THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

A Synopsis of Proceedings in Both Branches of the Twenty-Eighth General Assembly.

HOUSE.

The house on the 1st passed H. R. 15, by Sadler, appropriating $15,000 for the purchase of 320 acres of land for the use of the asylum for the chronic insane at Hastings. Passed without the emergency clause by a vote of 55 to 26. H. R. 70, the Ramsey elevator bill, was returned to the senate with an amendment raising the minimum cost of an elevator to which it should apply from $2,000 to $7,000. Ramsey moved that the senate amendment be concurred in, which motion, on roll call, prevailed by a vote of 73 ayes to 11 nays. H. R. 165, by Fishback, providing for drainage for agricultural and sanitary purposes, was read for the third time and passed. In committee of the whole the house recommended for passage, by the close vote of 47 to 40 H. R. 174, by Sears, to give a wife absolute title to one-half her deceased husband's estate, instead of dower interest in one-third thereof. Spurlock of Cass, chairman of the sifting committee, asked unanimous consent for ordering S. F. 199, by Warner, to a third reading. The bill, which is one of Governor Mickey's provides for the appointment of a state accountant at a salary of $2,000, to have general supervision of the books and accounts of state institutions and state officers. Sweezy of Adams objected. Spurlock then moved that the bill be advanced under a suspension of the rules. The motion was lost by a rising vote of 26 to 36. Junkin of Gosper moved that hereafter members be allowed not to exceed five minutes' time each in the discussion of any one bill. The motion prevailed. The house adopted the conference committee report on H. R. 344, the general revenue bill, by a vote of 75 to 15. The house went into committee of the whole on the sifting file. The following bills were recommended for passage: H. R. 7, by Douglas, to amend the game laws; H. R. 28, by Deles-Dernier, to validate orders, judgments and decrees heretofore entered by district courts in foreclosure suits on tax liens; H. R. 436, by Douglas, to provide for the election of county assessors; S. F. 95, by Brown, to authorize burglary and theft insurance; H. R. 222, by Tom Evek, to prohibit cruelty to chickens; S. F. 98, by Saunders, to prohibit the docking of horses' tails; H. R. 258, 419 and 450, providing for South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri boundary commissions. The next bill considered was, H. R. 437, by the claims committee, appropriating $47,027.33 to reimburse the Norfolk and Grand Island beet sugar companies for moneys paid out by them under the beet sugar bounty law. At adjournment the matter was not disposed of.

The house entered upon bills on third reading on convening on the 2d and passed these measures: H. R. 376, by Wilson of Pawnee, relating to the manner of distributing dead bodies in the possession of public officers or institutions. H. R. 482, by Mockett of Lancaster, raising the levy for school taxes in Lincoln so as to bring the aggregate receipts up to $150,000 a year. S. F. 217, by Anderson, fixing the salary of the deputy state treasurer at $1,800, failing to pass with the emergency clause; this official had no by Anderson, raising the salary of the fixed salary under the old law. S. F. 218, secretary to the governor from $1,500 to $2,000, which he has generally drawn, failing to pass with the emergency clause. S. F. 95, by Brown, to permit the organization of burglary, title and credit insurance companies. At the afternoon session the committee on railroads reported back H. R. 121, by Kennedy, authorizing the attorney general to proceed with the action against violators of the maximum freight rates law, and H. R. 65, creating a board composed of the governor, state treasurer and public land commissioner, to have power of enforcing the provisions of this, which power under the present law is vested in the defunct board of transportation. In the three hours of night the house broke the record, disposing of twenty-six bills in committee of the whole. They were all recommended for passage. Among them was the bill to empower the fire and police commission to be created under the new charter in South Omaha, to issue liquor licenses. Another was H. R. 106 by Bacon of Dawson, in which Currie and other western members have been actively interested, to appropriate $50,000 for the sinking of eight wells to locate petroleum, gas or oil. One of these wells is to be located near Omaha, the rest scattered out over the state.

