

4-23-1937

# The Bates Student (Extra) - volume 65 number 02 - April 23, 1937

Bates College

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## Recommended Citation

Bates College, "The Bates Student (Extra) - volume 65 number 02 - April 23, 1937" (1937). *The Bates Student*. 665.  
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The Bates Student.

VOL. LXV. NO. 2.

LEWISTON, MAINE, FRIDAY APRIL 23, 1937.

PRICE 10 CENTS

Hapgood States CIO Demands

Me. Shoe Head Defends Manufacturers

CIO Terms Not Acceptable To Hershenson

(The manufacturer's side of the controversy was obtained by Paul Stewart '38. STUDENT staff writer from Aaron Hershenson, owner of the Maine Shoe Co. of Auburn, in which 272 workers voted against the CIO and 17 for it in a vote taken at the company shops Wednesday. At the same time the workers indicated their favor for a factory union.)

"The manufacturers in these two cities are fighting a fight for Lewiston and Auburn, as well as for themselves, in refusing recognition to the CIO," stated Aaron Hershenson, owner of the Maine Shoe Co. in discussing the strike situation with the STUDENT reporter.

"We know the records of the men who are here with the CIO, and they are notorious as trouble-makers," he went on to say. "They have no interest in local shoe workers except for the money they can get out of it for themselves."

Union Supports Strikers

He pointed out that the only reason that the local workers can continue out on strike is because union shoe workers in other cities, who would benefit by general unionization, are supporting the relief burden of the CIO. They expect the manufacturers who left these centers on account of union trouble will return again if the Maine shoe workers are organized.

In response to the inquiry as to whether or not he would be willing to deal with the CIO, without granting their demands for wage increase and shortened hours, he replied that once these paid organizers dictated terms, they would demand benefits for the worker that would not be economically sound, and would ruin the employer.

Geography Wage Factor

"If we are to grant the demands of strike organizers we would not be able to compete with out-of-state shoe companies or with foreign concerns," Hershenson stated. "We are away from the source of supply for our goods, and it is with the greatest difficulty that we have been able to get business because of the extra time required in making deliveries. It may take us three weeks to get out an order where it would take only a week to get out shoe orders in cities nearer the supply. Who will a man give business to—the one who can make a prompt delivery of shoes or the one who takes a longer time? A removal of the plant from Lewiston to Portland, for instance, would make a difference in the time factor and thus the wage rate."

In discussing the labor board elected by Mayors Estes and Levesque, he stated that the workers had an impartial arbitration board that was approved by the manufacturers, and the workers' point of view in settling the strike dispute.

Low Wages Unavoidable

Hershenson explained the charge of low wages by declaring that it was only the incompetent ones who received very low pay. Some of the workers are very slow, and could not get a higher wage in any other piece-work industry. They are fortunate that we keep them on the job. We give just as high wages as competitive conditions will allow us to. During the last few years many of us have continued to operate our factories without any profitable return on the investment, hoping that with better business we may be able to make a reasonable return on our investment.

"Our only argument to those who buy our goods, is that we can give

Strike Is Painful To Auburn Cops

"I'd like to stand off in a good place with a few bricks of my own," averred the Auburn cop who was the first policeman to be tagged by the flying stones of feminine strikers.

Your reporter found him at a coffee and hamburger emporium opposite the Cushman Building in Auburn early this morning, nursing a long, nasty scratch on one side of his proboscis.

"This strike is tougher for us on night duty than for anyone else," complained his companion, "because we have to stay on duty all night and all day, too." Summing the whole situation up they both declared, "If you want to quote us on this riot business, you can say that we think it's a pain in the neck." Their original opinion was unprintable.

No Spare Time For Guardsmen

By W. G. Torrey '38

Not to be outdone by "Scoop" Stewart, your humble (and sleepy) nosy reporter worming his way into the Cushman Building in Auburn, secured an exclusive interview with three of the National Guardsmen doing police duty there, and gleaned the following details:

In addition to the six companies (380 men) stationed in Lewiston, there are two quartered in the Auburn Armory, one from Norway and one from Rumford. The latter, comprising about 125 men, see most of the action and, as one of the men said, "... do all the footwork, while the higher-ups do the thinking." Out of every six hours, they spend two on duty and four off, but at all times they must be prepared to turn out in a hurry in case of an emergency.

