be laid on a country road or across the fields. They expect to use it in military operations and in harvesting crops. The barrows and cars used are on the bicycle principle, and they can be operated either by hand or horse power.

In 1850 the total wealth of the United States was $7,136,000,000, about $308 per capita; in 1860 it had risen to $16,160,000,000, or about $514 per head; in 1870 it was $30,069,000,000, or about $780 per head; in 1880 it had risen to $43,642,000,000, or $870 per head, and in 1890 to $62,600,000,000, or $1,000 per head.

The watermelon shipping season is practically ended. The season has been an unprecedented one in the number of melons shipped. The shipments by the Plant system alone foot up over 4,300 carloads, over 1,000 carloads more than the season before and very nearly 1,000 carloads more than in 1893. The total will be greater by many thousand carloads than ever known in the history of melon-growing in Georgia.—Savannah News.

A large office building is now being erected in San Francisco which will be devoted exclusively to offices for doctors, dentists, oculists and aurists. It is to be fitted with every convenience for the use of the specialists who are expected to occupy it. In addition to reception rooms, cabinets for private examination and microscopic tests there will be one of the finest medical libraries on the Pacific coast. There will also be an annex, which will contain a restaurant and several apartments.

A Hungarian inventor asserts that he is able to spin ordinary wood pulp or cellulose into yarn, from which all sorts of textile tissues can be made in the ordinary way—equaling in appearance, durability and fastness of color the best cotton goods. The method is applicable not only to cellulose, but also to every sort of short, fibrous material—for instance, rags, cotton, etc. The fibre, whether paper pulp or textile refuse, can be dyed before being spun into yarn, so that the dying of the woven material is not necessary.

In Spain more men are employed in the cotton industry than in any other vocation except agriculture. United States Consul Bowen, of Barcelona, reports that on thread alone there are 3,000,000 spindles, $40,000,000 capital invested and 34,866 workmen employed. In white cotton goods there are large exports from Barcelona. Ten thousand workmen are employed in cotton thread lace manufacture near Barcelona, and 38,000 are at work in other parts of Spain. On dyed and stamped cotton there are 10,634 looms and 32 000 workmen employed, producing 48,800,000 metres of cloth. Cuba and Porta Rico receive the most of this. The total number of spindles in Spain employed is 2,614,500, and the number of looms is 68,300, with a total capital of $60,000,000. The average wages paid per week are: Directors and superintendents, $12 to $25; major domos, $8 to $10; machinists, $4 to $16; firemen, $3 to $6; carpenters, $4 75 to $6; ordinary workmen, $3 to $4. The average workmen's wages in Barcelona and vicinity are less than 70 cents a day.—[Manufacturer.

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OLD WORDS AND MEANINGS.

Fairy was once a beautiful woman.

Villa formerly meant a farm and not a house.

Girl formerly signified any young person of either sex.

Duke once meant any leader. The word is from the Latin.

Hag once meant any old person, whether male or female.

Gallon was originally a pitcher or jar, no matter of what size.

Jade originally signified any rude person, without regard to sex.

Craven was at first a man who craved or begged his life of an enemy.

Polite at first meant polished, and was applied to the smooth, shining surface.

The word "idea" formerly meant a completed performance, whether mental or physical.

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