As soon as the house convened on the 3rd Kennedy of Douglas moved that his bills, H. R. 121 and H. R. 65, providing respectively for the prosecution by the attorney general of violations of the maximum freight rates law and the enforcement of this law be advanced to the head of the sifting committee's file. The motion precipitated a fight. Speaker Mockett, after Kennedy had spoken for several minutes, suggested that he was not talking on the motion, and Thompson of Merrick moved to table the Kennedy motion, raising the point of order in the first place that the fusionist from Douglas was not confining himself to the question at issue. A roll call was taken on the Thompson motion and resulted in the defeat of the motion by 29 to 47. The following bills were passed: "H. R. 416, by Rouse, providing for the removal of convicted felons to the penitentiary within five days of sentence; H. R. 403, by Morsman, to permit fishing and seining in the waters of the Missouri river all the year round. Emergency clause; H. R. 59, by Belden, to define the duties of county judges in certain cases; H. R. 339, by Sears, to reimburse Lieutenant Governor McGilton in the sum of $81, paid for his official bond; H. R. 258, by Sears, providing for the appointment by the governor of South Dakota boundary commission of three members; H. R. 413, by Nelson, to require oaths, acknowledgments and affirmations heretofore taken before commissioners of deeds; H. R. 198, by McClay, the Lincoln charter bill, providing for the election of seven councilmen at large, and abolishing the office of tax commissioner after 1903; H. R. 439, by Rouse, to provide for the payment of taxes on gifts, legacies and inheritances into the general fund of the state; H. R. 488, by McClay, relating to the paving of streets abutting on the capitol suare; H. R. 449, by Sears, providing for an Iowa-Nebraska boundary commission; H. R. 450, by Jones of Richardson, providing for a Nebraska-Missouri boundary commission; H. R. 28, by Deles-Dernier, to legalize tax titles based on premature foreclosures, where tax certificates were not first obtained. Failed to pass with emergency clause by a vote of fifty-five to twenty-six. Passed without emergency clause by a vote of 55 to 24; H. R. 294, by Deles-Dernier, to allow Nebraska mutual city and village insurance companies to do business outside the state; H. R. 347, by Cropsey, to permit cities of 5,000 population to install a sewerage system.

The Sears dower right bill, H. R. 174, passed the house on the 4th after a determined fight and several roll calls. The measure provides that the husband and wife shall have equal rights in the joint estate, providing that either shall have absolute title to one-half thereof in the event of the other's death. The present law gives the wife only one-third dower interest. The bill further provides that if it is the second husband or wife surviving and children of the first be living, that the absolute title shall be but one-third of the estate. These bills were passed: H. R. 358, by Roberts, providing for a state architect at an annual salary of $2,000. H. R. 286, by Shelley, vesting in the fire and police board of South Omaha the granting of liquor licenses as provided in the charter bill for that city just passed. H. R. 353, by Barton, making assault with intent to do great bodily injury punishable by a penitentiary sentence of from one to five years. H. R. 189, by Sadler, at the governor's request, for the sale of lots and lands for taxes and assessments delinquent for five years or more and the execution of deeds for same. H. R. 176, by Perry, compelling attendance of witnesses in cases transferred from one county to another on change of venue. H. R. 236, by Smith, striking out double damage clause from lawful fence act under head of railroads. H. R. 250, H. R. 281 and H. R. 282, by Ribble, prohibiting the unlawful making, selling or using of railroad tickets, coupons or passes. H. R. 196, by Bacon of Dawson, appropriating $50,000 to sink eight wells for the location of oil or gas, the places being Lexington, Chadron, Culbertson, Columbus, Ponca and Omaha. S. F. 11, by Hall, providing for six commissioners of the supreme court and their stenographers to serve for two years. H. R. 170, by Douglas, providing for the appointment of county attorneys in counties of 2,000 or less population. H. R. 73, by Fries, a constitutional amendment, permitting the investment of the permanent school fund in registered securities of counties, towns, cities, villages and school districts. H. R. 231, by McAllister, defining method of procedure in discontinuation of irrigation districts. H. R. 17, by Douglas, amending game law so as to make open season on chickens September 1 to November 30; extends protection for quail two years longer; prohibits killing of swans; open season for fish, April 1 to November 1; carp all year; permits spearing of fish.

