

LABOR LEADERS ABLE

Unionism's Chiefs Men of Force and Capacity.

MOVEMENT ON HIGH PLANE.

Vast Power Wielded by Heads of Industrial Organizations Used With Intelligence and Discretion—Conservatism Their Policy.

Nothing affords more conclusive evidence of the high plane which has been reached by the organized labor movement in America than the character and manifest ability of the men who are now at the head of unions and who for less salary than they would receive in other fields of endeavor are devoting their entire time to furthering the common cause of the wage earner. It is indeed a far cry from the old time, much maligned "walking delegate," who in years gone by represented the popular idea of labor union authority, to the present ideal national labor official—a man of such manifest intelligence, tact and broadmindedness that he can command the respect of every capitalist or employer with whom he may come in contact, even though the latter be not in sympathy with his ideas. The caller of most of our twentieth century labor leaders is further attested by the discretion with which they use their vast power. Although the growth of the various divisions of the labor army enables them to wield an influence little dreamed of a few years ago, most of these captains of organized labor are conservative rather than radical in policy—a tendency attested by the fact that nowadays they consent to a general strike only as a last resort. Indeed, one of the chief functions of the modern leader seems to be to prevent strikes, not to precipitate them.

From the standpoint of the union workmen the most conspicuous result of the new era of labor leadership is found in the conduct of the movement on sound business principles. When the present "school" of labor chieftains began to make their presence felt in executive positions many of the unions, national as well as local, were in a deplorable condition. Comparatively small membership in most instances gave them very limited influence, and too often there was slipshod management that manifested itself in ill kept records, lax conduct of correspondence, etc. Even more serious was the indifference in the collection of dues—shortcomings in financial policy that necessitated many of the organizations leading a hand to mouth existence, whereas other national bodies were heavily in debt when the present officials took charge. Now all this is changed. The average national headquarters are conducted on up to date economical business policies, and secretarial officials keep their records by means of card index and other filing systems that are the peer of anything to be found in the corporate or banking world. Better still, union labor finances are on a sound basis, many of the great national bodies having on hand surplus funds in excess of a quarter of a million dollars each.

Yet other evidence of the farsighted judgment of the field marshals now in command of the labor forces is found in the extent to which they are subscribing to the theory of co-operation on the most far-reaching scale. The modern tendency in the corporation and commercial world toward great aggregations of capital is being met with correspondingly potent consolidation of the organized labor forces. This disposition of the leading labor spokesmen to engage in effective team work has unquestionably been due in some measure to that knitting together of interests which has resulted in the tremendous growth in recent years of that comprehensive, country wide organization, the American Federation of Labor, an allied army of craftsmen of all classes that is now more than 2,000,000 strong. It is not solely attributable to this influence, however, for there are some very powerful labor organizations which are not affiliated with the big federation—as, for instance, the Knights of Labor and the Brotherhoods of Railroad Engineers, Conductors, Trainmen and Firemen, with a total membership of 170,000 workers. The leaders of these independent bodies have for the most part, however, become imbued with the spirit of the age, and all of them may be found working shoulder to shoulder for any reform that promises benefit for labor in general.

As the president for many years past of the American Federation of Labor Samuel Gompers is doubtless entitled to recognition as the foremost American labor leader, and certainly no champion of the rights of the toilers has ever had a stronger hold upon his followers. Prior to each successive annual convention of the federation there are rumors afloat of attempts to unseat Gompers, but when the great labor conference convenes each autumn it is always found that the veteran executive is the choice of so large a proportion of the labor host that his election to leadership is in effect unanimous. There is no doubt that much of Gompers' strength lies in the recognition of his rugged honesty and integrity. Temptations to "sell out" the labor interests have come to him in every imaginable form, and he might be a rich man today had he as easy a conscience as was reputed to some of the labor guardians of days gone by.—Walden Fawcett in Pittsburg Dispatch.

MULES ARE VALUABLE.

