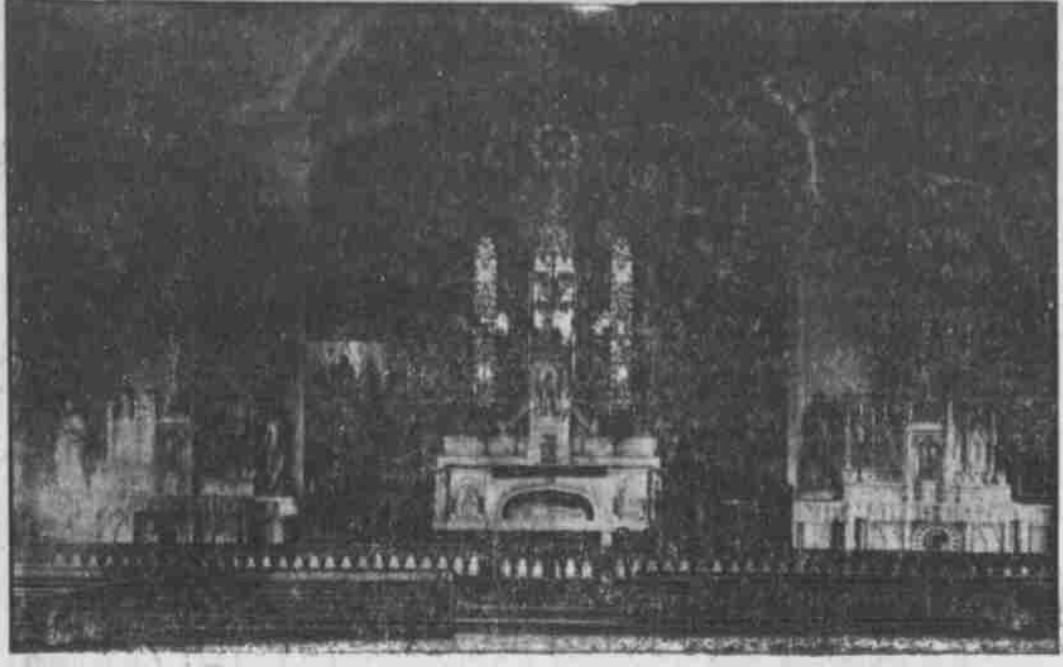
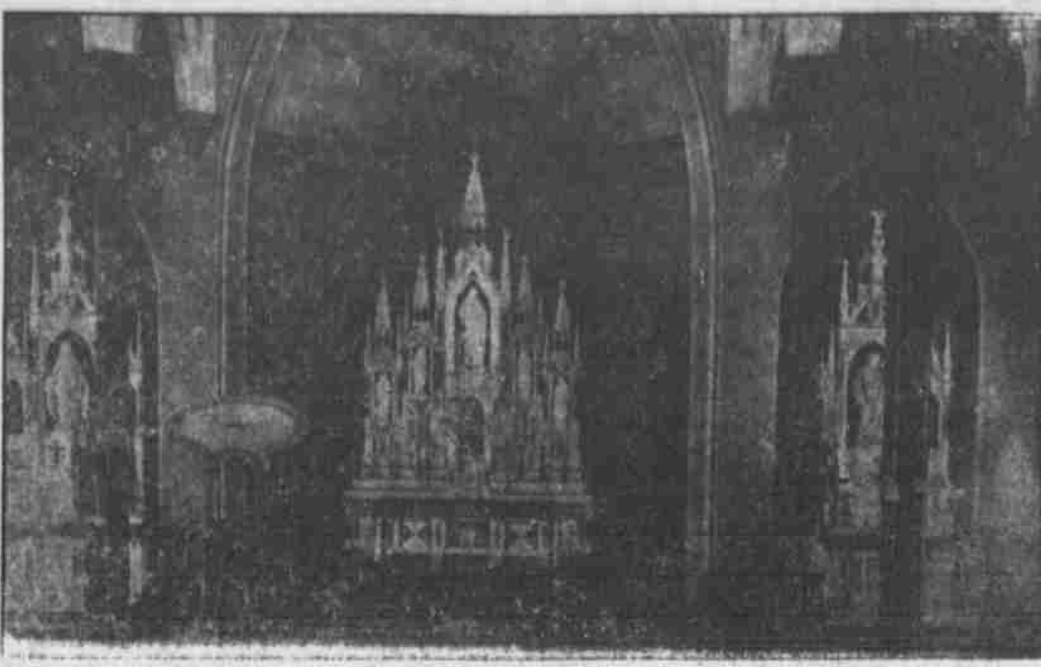