The following bills were passed in the house on the 6th. S. F. 8, by Marshall providing for the election of county commissioners at large and their nomination by districts, was passed, 56 to 25. S. F. 198, by Sheldon, relating to the manner of collecting and disbursing road taxes. S. F. 120, by Jennings, relating to forfeiture of school lands when payment of interest is defaulted. S. F. 55, by Griffin, allowing cities of less than 5,000 population to vote bonds to the extent of 20 per cent of their total assessment instead of 10 per cent, to conclude their water works system. S. F. 25, by Marshall, empowering cities of less than 5,000 to own and operate their electric lights plants. S. F. 215, by Harrison, curative act relating to registration laws in cities of less than 25,000 population. S. F. 98, by Saunders, to prevent horse tail docking. S. F. 237, Sheldon, relating to the construction of wagon bridges over streams that constitute county boundaries. S. F. 222, by Harrison, to place tontine insurance companies under supervision of state banking board and permit them to wind up their affairs. At the evening session House of Hall brought up the matter of the bill to raise the general tax levy from 5 to 7 mills for the current year. The bill was lost in the "shuffle" and as it had to be read a third time it was necessary to extend the time of final adjournment, formerly set for tomorrow. Thompson, Stetson and Rouse were named to confer with a like senate committee on this question. The joint committee recommended Wednesday, April 8, at 1 o'clock a. m., as the time, and the house and senate adopted the report. H. R. 437, raising the tax levy, then was passed.

SENATE.

The appropriation bills were read in the senate on the 1st for the second time and referred to committee. H. R. 102, appropriating $10,000 for buildings and equipment at the state school of agriculture; H. R. No. 70, the Ramsey elevator bill, and S. F. No. 245, providing for the disposition of money paid under protest to the treasurer of irrigation districts, were read the third time and passed. The following bills were placed on the final reading and passed: S. F. No. 207, relating to the assignment of real estate mortgages; S. F. No. 297, providing for the construction of pipe lines and the appropriation of land therefor; S. F. No 282, requiring the state librarian to send a copy of the compiled statutes and all state reports to all public libraries in the state and all states in the union; S. F. No. 280, providing the court may force a debtor, to extend corporate limits of cities and villages, was resumed. Recommended for passage. S. F. 25, providing for voting machines. Indefinitely postponed. Wall of Sherman moved that all employes be paid from the first day of the session, to appear and answer to a charge that he has property which has not been applied to the satisfaction of the judgment; S. F. No. 273, repealing the law fixing the salary of the deputy to the state superintendent; S. F. No. 174, providing for the sale, by railroad companies, of unclaimed goods; S. F. No. 63, granting additional power to fraternal beneficiary societies; S. F. No. 178, relating to desertion of family and fixing a penalty; S. F. No. 227, regulating the purchase of supplies and the hiring of employes by school boards; S. F. No. 229, to appoint an officer to co-operate with the bureau of public roads when appointed by the national government; H. R. No. 187, providing for the appointment and fixing of the salaries of the officers of the penitentiary. House roll No. 351, providing a majority of property owners interested must petition the council before public improvements may be made, unless three-fourths of the council vote for such improvements, applying only to cities of the second-class and villages, was substituted for S. F. No. 156, which contains the same provisions, and the bill was recommended for passage. In committee of the whole the following bills were recommended for passage: H. R. No. 51, providing for the opening of drains and ditches along public highways by county boards; H. R. No. 146, providing for an annual meeting of the state horticultural society for the purpose of deliberating as to the wants and conditions of the horticultural interests of the state; S. F. No. 178, defining the crime of desertion of minor child, wife, husband and home by wife, husband, father, mother, husband or wife and providing punishment therefor; S. F. No. 282, requiring the state librarian to send a copy of the compiled statutes and other publications of the state to each of the public libraries in the state and to each of the states in the union.

