Sidelights on the Cleveland Conference

THE CHAIRMAN

It was called a conference for "Progressive Political Action." William

H. Johnston was the chairman. That should have told us what was guing
to happen. William H. Johnston "pho used to beat the bass drum for the
Salvadon Armyl.

He talked, did William H. Johnston. He reported on the events since the last conference in Chicago, in February, 1922. He told of the plight of the workers, the greed of the bosses, the brutality of the government-(Continued on Page Five)

On Charles on the and the first that the second the second

structive brank of doing work, it is the emotor of the interests "The liber more reconstructive. In Measure the Control of the full force of the government—the diplomatic service, the influence of the maneyed interests and then such Mitchell Palmer's spirit could

little things as the army and navy. felt! In Cleveland, there was also a mee Then the counter attack by Cramer chipe-reaching from Jewell, the of Minneapolis and then allence rs would not be tyranbised by \$25,000 a year "worker" at the head again. vernment when Daugherty got of the Railway Crafts Division of the | The conference could procee At last he stopped. Up jumped A. F. of L., to Victor Berger, "so- Once more, the machine creake lames (Oncal of the Socialist Party, cialist" congressman from Wiscon- The next day when the Socialist

"Mr. Chairman, is your speech to delegates seemed to forget that this movement. And when Jack Brades Quite overcome with emotion that political action." When, for instance, it, there was a flare-up, and then the lanies Oneal should have been so the delegates from the local labor machine had thinks in hand again. desirous of having a conv. Johnston unions demanded to be scated and But it was fated to creak one replied: "We had no money, so we the secretary of the Credentials Com-lagain-loud and shrill. The question plied Mr. Oncal. The famous docu ment will serve as the future guide for the illustrious editor of the New York Call, the vociferous proponent of a Labor Party of the toiling masses: the Labor Party that Oncal and the vellow Socialists helped to turn

Yellow, oily, smirking, bowing to uleased!" the representatives of the big unions. with the reactionaries and with the Socialist counter-revolutionaries who have just joined the 21/2 International! Hohnshhing with Keating, the exengressman from Colorado and present editor of "Labor." one of the most reactionary organs of the day and joking with Hillquit, champion of the raid on the Workers Party as Merrick of Pittsburgh, and Harrison of Cleveland, and others. These Bombastically nominated as per would be votes for a Labor Party manent chairman of the Conference. Forget it! Their names were not as the "best man and most worthy even reported!

to represent the interests of the workers, for which reason I rise to place in nomination the name of William M. H. Johnston," The poor boob about their credentials. who numinated him was so overcome

Ominous silence . . The secretary replied that "no credentials had been he gave the already seriously handirecrived." He was a Farmer-Labor capped chairman (mentally and man the reactionaries and Social morally) the further hurden of anists had tricked him. He did not know that the betravers of a Labor This was Johnston, greasy, slick and smooth, who had already sold out

in Washington to the "progressive the word "held" across the face

and his influence William H. Johnston chairman!

other initial.

delegates to the Conference!

THE MACHINE

the New York Call, breathless and

"Re sure to keep one for me

he had in printed form?

only got out 50 copies."

There is nothing more necessary thick: "un-American," "against the intact.

There is nothing more necessary thick: "un-American," "against the intact.

It was a good machine—but only political action!"

of several militant unionmen, such from the start to the finish,

It creaked again-a loud creak, a noisy ominous creak when the Workers Party delegates asked

with the seriousness of his iob, that

Party had hidden the Workers Party credential. He did not know that bloc"-sold his soul (if he had any) when the credential of the Young union delegates would crystallize the Workers' League was found it had same rank and file sentiment and

> ing! The machine bellowed! It of the sponsors of the Labor Party, in committee against the Labor discard. regard! The epithets flow fast and It creaked loud. But it remained Party because the American work. Hence good strategy demanded

Daugherty and Harding's influ ere, directing the machine!

dittor of the notorious yellow sheet, sin, the big baby of the conference | explained that they voted to exclude The machine worked pretty the Workers Party not because it was smoothly. It was well oiled and "un-American," but because it was only creaked a few times, when some a "disruptive" element in the lahor where they sold out the militrat was a conference for "progressive of the World War Veterans, denie workers and the Communists, be-

> mittee tried to make the conference of the Labor Party could not be believe that it did not understand the evaded. Of course the machine felt English language. And when Max spre of its hand. It had canvassed working class! These valiant cham-Hayes, of the Typographical Union, the delegates at the conference and pions of a Labor Partyl told Mr. Keating, the reporter of the knew their stand. So sure were they Credentials' Committee that the that they announced in the press the conference would not stand for the day before the conference that there Labor Party of New York would "vicious practice of the committee would be NO Labor Party.

the sentiment for the Labor Party The machine creaked a little and was. They did not know that they from the further treachery of the then went on-reporting the next would have such a narrow escape, capitalists and their parties. At last morning the names of "safe" dele- 64 votes to 52! Had the Workers we would begin the action that Britgates who were scated, and totally Party delegates and the local union ish workers had started more than Fitzpatrick Nockels Brown Hill ignoring the others. Otto Branstet- delegates been seated the vote would a decade ago. ter, the loudest of the yellow So- have been still closer. Had these

> mask off the face of the "leaders". He would have shown them up. He what they would do while the enemy and Ruthenberg would have mobil- isn't around! sed the many vacillating delegates and brought the Labor Party over