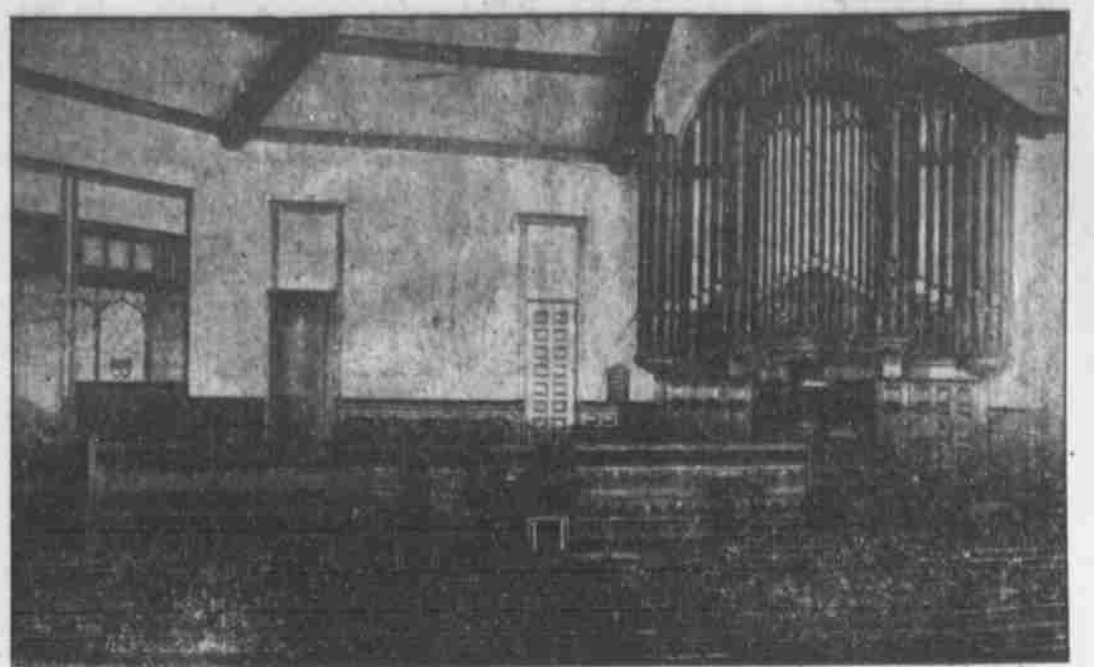
Omaha Pulpits and Some Noted Men Who Have Filled Them



ST. PHILOMENA'S PULPIT—CANOPY OF PULPIT SEEN AT LEFT, IN ALTAR RECESS.



PULPIT AT ST. JOHN'S STANDS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR RECESS.

