

LABOR SPLIT OVER CANNON.

Gompers in a Quandary Because Miners Support a Socialist.

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STREATOR, Ill., Oct. 16.—At the annual State Labor Convention to-day the political leaders of labor were at sea over the programme to be followed in Speaker Cannon's district. Samuel Gompers has ordered a fight on Cannon in the coming election. Local leaders are willing to carry out the order, but are wondering how it is to be done without incurring the enmity of the United Mine Workers, the leading labor organization in Illinois.

John H. Walker of Danville, a member of the Miners' Union, is in Streator supported by about sixty miner delegates, who are advocating the indorsement of his candidacy against Congressman Cannon. The trouble is Walker is a candidate on the Socialist ticket. The American Federation of Labor, and particularly President Gompers, it is admitted, never will support a Socialist. Walker's friends see the difficulty, but demand his indorsement on the ground that he is a trade unionist.

The miners control about one-third of the delegates in convention. W. D. Ryan, Secretary of the Illinois Miners, says if the federation does not indorse Walker it will have to answer to the United Mine Workers. To add to the confusion, President Barney Cohen of the State labor body made a speech in the convention intimating that Gompers's political activity was injuring the cause of labor.

"The history of the labor movement," said Cohen, "has been that where political action has been taken by a union that body has been rent by dissention and personal jealousy. I believe it is the duty of every organized man to take an active interest in politics, but it is not the business of trade unions to dabble in politics."