EVERY decade or so there occurs some labor event so striking and inspiring in character that it stands out as a landmark in the history of the working class. Such was the great national convention held in Chicago, July 3-4-5, to create a labor party. Marked by a tremendous outburst of militancy and enthusiasm, it was a vibrant, thrilling, overwhelming demand by the rank and file of agricultural and industrial Labor for the formation of a powerful political party of the toilers. Nobody who attended its sessions will ever forget them.

This revolutionary convention, called under the auspices of the Farmer-Labor Party, gave birth to a new organization, the Federated Farmer-Labor Party. It was the inevitable culmination of a long train of circumstances. For many years past the workers, betrayed and misled by the trade union bureaucracy, had been gradually awakening to the fact that the old Gompersian political policy of "rewarding" their friends and "punishing" their enemies was fatal to their interests. It had disfranchised the working class and turned the entire governmental machinery, lock, stock and barrel, over to the exploiting class. More and more the rank and file began to demand the formation of a workers' political party. Local labor parties sprang up here and there, east and west. John Fitzpatrick, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, placed himself at the head of this rank and file revolt in 1919 by forming the Labor Party, which a year later became the Farmer-Labor Party. A wave of hope spread throughout the labor movement. Just a little leadership and courage on the part of Johnston and the thing would have been done. But he lacked both. Although he hated Gompers bitterly and had the forces with him to overthrow him and his reactionary political policy he did not dare to undertake the job. The Chicago conference did nothing practical. After adopting a sickly parody on the Declaration of Independence, it adjourned to meet again in Cleveland in December of the same year. Everybody with a bit of sand in him was disgusted. But still a ray of hope lingered. Those who did not know the weak Johnston felt that perhaps he wanted further time to build up more troops for the final assault on the Gompers stronghold. Then came the Cleveland fiasco, which ended by Johnston and his lieutenants
timidly endorsing the threadbare Gompers pol-

It was the old story of the fabled general who,

Denouncing the Conference for Progressive Political Ac-

leaders pulled their

and widespread campaign in the unions for in-

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unions. In fact, it was very largely because

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The Farmer-Labor Party Weakens

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not a line did they submit. They contented themselves with filibustering against the Ruthenberg amendment. They asked that the conference, or more properly the Convention, take no stand on the proposition, but refer the whole matter to the Organizing Committee, and would have none of the federated party. In the midst of the present industrial and agricultural discontent, it is full of dynamic possibilities. Capitalist interests realize this full well, and have already launched into a vicious journalistic attack upon it. In this work of destruction they are ably aided by reactionary labor sheets of every shade. Lies about the convention are being broadcasted wholesale.

The Fight Ahead

The advent of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party marks an epoch in American labor history. It is a militant, embodying the vital idea of a united political organization of workers and farmers, and operating in the new party is had by simply reading the program of its National Executive Committee, and the organizations they represent. And these in-clude only a small portion of the wide diversity of farm and industrial bodies in attendance at the convention. The following were elected to the National Executive Committee: S. Alenna, Co-operative organizations; E. Backus, Non-Partisan League of California; Anna M. Brady, Non-Partisan League of South Dakota; Wm. Bouck, Western Progressive Farmers’ League; Mary B. Britte, Farmer-Labor Party of Ohio; Alexander Boyd, Fairmont (W. Va.) Central Labor Council; Anthony Capraro, local unions and joint boards, Minneapolis, Minneapolis Trades and Labor Council; J. L. Davidson, local unions International Ladies’ Garment Workers; Wm. Z. Foster, local unions Brotherhood Railway Carmen; H. L. Franklind, West Va. State Federation of Labor; David A. Gorman, Labor Party of Los Angeles; W. H. Green, Progressive Party of Nebraska; C. E. Hoehel, W. Iac. Women’s Progressive Association; C. A. Hathaway, local unions Int. Association of Machinists; M. Jenkins, Independent Workers of Chicago; John C. Kennedy, Farmer-Labor Party of Wisconsin; J. M. Leach, local unions misc. trades; Ludwig Love, Workmen’s Sick and Death Benefit Societies; Noah London, Workmen’s Circle; Joseph Manley, Workers’ Party of America; F. W. Maurice, Michigan; J. Barnstable, Elgin; W. J. McCallister, local unions Order of Railway Conductors; Richard Swift; Farmer-Labor Party of Illinois; T. C. Davidson, local unions International; Louis W. Gorman, local unions; C. J. Stevens, Farmer-Labor Party of Kentucky; Geo. M. Tries, Detroit Federation of Labor; H. W. Vanhoose, Minnesota Shop Craft Legislative Committee; Harold M. Ware, United Farmers’ Educational League; W. E. Zeuch, Non-Partisan League of Wisconsin. The Federated Farmer-Labor Party is a militant organization. Fight is its middle name. Its membership is tired of pussyfooting with the labor party idea. It is out to make a vigorous and honest campaign to establish a real political organization of the workers. One of its first moves will be the big Unity Convention, to be held in Chicago in mid-winter. This will be one of the greatest political events of the history of America. It will make independent working-class political action an issue as never before. The Federated Farmer-Labor Party will break the chains with which the封建ist keeps the workers of this country bound to the political chariots of their industrial masters.