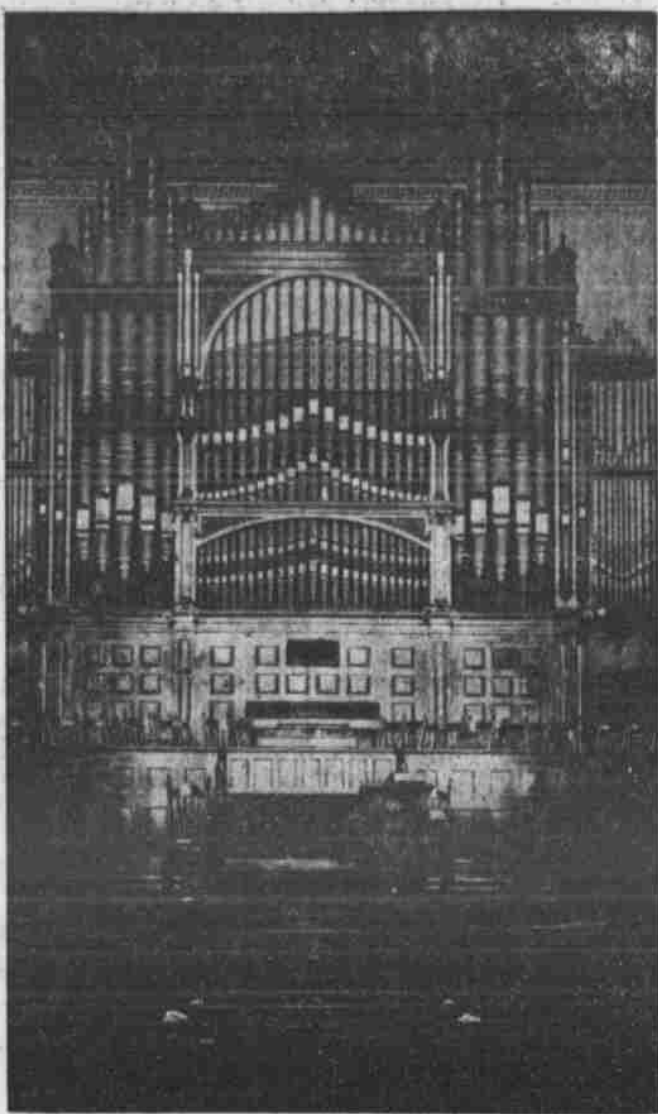


PULPIT AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, A READING STAND IN FRONT OF CHOR.

AMONG Protestant churches nowadays the word "pulpit" has about as much literal truth applied to ecclesiastical architecture as the word "quill" has to the equipment of the writer in these piping times of typewriting machines and fountain pens. Webster's requirement that it be "an elevated place" is met, but the picture accompanying the definition is not. About the only edifices where the pulpit resembling the pictorial lines can be found are the Catholic and Episcopal churches. These show, also, why a certain wild-flower was dubbed "Jack-in-the-Pulpit." There is a little elevated round or many sided box near the center or to the side of the altar, and approached by a flight of steps, sometimes straight and sometimes winding. One thinks of Savonarola preaching from this kind of pulpit, and as a matter of fact it is probable that he did and it could be proven. But in the modern Protestant church no provision is made for the reality of this striking symbol. Behind the chancel rail is an "elevated place," upon which is a bible stand, backed by one or more chairs of the conventional form and unpleasant type. The preacher stands to the side or behind his bible stand. The sense of isolation and remoteness that comes from a position in the sky or above the multitude and standing out clear-headed amid the stained glass and the arches and piers, is lost. The new way is more matter of fact; more safe and convenient for the preacher perhaps, but it does not harmonize with the artistic and imaginative spirit.

Two Real Pulpits in Omaha.

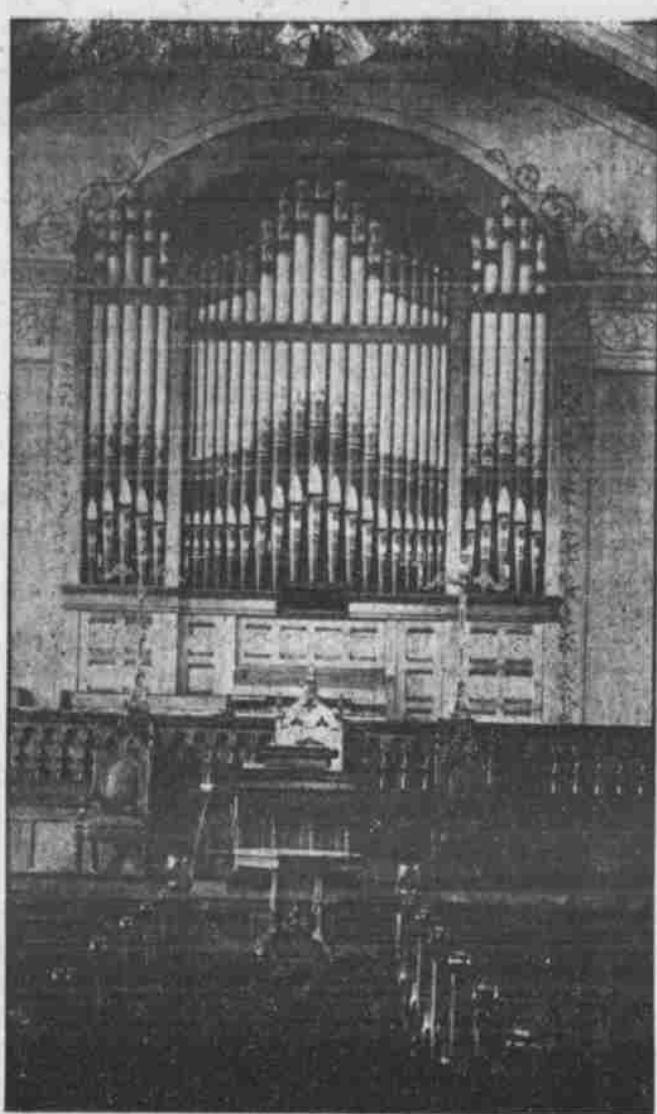
The two pulpits that look like pulpits in Omaha that have probably held more eminent divines than any other are those in St. Philomena's cathedral and at Trinity cathedral. In the last decade the old Catholic cathedral on Ninth street has lost the eclat that once surrounded it when the town was not so big and the building not so old. That was before the lofty spire got wobbly and had to be pulled down. But St. Philomena's is still the cathedral and when Bishop Scannell preaches it is there he speaks. Meanwhile the new and much more magnificent cathedral is being built, far removed geographically from the old one and the latter languishes more and more from its pristine glory as the days go by. It was in St. Philomena's pulpit that