When questioned about their activities when not on duty, they replied, "We try to get some sleep." (Sounds like Bates.) This, it appears, is not so easy. Imagine yourself sleeping in the same room with a hundred or more people [and you'll see] that "they've got something there." However, conditions have been improved somewhat, because they now have guards stationed in the armory to insure peace and quiet for those who crave a little "shut-eye." The rest of their spare time is spent in cleaning up, a relatively easy job with so many men to cooperate. They are allowed to leave the armory only when put on duty; so their time is never strictly their own.

The question as to how long the strike will last is as much a matter of doubt to them as it is to us. "We leave when it's over," is all they can say.

To most of these men, the National Guard represents something along the line of a hobby. Many are high school boys, most have jobs, and some are married. In more peaceful times it serves to break the monotony of their daily routine and they study constantly to increase their skill, precision in drill, and knowledge of warfare.

An emergency like this may break the monotony of this monotony-breaking hobby, but just the same it's no lark.

them shoes at a slightly lower rate, because our workers are willing to work a few more hours than they do in union shops and can get along with less money than in a place where the cost of living is higher."

"Experience with unions in other cities has driven manufacturers to change the location of their plants," Mr. Hershenson declared. "Lynn was once the greatest shoe manufacturing center in the world; unions came in and today grass is practically growing in the streets of that city."

History In The Making

— AN EDITORIAL —

History is being made in our own front yard! The CIO, as yet a youngster but one developing a strong arm rapidly, has carried activities into the twin cities to such an extent that Gov. Barrows this week called out eight companies of National Guards to quell riots which broke out in Auburn Wednesday afternoon among shoe factory strikers.

In view of the importance of the general labor situation in this country, especially since attention has been focussed on industrial centers here and there over the country in rapid succession—Detroit, Pittsburgh, Hershey, and now Lewiston-Auburn—by CIO organizing activities, the STUDENT herewith presents a discussion giving the point of view of a manufacturer, and another presenting the aims of the labor organization.

In no way are we taking, nor do we intend to take, sides in the matter. We merely record, without comment, the opposing views to give STUDENT readers first-hand and up-to-date knowledge of the issues concerned in local labor trouble which may truly be making national history.

STRIKE HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

- March 17—At mass meeting, clergy are advised to inquire into factory conditions.
March 19—Hapgood asks Manufacturers' Association to round table conference with CIO.
March 23—"Local Shoe Workers' Organization", according to Mackesey, voted unanimously to recommend a strike at mass meeting for shoe workers only.
March 24—CIO mass meeting ends in uproar. Clark Shoe Co. employees vote 491-128 against strike. Augusta Shoe, 376-64 against strike.
March 25—State Police called to control parades in both cities.
March 28—Picketing limit established at 500 feet from factories.
March 29—Lown Shoe Co. votes 61-7 against strike.
April 1—Six CIO officials arrested for conspiracy to restrain four workers from continuing work.
April 3—Armory not big enough for CIO rally.
April 5—Arena asks injunction against Rowe's 500 ft. rule.
April 6—Justice Harry Manser of Supreme Court dismisses Arena's petition for injunction.
April 7—C. V. Watson says strike is broken.
April 8—CIO declines to accept Mayors Levesque and Estes' appointment of arbitration board which included Dr. Fred E. Pomeroy, professor of Biology at Bates.
April 9—Grand Jury convenes; bill is Equity seeking injunction against the CIO filed.
April 12—Alderman Harkins suggests workers return and then vote on bargaining agency.
April 13—State Senator Walsh to request Federal Labor Relations Board to demand arbitration of strike.
April 15—Injunction hearing opened before Justice Manser. Nine witnesses heard.
April 16—Ten more witnesses heard at injunction proceedings.
April 17—Manser refuses to terminate trial.
April 20—Justice Manser issues temporary injunction, restraining CIO from further strike activities.
April 21—Eight companies of National Guardsmen ordered into strike zone by Gov. Barrows. Tear gas used as Nolan, organizer, calls injunction "a miscarriage of justice". Hapgood, after returning from conferring with John L. Lewis in Washington, says, "We're going to maintain the strike."
April 22—Mackesey, Hapgood arrested for riotous assault along with Henry, Perrin, Parks, and Nadeau. Each held in \$2,000 bail. To be charged formally with contempt of Manser's injunction.

CIO Organizer Harvard Grad

"I have been many times arrested but never convicted," declared Powers Hapgood, New England Secretary of the CIO, and dynamic leader of the Lewiston-Auburn striking workers, talking to the STUDENT reporter last evening. Powers Hapgood is a Harvard graduate of the Class of 1921. He was active in labor circles even while a student at college. He worked in the mines during vacations, and was a member of a mine workers' union in 1920. "I became interested in the labor movement," he said, "as a result of this practical experience in the mines,

ON CAMPUS TODAY!