In the senate on the 2d the secretary of the governor reported that the governor had signed these bills: H. R. 134, regulating salary of county superintendents. H. R. 305, providing for the annexation of territory by cities and villages. H. R. 329, Omaha charter bill. These bills were passed: H. R. 286, providing for the organization of corporations and sureties to transact business on an assessment plan. H. R. 231, providing for the grading and repair of streets and alleys. H. R. 186, creating a board for the examination of plumbers (passed without emergency clause). H. R. 24, providing that town treasurer, town clerk and justice of the peace shall constitute the town board. H. R. 292, authorizing towns, villages, etc., to compromise indebtedness and issue bonds for payment. The senate went into committee of the whole to consider bills on general file. The committee made the following report: S. F. 294, authorizing corporations to act as receiver, assignee, curator, executor, administrator, trustee, agent and attorney in fact, and defining their duties and powers (by Saunders of Douglas). Indefinitely postponed. S. F. 159, to establish a state parental school at Lincoln. Recommended for engrossment. H. R. 287, South Omaha charter. Recommended for third reading. H. R. 299, allowing county boards to appropriate money to the county general fund from the sinking fund. Ordered for a third reading. H. R. 93, creating city road districts for the improvement of roads leading into cities of more than 5,000 and less than 25,000 inhabitants. Ordered for third reading. H. R. 274, the Nebraska state library shall be exclusively a library for law books and public documents, and providing how the University of Nebraska library and Nebraska Historical society shall purchase books. Indefinitely postponed. H. R. 33, money shall not be appropriated beyond $2,000 by school boards of metropolitan cities except upon a recorded majority vote of the board. Amended to read $1,000, and recommended for third reading.

The senate passed the following bills on the 4th: H. R. 417, appropriating $2,000 for the relief of the famine stricken people of Sweden and Norway. H. R. 252, providing for the disposition of fees received by county officers. H. R. 23, providing that no expenditure shall be made by the school board of Omaha in excess of $2,000 without a recorded affirmative vote of a majority of the board members. H. R. 96, providing that county surveyor shall be ex-officio county engineer and shall examine all work and prepare plans and specifications for county work. The bill applies to Douglas county only. Passed without the emergency clause. H. R. 2, appropriating $13,000 for a chapel for the normal school at Peru. A resolution was adopted to allow the county of Lancaster to sue the state for $5,000. The money was on deposit by the county in the Capital National bank, a state depository, which failed. The senate passed five constitutional amendments. These were: Salary of state officers, four-year terms for legislators, compensation of supreme judges, investment of educational funds, seven supreme court judges.

The senate spent the morning on the deficiency claims bills and recommended it for passage. In one instance a duplicate claim was cut out. The senate committee added $867.60 for bills that came in after the house had acted on the claims and reduced the deficiency appropriation for the Boy's Industrial school at Kearney from $4,500 to $2,500. Otherwise the bill was not changed.

The committee on finances, ways and means reported the general appropriation bill. The senate committee made a net reduction in appropriations of $107,063.05 from the bill as it passed the house. The total increase was $18,899.15 of general fund; university fund increase, $125,962.80 general fund. The appropriation for connecting the deaf and dumb institute at Omaha with the city water main was not allowed. The condition under which the university fund is increased $35,000 is that if the 1 mill levy for the university fund should amount to $350,000, then the $35,000 may be taken from the fund and used for the purchase of real estate near the university; $8,000 is given for a farmers' institute. Among changes are the following:

Board of Public Lands and Buildings—Superintendent, care of capitol building and grounds, from $7,000 to $5,000; employes' wages, $15,940 to $13,040; incidentals, $2,000 to $1,500.

Board of Education Lands and Funds—Amount appropriated for biennium, from $5,000 to $4,000.

State Library Commission— Appropriation for biennium, from $4,000 to $8,000.

Lincoln Hospital—Board, clothing, etc., from $75,000 to $70,000.

Hastings Asylum—Board, clothing, etc., from $268,275 to $259,775; bedding, farm, etc., increased $3,500.