PULPIT OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN FRONT OF THE GREAT ORGAN.

Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia preached the funeral sermon of Bishop O'Connor, the first prelate of the Nebraska diocese, one day in early June, 1890. The archbishop, who had been a great friend of the deceased, came all the way from Philadelphia to officiate. Some time before he had been in Omaha and delivered several lectures

from the same pulpit, one of them being on "The Philosophy of Religion." Along about 1877 Rev. George Conroy, ablegate to Canada, preached several times in the cathedral. Archbishop Glennon of St. Louis, whose recent criticism of indiscriminate theater going caused much discussion, and other well known prelates



PULPIT OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WITH ITS BACKGROUND OF PIPE ORGAN.

have graced this preaching box with their presence and eloquence. The old-timers remember well the eloquence of Father D. I. McDermott, then the pastor and now of Philadelphia, who along about 1873 preached a series of sensational sermons levelled at the "Molly Maguires" and secret societies. The church was packed to hear

each one. Then there were the many missionary fathers—they who grow magnificent in the touching sincerity of their argument, who have talked from the pulpit year in and out.

Trinity's Honored Host.
The pulpit of Trinity cathedral has held



PULPIT AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL IS LOCATED AT THE LEFT AND IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR.

many clergymen out of the ordinary because of various characteristics. The pulpit stands to the left of the altar and is plain and unpretentious. Rev. Bishop Clarkson, first ruler of the diocese, who is never mentioned by those who knew him except in words of admiration, did not live long to preach in the cathedral he had built.

Bishop Worthington was consecrated in 1888. One of the early deans was Dean Garrett, considered one of the greatest pulpit orators in the church, who became bishop of Texas. Dean Millspaugh, who succeeded him, is now bishop of northern Kansas, his talents laying more in organization than in eloquence, however. Dean Gardner, who served as such from 1886 to 1894, preached many times from the Trinity pulpit. It is said of him that he was one of the most universally loved men that ever lived in Omaha. From time to time the most famous dignitaries of the American church have pleaded with congregations in the name of Christ from the Trinity pulpit. It is rich in associations and memories. Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady, now famous as a writer of fiction and semi-historical tales, was curate at Trinity nearly twenty years ago.

First Methodist's Pulpit.

Pulpit eloquence has been an accepted thing at the First Methodist church for years back down to the present day. From 1852 to 1858 the pulpit there was filled by Rev. Frank Crane, brilliant, original and invariably securing large audiences by what he had to say and the way he said it. From 1866 to 1890 was Rev. John McQuoid, the only pastor of the church who has been honored by a memorial tablet there-in. Later came the scholar and pulpit orator, Rev. A. C. Hirst, who left Omaha to take charge of the old historic Centenary church of Chicago.

Congregational Preachers of Note.

Twenty years ago the fame and eloquence of the Rev. Willard Scott drew large crowds to St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church and the pulpit there has known many gifted tongues besides him. At the First Presbyterian church Rev. W. J. Harshbarger, esteemed one of the finest preachers of the sect, occupied the pulpit for some time. Recollections of the remarkable power of speech possessed by Dr. Joseph T. Duryea, who came from Boston to the First Congregational church in 1889 and remained about four years, are still lively.

Omaha pulpits have had their share of the more marked genius and talent in expounding the word of God. To try to catalogue the great evangelists who have filled local pulpits would entail an immense amount of labor.