That is why the Workers Party delegates were not seated! The machine may crack once in a while. but it is dangerous in these times to expose it to too many possibilities. The Rank and File Conference of the Railroad Unions was in session in Chicago and there was danger that the Workers Party and local

bring the machine to a standstill Then the vicious attack by Keat. The machine withstood the attack remained for James Oncal to vote lisan onlice being thrown into the

they were equally ready to traduce it! They did-in Germany. France. England, Austria. In 1917, the Men sheviki in Russia; in 1918, the cial Democrats in Germany: in 1920 the Socialists in Italy and again 1922 When they declared neare with Mustolini: from 1919 to 1922 in Itiroslavia, Austria, Romania land. Bulgaria, Lettland, Germany,

trayed them into the hands of their enemies In 1922, the Socialists of America committed another of their betravals. These loud, bdasting defenders of the

How they boasted of it! They It was a valiant group-the Far told the workers that the "American mer-Laborites, the delegates of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the be the nucleus of the future Labor reading into the call anything it But they did not know how strong Party. A Labor Party alone would save the American working class and scattering delegates. It was an They the Socialists would fight Schlossberg. They wanted a Labor

> sound the call for the Labor Party. Bill Dunne would have ripped the Yes, yes, just like the Second and

> > But Cleveland was quite another matter. There stood the stolid leaders of the Railroad Brotherboods enemies of a fahor Party And some of the farmers who had "tried out"

election and found it effective So the Socialists went in with the gang-of the leaders! Johnston to Hillgrit-the whole array of fakers That was how it lost the fight. and betravers of the working class! The Socialists early gave evidence the machine-that the reason the of their reactionary sentiment in vot- rejected delegates were not scated ing not to seat the local union dele- was that there was danger (to the gates Again when the Workers machine) of a Labor Party being

the seating of every militant. The campaign to smash up working class low Socialists and Mr. Salutskyl

fight-but a fost fight!

Party of Great Britain.

he Workers Party of America!

THE TRAITOR

These great betrayers of the American working class do not wait can be till the workers led by the Commun. And so

ists seek to gain State power. Even Farmer Labor. St. Georges lose the today they stab the workers in the tight. They had not acquired from hack. They, the defenders of the So-Continuing strategy; the knowledge cial Revolutionaries, against the So-that the workers must learn from the same wile are offspring of "partial," arranges to win the final the same wile areas and America, its strategic . They had not understood They have sold out the Revolution! how to build up and cement their they have sold out the Labor Party, group by fighting on all issues that these Scheidemanns, Noskes, Tura- would strengthen their cause. tis and Hendersons of the working

class movement. These the apostles of the great be

THE LOST FIGHT

Minnesota State Federation of Labor honest group of men who knew sought admittance to the conference what they wanted-but did not and was refused-the Communists of know how to get it. the Workers Party. man, Buck, Hayes, Cramer, Thomas

cialists, was a member of the same delegates been admitted, there would for the Labor Party. Their best men Party and determined to make the committee and recognized the names have been a fight in the conference would be present in Cleveland to fight of the conference on that issue. When the local union delegates were not to be seated Haves made a 245 Internationalists! Bragging of little fight. But the group was silent. When the Workers Party dele gates were refused admittance. Cramer made a fine speech. But the

group was silent.

When the committee did not re port out the resolutions, the grout awoke It was a spasmodic fight, the "rewarding" policy at the last with no fire and vigor. The group was waiting for the discussion on the Labor Party.

It was clear to everybody-even Party came on the carpet. But it formed and the Gompers "non-par-

ers are not yet ripe for indedendent that the Farmer-Laborites fight for when the capitalists are engaged in a lary trade union bureaucracy, the yel

em with a greater fighting flag and constitution", the confere

question traitorous to the labor unions. sion of the Socialists. And surely if the Socialists, if Hillquit, is actisfied with a LaFollette boom, they Workers Party. He dared not tell them that his narty stood for the amalgamation of craft unions into powerful industrial unions; for the building up of a fighting front against the greedy exploiters; for the de mand that the constitutional rights of the workers be given them; that

should take over all power and establish w workers' republic. This he was too cowardly to do-Salutsky, who calls himself a Communist! They failed to apply in this con-Perhaps it is good the conference ference dominated by labor and did not seat the Workers Party de-

political fakers the tactics they have legates. They should have had to si learned in their struggles against the next to Salutsky, the traitor, and houses; that you can only beat a ma-carknowledge him as one of their own chine with a more powerful machine. They rejected the Workers Party: It was a good fight-an honest but Salutsky, yellow-spined Salutsky, who refused to speak for his party, If this group wishes to win, it stust remained in the conference, a traito fight with and for the most militant to his party and the working class. section of the working class, which This coward and reorgade has no place in the ranks of revolutionary

tried to brand the Workers Party

the workers organize into a Labor

Party to the end that finally rthey

IN PROSPECT

The conference produced no Labor Even the militants have their Party, But the Labor Party is in the process of creation. The working There was Levi in Germany, mem- class of America, the rank and file ber, of the Executive Committee of of the organized workers demand a

the Communist Party of Germany. Labor Party. who criticized the Party when the The Farmer-Labor Party refuser workers were in the midst of action. to accept the treason of this Confer-He was expelled and quickly degen-ence for Progressive Political Action crated, sinking thru the Independent to refuses to be party to the betraya Socialists into the United Social De- of the hones and aims of the workers morratic Party-into the lan of terror America

The militant workers of the coun-There was Williams of the Triple try stand behind the Farmer-Labor Alliance of England, who hetrayed Party and the Chicago Federation of the striking workers during the tre- Labor. The Workers Party will mendous strike of 1920 and for that work hand in hand with these fightwas expelled from the Communist ing workers for the formation of Labor Party-this the first step i And there is Salutsky, member of the political enlightenment an the Central Executive Committee of emancipation of the workers an farmers of the country.

His party was maligned. It was Forward in united front with the accused of one of the most hemous rank and file of organized labor and crimes that workers can be guilty of with the organized working farmers -disruption of the labor movement against the capitalists, the reaction