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### THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

# Easter --- It's Origin and Customs By E. L. Chicaudt

At Easter we celebrate the resurrec-tion of Christ, and whilst for all Chris-tian peoples the origin of the feast is, of course, the supendous miracle of the rising from the tomb, most people the rising from the tomb, most people are nevertheless unaware that the feast, tho apparently of distinctly Christian expression, has many pagan associa-tions. The word "Easter" itself is especially significant, coming down to us, as it does, from pre-Christian days, whilst the customs belonging to the spring festival are mainly survivals of pagan worship and festivity. The word "Ostara," or "Easter," from which our modern "Easter" is evolved, means a breaking or bursting forth, and in the mythology of Northern Europe, Eastre was the goddess of spring. In the days following the dis-appearance of the snows, when the grass began to sprout and the trees to bud, when winter had been surely banished and spring had commenced her reign,

when winter had been surely banished and spring had commenced her reign, then the feast of Eastre, the spring goddess, was celebrated with much cere-mony and merry-making. Thus in the symbolic bursting forth of spring from her wintry tomb, which they observed, there was a figure of that greater "Eastre" which in future years was to be substituted for the old festival and celebrated until the end of time.

#### In Pagan England

When the Angles and Saxons came to Britain they still clung tenaciously to their pagan mythology, and among the feasts which they set up in their new home was that of the spring god-dess. Then came the Roman mission-aries, and England, Christianized, Lan-izhed all her sectors the test and their aries, and England, Christianized, ban-ished all her ancient deities and their feasts except that of Eastre, which, now endowed with a newer and fuller significance, retained its pagan name and many of its more innocent associa-tions. Annually on this day the altars were decorated with flowers, the first tokens of spring, whilst the whole popu-lace, young and old, gave itself up to enjoyment. And so from the days of our pagan

And so from the days of our pagan forefathers we get the feast of Easter and all the pomp and ceremony with which we usher in the feast and the fe-tivity and merry-making with which it has long been associated are relics of the homage paid centuries ago to the goddess of spring. It is doubtless from the ancient wor-ship of the constellations and material elements that the vagaries of the sun have always been so intimately con-nected with Easter. A stanza of an old poem runa:

ald poem runs:

"But oh, she dances such a way No sun upon an Easter day Is half so fine a sight."

It was a general belief in England that the sun danced on Easter Sunday morning, and people rose with the dawn to see the interesting spectacle; and even to this day in Ireland nurses hold their charges to the window in antici-pation of this phenomenon.

#### Easter Eggs

Exter EggStater EggStater Arabitation of the state and state and

as it was believed that a piece thrown upon a burning house would immediate-ly extinguish the fire.

#### A Curious Custom

A curious old custom, probably sym-bolic of the resurrection, used, at Eas-tertide, to be celebrated in various English counties and especially in the north. This was known as "heaving." On Easter Monday the men lifted the women, and on Tuesday the reverse took place and the women "heaved" the men.

Weather proverbs have been asso-ciated with this season from time im-memorial. In Hertfordshire there is a saying:

good deal of rain on Easter Day, A good deal of rain on Easter Day, Gives a crop of good grass but little good hay,'' & And another version runa: & "If it rains on Good Friday and

Easter Day, There'll be plenty of grass and a little good hay." Also in many agricultural districts it is a firm belief that the weather experi-enced at Eastertide will occur also at harvest.

#### The End of the World

Another strange belief, associated with this season, is that the end of the world will come when Good Friday oc-curs on the Feast of St. George, April 23, but, as far forward as astronomers have computed, these two feasts do not coincide. coincide.

coincide. One more survival of Druidical times exists at Easter, and this is the custom still extant in many places of making offerings to the clergy, which are known as "Easter dues." On the authority of Southey we have it, that on the kindling of the sacred fire a man who had not paid his dues was refused a spark. Nor might any of his neigh-bors assist him, and he and his family were deprived of it until his debt to the priests was discharged.

And so in one of our most sacred and solemn festivals have we so curiously assimilated the Christian observances and the customs which in pagan days were tributes to the goddess of spring.

## Farm Women's Problems Continued from Page 42.

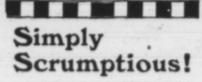
Continued from Page 42

Initiation of potation roll is both economication of botation, ary it'. A cup of potation of the potat

My boys are very fond of it for their school lunches. (When I intend making it I run the huttermilk right off into a saucepan and leave it to stand until the follow-ing day, when I put it on the stove and let it get thoroughly hot. Then I take it off and let it stand until quite cold, when it will be found that the curds have all settled at the bottom and that most of the whey can be carefully poured off. Then I sprinkle the curds with soft and the up of a musil hag to drain, when it is ready for use. War prices make economy more

War prices make economy more necessary than ever, but on the farm, at least, 'we are fortunate in being able to raise much wholesome food for our

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