Lilies for Eastertide--Whence They Come and How They Are Grown

CONSIDER the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

These words of Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount would not be needed to call the attention of people to the lily at this age and at this season of the year. Perhaps the ethical point Jesus wished to make when He talked of the lily is not recalled to the minds of all when they see the flower, unless the preacher mentions it in His Easter sermon, but the aesthetic sense is aroused always, and the beautiful and the good are very kindred. But chiefest thing of all, the lily, which has been taken as an emblem of the day on which Christ arose from the dead, brings thoughts of Him who preached the Sermon on the Mount.

The florist considers the lily, you may be sure, and considers it well, but from a standpoint of finance more than any other. He considers just as astoundingly the violet, the tulip, the hyacinth, the daffodil and a dozen other beautiful blossoms. During the last two days of this week, he will require in his shop several times the usual force, from seven to ten extra clerks being needed, and delivery boys galore. The florist will be just about as busy as it is possible for any man to be. Thousands upon thousands of potted plants and bunches of cut flowers will be sold from

his shops, and in addition he is the one who will be called upon to make arrangements for the elaborate church decorations Sunday.

Easter Lilies in Great Demand.

This season, just as they were last year, Easter lilies will be in greatest demand and the year before an ten years ago. No flower is so popular as an emblem of purity, nor so in keeping with the sentiment of the season. Though it is hoped that no family will have to get along without its lilies this year, the flowers, at least those of the finest quality, are not quite so plentiful as last spring. A year ago Easter was a week later and the lilies were fresh, healthy and at the height of their splendor, having been allowed their own time for perfect development. This year the flowers will be of the very best, in cases where the florist allowed Nature to take its course, for the warm weather of the last few days has brought the plants out wonderfully. If the last week had been continually cold and cloudy the prospects would be poor for any large amount of fine lilies. The reason that lilies will be fewer than a year ago is that some of the florists put their plants in cold places during the warm periods of January and February, fearing the high temperature would cause them to blossom before spring, and the lilies received such a setback that they are now behind the season, being not so easy to force as tulips.

Of course, forcing will bring them out, but such a quick growth as will be necessary will leave the blooms soft and lacking in vigor and freshness.

But here is the best thing of this season, especially for the girl who "just loves" violets. There will be a fair supply of violets this year, where last season only a few bunches were to be had at fancy prices, the flowers having bloomed and faded before the advent of Easter. The new Easter gown may surely have its proper complement this season. Violets will not be cheap, however many of them there are, because there is such a large demand for them in all parts of the country. Even if Omaha has a surplus of violets, which she has not, a ready market could be found for them elsewhere. Much to the regret of my lady beautiful there are few double violets any more—disease has done away with them.

Song of the Violet Heard.

Other so-called spring flowers are here in abundance—daffodils, tulips, lilies of the valley, hyacinths, narcissus and marguerites. All are fresh and healthy and can be had at the same figures as in former years. Tulips and hyacinths are popular. Murillo tulips, white, and delicately tinted with pink, have made their appearance and the beautiful Dutch and Roman hyacinths will be shown. Hydrangeas will be fairly plentiful.

One of the most exquisite things on the

floral market is the white lily, and it is extremely scarce. The price can only be mentioned under the breath.

Genista in Favor Again.

The beautiful, golden, feathery genista, a flower of the sweet pea family, has come into favor again from the days of twenty or thirty years ago, when it rivalled the lily in popularity. Two years ago a few were offered by Omaha florists, and they met with such demand that last year several times as many were grown. This year the shops were well provided. The plants are more expensive than the Easter lily, ranging from \$1 to \$5, while the lily may be bought from 50 cents to \$1.50.

Probably the most expensive flowers that can be obtained are the American beauty roses. Easter prices have not been named yet, but the flowers usually sell at \$5 to \$15 a dozen at Easter time. Carnations are the cheapest flowers, as well as very popular ones, selling at 50 cents to \$1 a dozen.

Potted Plants Plentiful.

Potted plants are sought very much for Easter gifts, many preferring to give these as more lasting remembrances than cut flowers, which are pretty for a day and then wither. The lilies, hydrangeas, cinerarias, hyacinths, daisies and azaleas are sold in pots. The florists are making little baskets of the blooming plants, often several varieties in one basket, and selling them in place of cut flowers. The baskets are very simple—little wooden or paper things—and not very handsome in themselves, but when properly trimmed with grasses or tissue paper and filled with the growing plants they become things of beauty.

