

Crowding the Horse Off the Farm

By H. W. Perry.



URIUSLY, England appears to have made more progress in the development of the small internal-combustion engine farm tractor than America, although thousands of small stationary and portable gas engines are used for feed cutting, grinding, churning, pumping and sawing wood on farms throughout the United States and steam traction engines are common. The first of the successful light gas engine tractors was the Ivel, brought out in England in 1902. This can be operated on gasoline, kerosene or alcohol, and has won twenty-six gold and silver medals in plowing matches and other competitions before agricultural and other societies in different countries. Complete, the machine weighs thirty-two hundred weight (3584 pounds). Motive power is supplied by an 18-20 horse-power double-cylinder opposed engine disposed longitudinally in the frame and protected by a metal cover. A pulley is fitted for stationary work, such as threshing, grinding and driving a dynamo. Hauling a three-furrow plow, the tractor has plowed six acres in nine hours to a depth of seven inches on a consumption of twenty gallons of gasoline or kerosene and one gallon of lubricating oil. One user, after two year's experience, claimed to have done with it daily on an average as much plowing as he could do in the same time with three teams of three horses, three men and three boys—that is, $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres of heavy soil to a depth of six inches. With one six-foot reaper and binder attached, $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of grain could be cut in an hour on a consumption of $2\frac{1}{4}$ gallons of gasoline and one pint of oil. Two small binders can, however, be hauled on suitable ground. Another user found that it would easily drive a 60-inch double blast threshing machine, and at the same time a straw trusser. More powerful tractors are built for plowing and reaping on a more extensive scale, such as the 50-horse power Saunderson Universal motor, also built in England. Like the Ivel, it is a three wheeled machine, but it drives by a pair of front wheels and is totally different in construction and appearance, the engine standing vertically between the front wheels. The binders are now bringing out two small tractors of 20 and 30-35-horse power, which will have four wheels and drive by the rear pair.

Agents of the government are looking for new supplies of horses suitable for military use. Usually such purchases have been made by contract in the middle western States, but it is claimed that animals of equally good quality can be bought in the east. The difficulty is that such stock has usually been held at prices too high to compete with the western growers. It is a strange fact that horses raised in the eastern States on land valued at not more than a quarter part of the price of average land in the middle western States are held at higher prices than western horses. It looks as if there were a chance for a profit somewhere in the future for horse raising on low priced eastern farms.

The Possum Defended.

By One Who Knows.



As a native southerner who has been fortunate enough to have indulged in that delicacy on numerous occasions I would feel disloyal not to take up the gauntlet in Brother Possum's defence. My father was particularly fond of the meat and it was a regular dish on his table in season. He became quite well known in his locality as a ready purchaser of live possums and the negroes for miles around brought them to his door. He never refused to buy at the market price, and I have seen as many as eight at a time caged in a small house built for the purpose in our yard.

There is but one proper way to prepare a possum for food. That way is to capture him alive, which is customary, and then keep him for several weeks to fatten, feeding him on scraps from the table, such as you would feed to a cat or dog. In this way his meat becomes refined, he loses that extreme "gamy" flavor and gets very fat.

After killing by breaking his neck the skin should be cleaned of hair by scalding. After cleaning the carcass should soak over night in a fairly strong brine. When ready to cook he should be taken from the brine, rinsed off in cold water and boiled for about one hour or more, according to size, in water in which have been placed several pods of dried red peppers.

Serve on a large platter with the rice on the bottom forming a bed for the possum, which should be placed back up and be surrounded with the potatoes.

This dish is guaranteed to tickle the palate of the most fastidious, and it fairly makes my mouth water now to think about it.

Those who have eaten possum and have failed to like it are generally those who have not had an opportunity to taste it prepared "according to Hoyle."

Human Nature.

By George A. Thayer.



MAN has been to school from the morning of history, so, these thousands of years! He has been punished for his mistakes; he has been rewarded for his successful finds of what would work for him and for his fellow-men together. That has been the most important of acquirements of this our human nature, that it has been taught how to do the things which would join it to the greatest possible number of other minds; and so humanity, working in a bunch together, has achieved millions of fold more than a solitary man could have accomplished.

Republican government is superior to monarchies, if at all, in that it gets more people to co-laboring, each for the rest, than a government which serves chiefly and primarily a class, a few nobility aristocrats and princes. If the Christian religion is better than any previous religion, its superiority must lie in its teaching mankind how to be united for the main truths of morality, of righteousness, justice, freedom, which time has developed as the safest and best principles.

Christianity has not conquered even Christendom. Republican democracy has not yet taken command of American manners and morals, nor will these things come to pass until fraud, violence, trickery, intemperance, unchastity, and their kindred anti-social and destructive features of the primitive man have been subdued.

But let us believe that human nature is on the way to its Godlikeness. Now it has much that is beastlikeness, a varnish of spirit over a deep grain of the flesh. But many fair women and upright men have reached the high peaks of idealism of what man should be, and they, if you inquire what human nature is, may be selected as typical human nature. The finest grain of character and intellect is proper human nature. All else is human nature on the road, with a mixture of brute nature, which most of us must work to slough off by degrees.

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