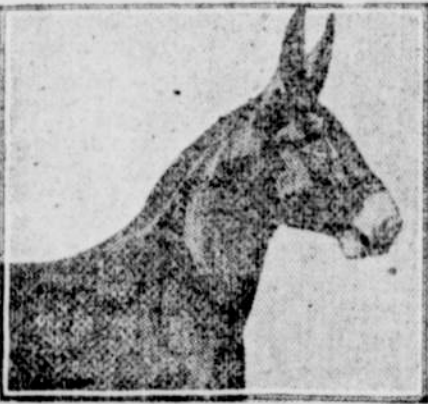
They Are Not More Vicious, Eat Less and Outwork the Horse.

Much may be said in favor of the mule as a faithful, economical adjunct of the farm and in the tireless performance of farm labor for a period of possibly twenty-five years. Mules have been underestimated in the northern states, but the fact is they are sturdy, tireless, long lived workers. They require less and coarser feed than the horse. They can outwork the horse season after season—are still young after the horse has succumbed. They are not more vicious than horses. On the contrary, they will endure abuse more patiently.

A prominent breeder of horses and mules declares that three mules constantly worked will live upon the same amount of forage consumed by two horses of ordinary size worked in the same way and the mules will stand in better order than the horses so fed and worked. Still, it is not true economy to work or keep any animal on low fare, and the mule responds as quickly as any animal to good feeding and kind treatment. Friends of the mules, those who have bred and fed and worked these animals and are sure of their ground, for argument say that for steadiness and intelligence and for profit the mules on the farm will for burden bearing and drudgery more than hold their own.

In the far west mules are being rented at stipulated monthly sums. This is a queer business, but a necessary one in these days of high prices. This renting is now carried on in the southwestern corner of the United States principally. The charge for the use of a team of mules, with harness, is high—\$20 to \$25 a month, not including feed bills, which the renter must pay. The owner must stand losses by death through natural causes, but mules killed through negligence must be paid for by the renter.

Of some 350,000 mules sold annually in this country at present Missouri furnishes perhaps 70,000, Tennessee 60,000, Texas over 50,000 and Kentucky about an equal number, the sales being double the number foaled. The mules of the states in the northwest are very large of bone, body, substance and power, but have not usually the style, finish and fine sleek coats of southern mules. In the south mule



GOOD HEAD AND CARRIAGE.

breeding is a most important industry and has been for more than a century.

For general farm work it is preferable to breed heavy mares to a large, heavy jack, so that the offspring may be expected to show good weight and size. We want the larger class of mules in the northwest. A fine mule jack ought to be at least fifteen hands high, with a good accompaniment of the weight, head, ear, foot, bone and length, coupled with broad chest, wide hips and with a bold, upstanding style. The smaller jacks and their progeny often show finer coats and finer finish. Still, the largest type is preferable in the north. Color is not generally important in the relation to breeding qualities, but black, with light points, is perhaps the most favored color in jacks. The black jack will probably get the greatest proportion of good colored colts from mares of all colors.

Dipping is Profitable. Always dip when the wool is short, as less dip is consumed and ticks will be more apt to leave the sheep's body. Commercial dips are good, but some farmers make their own with tobacco, sulphur and carbolic acid.

THE VETERINARY

Be sure the bit is not so narrow as to irritate and pain the mouth of the horse. Such condition leads to uncleanliness, which often may result in the horse taking the bit in his teeth and bolting in sheer desperation.

Docking Lambs. A good plan to pursue in docking lambs is as follows: Tie a cord tightly about the lamb's tail one inch from the body. With a pair of pruning shears clip off the tail just below the cord. Rub carbolic vaseline on the wound and remove the string at night.

Vaccination For Blackleg. Blackleg is contagious, being due to germs, and there is no special condition certain to induce the trouble. It usually is seen in young cattle that are thriving fast on rich feeding after a period of sparse feeding. Vaccination is the only sure preventive. Medicines cannot be depended upon to ward off the disease, nor are setons effective.

Dehorn In Cool Weather. If the animals are dehorned in warm weather it is well to apply some pine tar with a view to keeping flies from the wound. Some operators do this in nearly all cases, thinking that it facilitates healing. The dehorning operation should always, when possible, be performed in cool weather and upon animals which have at least attained the age of two years.