Land of the Easter Lily.

The sunshine seems brighter, the breezes balmy, the sea tamer in the land of the Easter lily than in any other land. Perhaps this is because the beauty of Bermuda dawns upon one soon after leaving the cheerless north, makes by contrast an unusually vivid impression.

To have left city streets, swept by cold and desolating winds, or country homes surrounded by bleak, brown fields, and then suddenly, after a short two days' trip by water, to arrive at a fairy island, where all is warmth and brightness, where dazzling effects of light and shade, of green meadows and gay flowers entrance the eye and charm the senses, is to feel one's self indeed transported to another realm. It is like living a chapter of the Arabian Nights. After one has experienced the sensuous delight of life on this semi-tropical island one never sees an Easter lily without an inner vision arising of white roads flecked with the sunlight which falls through high, arching trees, of long orchards of bananas, of quaint little snowy houses dotting the green sloping hillsides, and, most beautiful of all, the wide gardens of glorious Easter lilies, their white blooms making one mass of loveliness and fragrance.

These gardens vary in size, some comprising several acres, while others are but small patches of ground close by the little home of some native black, who helps out his modest income by raising and selling a few Easter lilies. And here in the small patch, as in the large garden, the dark faces help unconsciously

to form a color scheme of contrast, as they bend low over the spotless white of the lilies.

The plants are set out, all nicely arranged in rows, and carefully tended until the time for shipment, or for their sale to Bermudian residents who have not gardens of their own, or to the large hotels, to be used for the tables, and to decorate the private rooms of visitors to Bermuda.

Fields of Blossoms.

The lilies commence to blossom some weeks before Easter, and white patches begin to appear scattered here and there over the green lily field, but it is not until April that the beds appear one unbroken stretch of gorgeous bloom. Shipment to the north starts before this period sets in and as early as the third week in March the lilies begin their journey to less sunny climes. Each bud is jealously guarded and wrapped tenderly in the softest cotton wool; for these delicate harbingers of Easter joy, of spring's promises, of sweetness and beauty, must not be chilled to freezing on the way nor bruised by awkward handling. The majority of the plants are sent to northern florists, but many boxes of buds are sent to private individuals, friends of those who reside or are visiting in Bermuda.

For one who merely sees an Easter lily for its brief season of life in the north no conception can be formed of the picture

presented by this flower in the Bermuda islands, where vast fields of white blossoms appear to reach out unendingly. This brilliant effect is heightened by the dazzling light of a southern sun against a bright blue sky.

Many Bermudians make the raising of Easter lilies their chief source of income. It should be a profitable business, considering the large demand from the north. Other natives incline toward the cultivation of the more humble onion or potato.