Girls' Industrial Home, Geneva—Employes' wages, from $6,240 to $5,640; water supply, from $1,200 to $1,000; repairs, improvements, from $1,500 to $2,000; for furniture, etc., from $750 to $1,000.

Institute for the Blind, Nebraska City—Musical instruments, from $500 to $2,500.

Institute at Beatrice—Cold storage, $2,500, struck out.

Deaf and Dumb Institute, Omaha—Water supply, from $6,500 to $800.

State Penitentiary—Two hundred and forty steel cells, reduced to 160, at $67,200 from $80,000; repairing west wing, from $12,000 to $6,000; painting walls, from $2,000 to $1,000. An amendment was recommended that a special labor fund be created out of money made by convicts for maintenance.

State Board of Charities and Corrections—increased from $4,000 to $5,000.

State Fish Commission—Painting and repairing cars and buildings, from $1,500 to $750; necessary labor, from $2,000 to $1,500.

Food Commission—Expenses, from $2,000 to $1,500.

Norfolk Hospital—Wages for employes, from $20,000 to $10,000; board, clothing, fuel etc., from $26,000 to $15,000.

The printing of revenue books, blank books and abstracts was reduced from $4,000 to $2,500.

The Soilders' and Sailors' home at Grand Island appropriation for a hospital building was reduced from $30,000 to $2,000. The committee amended this by adding a sufficient amount to reduce the reduction to about $4,000.

Publishing reports of geological survey of Nebraska, from $1,200 to $2,000.

Plans are almost complete in Chicago for the launching of a daily newspaper to be owned and operated exclusively by women, and which shall "dare to print everything, and anything exactly as it really is." A company has been formed with Miss Alice Blount at its head.

The secretary of the treasury has signed a warrant for $3,000,000 in favor of the United States Guaranty company of New York, for account of of the treasurer of the Philippine islands, to cover the appropriation for that amount made at the last session of congress for the relief of distress in the islands.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

Salaries of the teachers at Fremont have been raised.

The coroner stone of the new library building at Beatrice has been laid.

Dr. M. M. Newbecker has been appointed pension examiner at Ord, Neb.

Charles Sperry will serve twenty days in the Gage county jail for hog stealing.

Wm. Gebers is suing Nemaha county for $500 damages. He drove off a county bridge that was not provided with a railing.

The remains of Wm. McClellan, who fell into the river from the Plattsmouth bridge and was drowned, has not been recovered at this writing.

B. M. Conlee, a Burlington brakeman, was severly injured while coupling cars at Tecumseh. His left arm was so badly mashed that amputation became necessary.

Prof. J. J. King has been re-elected superintendent of the Albion schools, at a salary of $1,200 a year. This is the fourth successive election of Mr King to this position.

The B. & M. corps of surveyors have completed a second survey from Homer to a conjunction of the Great Northern railway. The last survey goes west of Dakota City about a mile and a half, while the first survey was only about three-fourths of a mile.

The authorities of Wahoo are wondering what to do with the hoboes, tramps and sneak thieves that are now lying in the county jail. One was led to the city limits and requested to skip. He immediately turned back and was re-arrested, and is charged with resisting officers.

At a recent spelling contest in the grammar grades at Stella to determine who should represent the school in a township contest, Hazel Hogrefe, of the sixth grade spelled every word correctly in a list of over 100 difficult words selected from the role of honor word book, and was given first prize.

A message has just reached Lawrence informing Michael Keller that his son Albert was instantly killed at Albion by coming in contact with a live wire while in the discharge of his duty as assistant electrician. Deceased was about twenty-one years of age, single, was born and raised on a farm adjoining Lawrence.

Following is the mortgage record for Gage county for the month of March, 1903: Number of farm mortgages filed, 79; amount, $183,237. Number of farm mortgages released, 82; amount, $102,768. Number of city and town mortgages filed, 27; amount, $13,985. Number of city and town mortgages released, 35; amount, $13,162.

At York, Young Frank Hart was set to work in the garden, and, becoming enraged when his mother attempted to instruct him in preparing the ground, threw the pitchfork which struck her on the head and face, and passing downward and outward lacerated her face quite badly, passed through the ear and barely missed putting out one eye.

