

our papers, speeches in Parliament, etc., so that we may vote intelligently. If after careful study of various questions you finally come to an opposite opinion from that of your husband, I think he will still be proud of you for that opinion."

Before refreshments were announced the president very kindly called on the household editor of Farm and Dairy to make a few remarks. This gave me an opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the good work which is being done by the King branch and to extend the best wishes of Farm and Dairy to all present.

Let the Fireless Cooker Cook

WHILE, like every other invention, the fireless cooker has its limitations, it has been proven to be a great saver of hot kitchens when the mercury is soaring upward, also a saver of fuel and a saver of energy for the housewife. In summer, the dinner can be started on the range early in the morning, then placed in the fireless cooker and left until dinner time. As would be expected, the saving in fuel resulting from the use of a fireless cooker is greatest in the preparation of foods like stews which require long and slow cooking. The foods best adapted to the cooker are cereals, soups, meats, vegetables, dried fruits, steam breads



Homemade Fireless Cooker.

and puddings. A point which should not be overlooked is that we can utilize cheaper cuts of meat, as long cooking at a relatively low temperature, such as is given in the fireless cooker, improves the texture and flavor of these tougher cuts of meat. And in these days of high prices the meat bill in the majority of homes is quite a large item.

There are many styles of cookers on the market, but it is possible to construct a homemade cooker, which will give satisfactory results and is much cheaper. In a bulletin gotten out by the United States Department of Agriculture, a simply constructed cooker is described, a rough diagram of which appears herewith. For the outside container a light-built wooden box is probably the most satisfactory, although an old trunk, a small barrel or a large butter or lard firkin may be used. Whatever the container used, its size should be large enough to allow for at least four inches of packing material all around the nest in which the kettle is placed.

Fireless cookers are adapted to a much wider range of cooking if they are provided with an extra source of heat, since a higher cooking temperature may thus be obtained than if hot water is depended upon as the sole source of heat. Obviously this introduces a possible danger from fire in

case the hot stove or other substance should come into direct contact with inflammable packing material like excelsior or paper. To avoid this danger a metal lining should be provided for the nest in which the cooking vessel and stove are to be put. For this extra source of heat a piece of soapstone, brick or an iron plate such as a stove lid may be used, which is heated and placed in the nest under the cooking vessel.

Asbestos and mineral wool are undoubtedly the best substances to use for the packing and insulating material, but some use crumpled newspaper which is very satisfactory, since it is clean and odorless and if properly packed will hold the heat. The paper must be packed in very tightly in order to do good work. Whatever packing material is used, it should come to the top of the container, for the kettle and the box should lack about four inches of being full. Then a cushion or pad, as shown in the diagram, should be placed in the space between the top of the packing and the cover of the box after the hot kettle is put in place. Cotton, crumpled paper or excelsior will make good stuffing for the cushion. Enamel or aluminum kettles are most satisfactory, as they will not rust.

A precaution necessary in connection with the fireless cooker is to see that it is kept absolutely clean. It should remain open for several hours after use and should not be tightly closed when not in use.

Winning the Wilderness

(Continued from page 12.)

Aydelot. The Kansas boys had been on duty in the trench north of Calocan for forty days, living beside the breastworks under the rude shelter of bamboo poles, watching a sleepless enemy—a life as full of wearing monotony and hardship as it was full of constant peril.

"Well, Thaine, how goes the game?" Carey asked, as he sat beside the young soldier from the Grass River Valley. "I helped you into this world. I'm glad I haven't had to help you out yet."

Carey had never before seen any resemblance to Asher Aydelot in his son's face. It was purely a type of the old Thaine family of Virginia. But today, the pose of the head, the expression of the mouth, the far-seeing gaze of the dark eyes, bespoke the heritage of the house of Aydelot.

"I hope not to have any more help from you, either. You got me into the scrape; I'll see to the rest," Thaine replied. "Don't look all right? I haven't had a bath, except in a swamp mud, since the first of February. Today is the twenty-third of March. Neither have I seen a razor. Notice my silky beard. Nor a dress suit, nor anything else civilized. Six weeks in one hole, killing Filipinos for our amusement and dodging their old Remingtons for theirs, living on army rations and respect for the flag of my country, may not improve my appearance, but it hasn't started me to the sick-bed yet. Any news from home?" Thaine ended with the question put so carelessly, with a face so impervious that Doctor Carey took notice at once.

"Homesick?" was his mental diagnosis, but he answered with equal carelessness.

"Yes, I had a letter from Leigh Shirley."

Thaine's eyes were too full of unspoken things now for him to hold out.

"She says the alfalfa is doing well. She and Jim have kept up all the interest, and are beginning to reduce the principal. That's why she wrote."

"Brave little soldier," Thaine muttered.

"Yes, civil life has its heroes, too,"

the doctor responded. "She also says," he continued, "that John Jacobs has had Hans Wyker convicted of running a joint and Hans had to pay a fine and at the Careyville jail thirty days. Hans won't love John for that when he gets out."

"What a hater of whisky John Jacobs is. He's always on the firing line and never misses his aim, bless him!" Thaine declared.

"Yes, cocky battle is a steady one. He told me just before I left Kansas how his mother was killed on a saloon in Cincinnati when she was trying to get his father out of it. John wouldn't live in a state that had no prohibitory laws," the doctor commented.

"Did Leigh write anything else?" Thaine asked.

"Yes, Jo Bennington and Todd Stewart are married. Pryor Gaines is in Pekin, and he writes that there are rumblings of trouble over there. Shall we go over and settle it when we finish the Filipino fuss?"

"Might as well. I'd like to see old Pryor. I'm glad Todd and Jo had sense enough to take each other. I suppose Jo overcame her notions of living only in the city. What else?" Thaine replied.

"Nothing else. That's your message." Carey's black eyes held a shrewd twinkle.

"Why mine?" The impenetrable face was an Thaine again.

"See here, boy, don't think I haven't read her story, page by page. If Leigh had sent you a single line, I'd have begun to doubt."

Thaine threw one arm about the doctor's shoulder and said not a word. Then Carey read his story also.

"I nearly forgot to tell you that Leigh is doing well with her drawings. She sent me this, for which she had a good price paid her."

Doctor Carey unfolded the paper back of a magazine having a bit of prairie landscape for a cover design. In the distance, the horizon was in the golden haze of a Kansas October sunset, and their long purple shadows fell wide across the brown prairie and fields of garnered harvests.

Thaine studied it carefully, but offered no comment.

"Doctor Carey, what brought you to the Philippines?" he asked suddenly.

"To look after it," Carey replied frankly.

"Me! Do I need it?"

"You may. In that case I'll be first aid to the injured," Carey answered. "I'm to go with the 'Fighting Twentieth,' when it starts out of these hog wallows toward the insurgents' capital. I must get back to Manila and pack for it. I have my orders to be ready in twenty-four hours."

In twenty-four hours the "Fighting Twentieth" left its six weeks' habitation in the trenches and began its campaign northward, and the young-hearted, white-haired physician with a sunny smile and skillful judgment found a work in army service so broad and useful that he loved it for its opportunity.

Fortunately, Thaine had no need for "first aid" from Doctor Carey, and he saw the doctor only rarely in the sixty days that followed. Within the two had time for each other again, Colonel Fred Funston's name had been written round the world in the annals of military achievement, the resourceful, courageous, beloved leader of a band of fighters from the Kansas prairies who were never defeated, never driven back, never daunted by circumstances. Great were the pens of that historian who could fittingly set forth all the deeds of daring and acts of humanity of every company under every brave captain, for they "all made history, and left records of unflinching glory."

(To be Continued.)

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