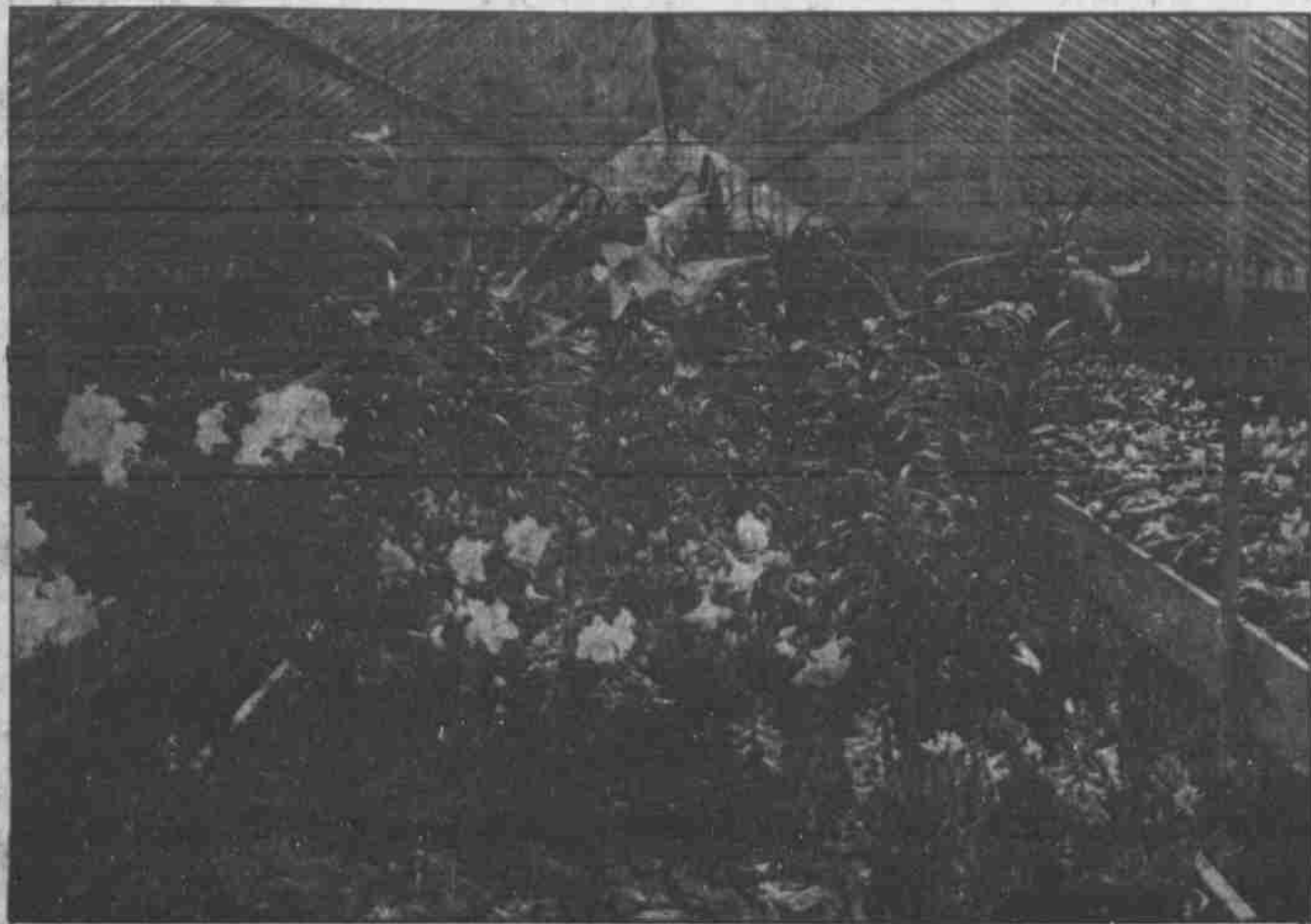
Self-Supporting People.

The population of Bermuda is over 60 per cent negroes. These people, on the whole, appear to be better educated and to have more refinement of manner than those of the United States. All of them seem to be engaged in some kind of work. No beggars exist on the islands. This fact is remarkable, in view of a climate which easily might foster laziness. No tramps wander along the highways, nor are alms ever asked, even in the towns. Sometimes it happens that as your carriage drives past a little black boy or girl will run out from a native house by the roadside and throw into your lap a bunch of narcissus or roses, for which he or she expects you to throw them a penny or sixpence, but this is not beggary. The Bermudians are justly proud of the fact that none of them need or do ask for help. They are all self-supporting. Each native

has his little or big banana orchard, onion, potato or lily field.

And the olanders! Whole hedges of them, here and there, a mile or so in length, bordering either side of the road and adding their brilliant quota to the already magnificent coloring of Bermuda. Rivaling the olanders in brightness, one soon comes to a huge bush of hibiscus, or, in native dialect, "match-me-if-you-can," the unadorned crimson flowers standing out in proud beauty against their background of shiny green leaves. Among these bright-hued flowers, fitting from tree to tree and bush to bush, there come frequent glimpses of the exquisitely tinted red and blue birds, peculiar to these islands. It is all too ideal to seem real. It is as a dream come true.

There are two marked impressions which every stranger in Bermuda receives. These are the unaccountable blueness of the surrounding water and the serene quiet of the islands. For the water no adjectives are strong enough or intense enough to tell how wonderful it is—how blue, how green, how opalescent. No paints are vivid enough to portray its colors on canvas. It is hopeless to expect anyone ever to guess at its beauty. It must be seen and then seen again and again, and always with new wonder that anything could be so alluring, so intoxicating, so perfect in its loveliness, before one can begin to appreciate this most marvellous water.



EASTER LILIES ALL READY FOR MARKET.



COAXING THE FLOWERS FOR EASTER BLOOMS.