BLOODSUCKING BATS

These Pests Are Plentiful In the Forests of Brazil.

THEY ARE TRUE VAMPIRES.

But Cattle and Horses Are Their Chief Victims, Which They Prefer to Human Beings—Their Chisel-like Teeth and Peculiar Interior Anatomy.

Half a dozen of us had been telling what we thought we knew about bloodsucking bats, but our conversation had developed only an astonishing amount of misinformation and irreconcilable differences. So we called in the doctor who had lived some years in Brazil and asked him to comb out our tangled ideas.

"I'm not surprised at your confusion," he began, "for at one time or another I have believed above everything your questions would suggest. When I was a schoolboy the vampire was a bat as large as a crow, had a horn on his nose and was described as sitting on his victim's feet, fanning him with his wings while he worked his pumping apparatus. There is such a bat, but when it was proved that it was a fruit eater many of us doubted the whole bat legend along with the old mythology. There is a bloodsucking vampire, however—millions of them.

"The old Spanish conquistadors found proof of its existence in some great toes, which looked as if the skin had been delicately shaved off, just deep enough to ooze blood, but they never caught one and naturally laid the blame to the biggest ones they found, which are nearly all vegetarians. The real thing is a small reddish brown creature closely resembling bats of the same color caught here not infrequently.

"The naturalist finds, however, some surprising differences. They have no teeth for any purpose save for thinning the skin—not enough for the blood to flow freely, but just sufficient to enable them to draw it by suction. The wound rarely bleeds after they leave it. This preparation is done with a pair of chisel-like teeth, sharp as a knife. Their interior anatomy differs from other animals as well as their teeth. All the other animals, so far as I know, have a stomach and necessary organs for converting food into blood. The true vampire has only an elongated sacklike intestine for the storage of the blood taken, which requires no digestion till it is taken up into the circulatory system. With neither teeth nor stomach, it has no alternative. It must find nourishment ready made.

"This peculiarity may or may not account for one very strange thing about its selection of victims. Cattle and horses are the chief ones. Not one human being in a hundred entirely satisfies their taste. Not half the people who live among them all their lives are ever bitten. But if one of a family, for instance, just suits them they'll follow that person to any part of the house, and no matter how carefully he may be covered or screened they will find their particular tittle.

"The stories of their bleeding people almost to death are true only partly. I have known of one boy who was so persistently followed that, while the loss of blood was small from a single attack, after months of the drain he was greatly reduced in vitality. He was always bitten in the same place—the end of the great toe—and it became so lacerated that there was considerable subsequent hemorrhage. This lad was the youngest of four brothers. They all slept in the same room and sometimes changed beds, but none of the others was ever bitten.

"Cattle and horses are attacked always at a spot on the spine just back of the shoulders, where the hair separates in a starlike spot. This in the case of a horse is just where the front end of the saddle comes, and the attack therefore makes a vast deal of trouble where every one rides horseback. A majority of the Brazilian horses and nearly all the cows are bitten by these plagues.

"Fortunately the pests are mostly confined to the forest country. They give comparatively little trouble in cities and villages, though the construction of houses makes it impossible to keep them out. In cities tiles are exclusively used for roofs and in the country palm leaf thatching, and all kinds of bats come and go at pleasure. One rarely goes to sleep without from one to a dozen flying about the room. They are nearly all harmless and are welcome because they catch insects. They all look so much alike that one does not know which to attack.

"How the genuine vampires eluded scientific research so long is a mystery. The species was not positively identified until the visit of Darwin in the Beagle. It was in the seventies, I think, and there is not at the present day, so far as I can learn, a single well authenticated case recorded in the natural histories of a true vampire being captured while feeding on a human being."—Dewey Austin Cobb in New York Tribune.

Here and There. A man was waiting patiently for a street car the other day at a transfer station, says the Boston Record, when a woman, highly excited, rushed up to him and cried, "Are you the man here?" "I don't understand," he said. "Are you the man here?" she repeated. "No, madam," he said, concealing a smile. "The man here is that man over there."

Money is one thing everybody is after, and yet it always gets left behind.



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