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The Feast of the First Fruits.

The Feast of the First Fruits, also known as the Feast of Weeks, or Shavuoth in Hebrew, has been for the most part superseded by the observance of Confirmation Day in many synagogues of this country. In celebrating the holiday on Monday, May 21, the outstanding feature will be the confirmation of the children of the religious school.

The Feast of the First Fruits, like many other festivals inherited from ancient days, has undergone considerable modification. In remote antiquity, even in early Biblical days, this feast was one of the three pilgrimages which the Jews made to the Temple at Jerusalem. There, in numbers vast, they offered up on the altar their sacrifice of parched corn and wheat leaves at the end of the first seven weeks of the Spring planting.

On this foundation of an agricultural festival which the crude farmer of that age observed by offering the things grown by his planting, the rabbis of the Talmudic age built up a symbolic ceremonial of larger significance and vaster potentiality. In their poetic idealism the revelation of the law on Sinai was associated with this Feast of Weeks. At that time the Ten Commandments were made known and Israel was pledged to be the bearer of this revelation.

To the rabbis the consciousness of this consecration to a moral duty and destiny to be fulfilled throughout all ages and among all human beings was the symbolic equivalent of a harvest, a harvest of the spirit. Israel offered the first fruits of spiritual achievement and religious inspiration at this historical consummation.

Shavuoth then becomes a memorial of this consecration, when Israel was chosen from among all the nations to become the priest of God's law of love and justice, the herald of salvation unto all families of man. Those teachers of Israel who invested Shavuoth with an historical association commemorative of this revelation placed among the summits of creation. They said that man was endowed with the light of reason, and was designed to lift up his eyes unto God and to seek and find Him in this marvelous world.

The Confirmation Day ceremony in many of our American synagogues is a recent adaptation of this consecration. It is on the one hand a graduation from the religious school. The confirmands are those who have attended religious school from their kindergarten days to the first and second year high school age. They have studied the Bible, Jewish ethics and literature, religious ceremonials, doctrines and duties, and also considerable post-biblical history of the Jews. Some have also studied the

Hebrew language. At the same time the graduation from the religious school are held under moral responsibility to remember their consecration to Israel's mission of service as a priestly people who are called upon to be a blessing to all families of the earth. This renewal of fealty to Israel is as glorious and triumphant a moment as graduation. Both are voluntary and both call for ardent service. Throughout all American Jewish communities where the Confirmation ceremony is observed receptions are held in the homes of the parents of

Members of I.W.W. Not Wanted in Kansas.

TOPEKA, May 14—(A.P.)—As a result of the recent decision in the Kansas supreme court, members of the Industrial Workers of the World are not wanted in Kansas.

The high court has sustained an injunction against the I.W.W., its officials and all members, issued in the district court of Butler county. It

has been held by the attorney general's department that the possession of an I.W.W. membership card is sufficient grounds on which such member may be held in contempt of the injunction in any county in the state. C. B. Griffith, state attorney general, in his brief before the court, said: "It will be seen at once that the acts of the organization are not single acts of crime, but every act is a part of a system devised and intended to inflict unlawful injury and damage upon the citizens of the state to overturn the industrial system and overthrow the government itself."

Potato Growing.

Now that the season for planting potatoes is near at hand the following article on potato culture published last year in the Telegram of May 18th is reprinted for the benefit of those who do not profess to be experts.

CARE IN SELECTION OF SEEDS.

The land for growing potatoes must be well prepared and brought to a fine "tilth" state if a good crop is to be expected, good seed and a fair dressing of manure is also an essential. As both the quality and productiveness of any variety of potatoes will deteriorate or degenerate, care in the selection of seed is necessary. Size of sets will not materially affect the produce and good crops will grow from small potatoes provided the variety has not degenerated or run out. When potatoes are cut for seed each set should have two eyes. Small tubers should be scarred, as in some soils without this precaution, the set will fail to decay and the crop in consequence will be a light one. The blunt end of a tuber invariably contains the leading eyes. They develop earlier than sets from any other portion. Cut seed should be planted as soon as possible to prevent wilting. In horse cultivation it is the usual practice in the neighbourhood of St. John's after plowing and harrowing the ground, to open drills 2 feet apart (2½ feet is recommended) and six inches deep. About three inches of manure is put in the bottom of the drill and on this the seed is placed. The drills are then split with the plough to cover the seed. When weeds begin to appear the drills are "cross" harrowed. If the ground is very weedy several harrowings at intervals are given until the potato shoots are nearly three inches high. At this stage the "scuffle" is brought into play and the potatoes kept ridged until the final earthing, which is usually done when the rows of stalks begin to meet. No other attention is given until digging time arrives. With good seed, properly cultivated one barrel of seed should yield 15 to 18 barrels and that on less than 25 square rods of land.

Metal Roofs as Aerials. SYDNEY, N.S.W.—Using a galvanized iron roof as an aerial, a radio amateur in Hobart, Tasmania, declares he has heard messages from Panama and Manila. His name is S. G. Lewis. As most of the houses in this commonwealth have iron roofs, the question of aerials would seem to be solved. The use of real caramelized sugar will give clearness, a good flavor and color to confections.

Black Magic.

SIR H. RIDER HAGGARD AND DANGEROUS NONSENSE.

"All this business about Lord Carnarvon having been brought to his end by magic is dangerous nonsense," Sir H. Rider Haggard told a Rotarian audience at Hastings recently.

It was dangerous, he said, because it went to swell the rising tide of superstition which at present seemed to be overflowing the world. Did they suppose that God Almighty would permit a Pharaoh, who after all was only a man with a crown on his head, to murder people by magical means, thousands of years after his own death, and to let loose what people in spiritualism circles called an elemental, which he (Sir Rider) took to mean a devil? If that could happen let them abandon all hope, for indeed they were in the hollow of the hand of darkness.

Speaking of the violation of tombs, he said it was not right that these royal personages and others should be half naked in a glass case in a museum.

SIR A. CONAN DOYLE'S VIEWS. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, thinks

Lord Carnarvon may have died as the result of the occult influence of an "evil elemental."

"There was once a mummy in the British Museum," remarked Sir Arthur, "which it was believed was guarded by one of those elementals, for everyone who came in contact with it came to grief. This was the mummy of a Queen, and even one of my dear friends, a journalist, who investigated the misfortunes that befell those who handled the mummy, was himself stricken with typhoid fever and died."

"The son of a friend of mine, Sir William Ingram, found the mummy while hunting in Somaliland. Inscribed on the mummy's breast were the words: 'May the person who unwraps me die rapidly, and may his bones lie unburied.' This young man was drowned a few days later in a water course, and his body was never found."

Sir Arthur further asserted that modern spiritualists were even now in communication with ancient Eastern spirits, and said: "Through my wife, who is a medium, I often get advice from one such as spiritual matters. He lived 3,000 or 4,000 years ago in Arabia."

It is very unwise to serve coarse-grained cereals unless they have been cooked overnight.

SEED and TABLE POTATOES.

Due to arrive direct from P. E. Island by S.S. Sapper next week:

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