While passing a team on the bridge over the Republican river south of Red Cloud the team of mules belonging to George Clauson backed the wagon against the side of the bridge breaking the framework and caused the wagon to fall over the edge taking the team with it. Both mules were killed. The driver saved his life by jumping.

News of a horrible death was reported at Randolph from McLean, six miles west. Abram Sinclair, aged 60, droped dead in a hog lot while attending to the morning chores on the farm of his son. Although it was only about thirty-five minutes until his body was found, yet the ravenous swine had time to mutilate the face of the dead man beyond recognition.

The Woman's Home Missionary society in session at Hastings elected officers as follows: President, Mrs. B. D. French of Hastings; vice president, Mrs. Etta Atwell, Fairfield; recording secretary, Mrs. Belle Goodrich, Geneva; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. F. Heler, Hastings; treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Perry, Clay Center; literary and mite box committee, Mrs. L. L. Byrkit, Fairfield.

An unknown man was killed on the Omaha road three miles east of Emerson. Passenger train No. 5 as coming in from Siox City and when three miles from Emerson a man was seen walking on the track. The engineer rang his bell and blew the whistel, but the man paid no attention to the warning. He was struck and almost instantly killed. The man is supposed to have been deaf.

The principals of the various schools in Richardson county met in the county superintendent's office at Falls City and organized the Richardson county athletic association. Principal George E. Martin of Dawson was made president.

Art Richardson, a merchant of Hastings, was fined $5.70 and $14.70 by Judge Reynolds upon charges brought forward by Mr. Butzirus and Mrs. Kennedy. The charges were that Richardson had encouraged their sons to gamble.

Rufus McMartin, a young man 22 years of age, who has been employed for some time at the Northwestern roundhouse in Fremont, was adjudged insane. About two years ago another employe at the roundhouse threw a shovel, which struck McMartin in the head, and the blow affected his brain.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thorpe of Geneva have started for Paris, where Mr. Thorpe is engaged to ride the coming season. They have all expenses paid and he receives $10,000 for the time of the races.

He is arisen, the God in Man, who strove
Through the long ages with his bestial past.
He is arisen, and through the gates of love,
Hath entered to his heritage at last.

And Death, the shadow that his footsteps fled,
In terror of the asphodel and tomb,
Is robbed of all his panoply of dread,
And garbed in glory of the lily's bloom.

Oh long had earth been a Gethsemane,
Oh, long had man worn red crown of pain,
And many a soul had fared to Calvary
Bearing its cross of wretchedness and shame.

No more, no more, into the voiceless dark
Sinks he to rest, fearing the dreamless night
For Christ is risen, and the immortal spark
Of God in him hath kindled heavenly light.

The Origin of the Cross

The origin of the cross as a symbol is shrouded in the dim mists of almost prehistoric antiquity. Centuries before the Gallic and Cymric Celts swarmed over England, centuries before the lowly Nazarene began promulgating his doctrines, centuries before the beginning of the Old Testament history, the cross was an important factor in the lives of men.

What became of the true cross is one of the greatest miracles of all time. It is true that there are in many Old and New World cathedrals bits of wood purporting to be part of the true cross. In some cases, notably that which concerns the fragment of the tablet placed over the cross by Pilate's order, and which is now in the ancient church of Santa Croce at Rome, their authenticity seems fairly well established; but so minute are the fragments that, according to one ancient writer, if all were collected and put together they would only make a block of wood about twenty inches long, eight inches wide and three inches thick.

It was three centuries after the crucifixion of Christ before the cross was found. Its discovery was due to the devout Helena, wife of the Emperor Constantine, who abolished crucifixion and to whom the Christian religion owes the original adoption of the cross as a symbol. Over the spot where the cross was discovered a chapel was erected and the sacred wood was retained by Helena in Jerusalem and deposited under the great church or basilica erected by Constantine over the place of crucifixion and burial. For three hundred peaceful years the cross remained in the custody of the Bishop of Jerusalem. Every Easter it was exhibited to the pilgrims who thronged the Holy City. Then came three hundred years of comparative obscurity, from which the cross emerged to become the center of upheavals that convulsed the entire civilized world, arrayed the West against the East, and caused the spilling of oceans of blood—the wars of the Crusades.

The story of the valiant crusaders and their series of attempts to rescue the holy wood from Moslem hands is well known. After a series of vicissitudes, victory finally perched on the banners of the Saracens.

Prior to the fourth century the holiest of Christian symbols was the monogram of Christ. It was woven into all ecclesiastical vestments and formed a prominent feature of other decorations. About the year 393 the first crucifix was introduced into the church. It was made of dark red wood and at the intersection of the two parts bore the figure of the lamb, the objection to the using of the actual figure of Christ being still strong.

Somewhat later came the Greek crucifix, one of the most beautiful of all the forms, and which many contemporary divines contend would form a more fitting part of church ceremonials than the one in common use. This Greek cross was meant to typify the triumph over death, but in such a manner as to divest as far as possible the entire subject of its gruesome and morbid aspect. It blossomed with flowers of gold and silver and was richly studded with gems. In 692, during the reign of Justinian, the Council of Trullo was held. The object of the famous conference was to devise a means by which to circumvent the mysticism and symbolism that were threatening to undermine the Christian religion and deprive it of its true meaning. It was pointed out that the signs and symbols used in the service were becoming more and more important than the things they stood for, and that to the ignorant mind the story of the life and sufferings of Christ began to be only a sort of myth, an allegory. It was resolved to substitute the actual human figure of the crucified Christ for that of the symbolic lamb. This act resulted in the creation of the orthodox crucifix of to-day.

Behavior is a mirror in which every one displays his image.—Goethe.

Why We Rejoice.

We rejoice at the practically universal observance of Easter day amongst Christians of every name. For why? Easter day commemorates a fact that unites earth and heaven. It speaks to men from the other side of the grave. It calls upon men to take a firm hold on life and the meaning of life. It asserts the splendid dignity and destiny of man and makes all our sacrifices for righteousness and human betterment worth while. It teaches us to think sweetly and brightly of those faithful ones that have gone before. It binds the living and the dead together into the one living family of our Heavenly Father and gives to man such mighty living thoughts that he can die with mighty living hopes.

The Spirit of the Season.

The air is full of Easter. The streets and shops announce it. The press of the country, both religious and secular, issue their beautiful Easter editions, the churches unite in singing the same glorious hymn of praise. We know no prominent religious body that does not mark the day with some special commemoration. The altars of Christendom are decked with flowers and throngs of people kneel before them to worship the triumphant King and to pour out their thankfulness that death has been conquered and man's destiny revealed. Even those men "whose whole habit of thought is material, bound up with the forces that the eye and hand can measure, still feel a certain sense of exaltation, the leaping of some unknown spiritual possibility when Easter morning opens on the earth."

An Old German Custom.

In Germany the rabbit and not the hen is responsible for the Easter eggs. Good children are visited in the night by a white rabbit that hides gayly-colored eggs in the nooks and corners of the house and garden. In many parts of America this legend is also known and used.

The most beautiful Easter legend of all is of Roman Catholic origin. It is to the effect that the church bells, which are silent during Passion week, have gone to Rome to receive the pope's blessing. They return on Easter Sunday to tell of the resurrection and to bring gayly-hued eggs for good children.

Odd European Customs.

In some parts of France the priests visit the homes of their flocks and bless the houses and families, receiving in return bright-colored eggs. In remote parts of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales a peculiar begging custom prevails among the poor children. On Easter morning they go to beg eggs in the following manner: "Please give us an Easter egg. If you do not give us one, your hen shall lay a stone."

An Egg-Smashing Custom.

In Switzerland and the rural parts of England there is a popular Easter game called egg-smashing. Eggs are held in the right hands of the contestants and smashed much in the same manner employed by small American boys, except that the foreigner's eggs are raw, and if he wins he takes home the spoils in a bucket.