- Friday, April 23—Eleven track men plus Coach Ray Thompson and Manager Sam Leard leave Lewiston this afternoon at one o'clock for Harvard University and a stadium track soaked by two days of rain to participate in the annual Harvard relays.
The Open House scheduled to be held at Parker Hall a week from Saturday has been indefinitely postponed.
Friday, April 23—Rained out of their opener with Boston College, the Bates baseball team moves over to Medford and

Provoked Over Mfrs.' Delay In Strike Parley

(The following interview, obtained Thursday evening by Paul Stewart '38. STUDENT staff writer, presents the point of view of Powers Hapgood, CIO secretary in New England, in regard to the shoe strike now in progress in Lewiston and Auburn.)

"We would be willing to send the workers back to their benches tomorrow," Powers Hapgood declared in an interview with this STUDENT reporter at the Littleton Hotel, Lewiston, late last night. "If the shoe manufacturers confer with us as they refused to do at the start of the strike, and accept the CIO terms of settlement."

These, he said, would grant (1) The right of the CIO to represent the workers whom they have signed up; (2) The privilege of meeting the manufacturers at the conference table to discuss wages and working hours. In return for this the CIO representatives would grant such concessions as would seem appropriate at the time, and we would recognize a differential in favor of the manufacturers, because of the additional cost of transportation and communication.

"There would have been no rioting whatsoever," Hapgood declared, "if the local police had not issued the restraining order prohibiting strikers from demonstrating within 500 feet of the factory, and later preventing them from demonstrating at all."

The STUDENT interviewer inquired just why the strike had been called before all the workers had been organized under the CIO. In answer to this, Hapgood declared that 3,400 workers had signed membership cards before he sent his letter requesting an interview with members of the Manufacturers' Association. "This letter was entirely disregarded by the manufacturers, that is why we called the strike. At the present time, we have signed over 5,000 workers in the CIO."

Student Strike-breakers

One of the most startling statements Mr. Hapgood made was that local high school students from Lewiston High School are being used to break the strike in the shops. Reports coming to him indicated that some of these students were coming to work after school, learning the trade, and working until about ten o'clock at night, in many cases. In one instance he stated that a grammar school student was learning "lastings" after school hours and working until late at night.

Non-Strikers Favor CIO

Discussing the votes of the workers as to their position in regard to the CIO, where in one company 376 voted against it and 52 for it, and in another where 272 voted against and 17 for it, Hapgood went on to say:

"It was very surprising that any at all in these factories voted for the CIO, when you consider that these workers are trying to break the strike. I have never heard of any case quite similar to it."

He stated that for workers that are non-strikers to vote in favor of the CIO seems to indicate that conditions are not entirely to their liking in the factories.

Local Board Inadequate

Discussing the local board chosen by the mayors of the two cities and the possibilities of forming unions not subject to outside control, he stated that such unions would be totally ineffective.

"The chief argument of the manufacturers is that they cannot give better wages than ours because of their competitors. The only kind of a union which can solve such a problem is one that can organize the whole shoe in-

Student Offered 7 A Day As Scab

Seven dollars a day, with room and board included, was offered to a Bates student by representatives of the Venus Shoe Company, affected by the strike.

The Bates man was hitch-hiking back to school after the Easter vacation, when the proposition was made to him by the manufacturer's agents, who were ready to guarantee two weeks' employment to an experienced worker. All employees of this company were out on strike at that time. They explained that every effort was being made to solicit workers from Maine, rather than to antagonize the strikers further by the importation of out-of-state labor.

FLASH!

AS THE STUDENT GOES TO PRESS AT 7.30 a. m., a squadron of State Police are inspecting each worker entering the Cushman Building, storm center of striking workers, while a double squadron of National Guardsmen is on picket duty on Court street.

SPECIAL STAFF for this issue: Master of ceremonies: Thomas Nichols of the Auburn News; End-Man: John Leard; Straight Man: Paul Stewart; STUDENT stooges: Robert Esten, William Torrey, Stan Wass.

dustry and make such competition impossible. It is no argument that they cannot give better wages because the factories are distant from the source of supply. The difference of 50% in wages from the wages given in union shops would still make local manufacturers have an advantage with a 15% raise and a 40-hour week."

Hapgood Scores Low Wage

Shifting from a discussion of the local riots, Hapgood discussed wages and hours and working conditions in the factories.

Hapgood denounced Justice Manser's injunction decision. "I have never heard of anything like that before," he said. "I conferred with the Board (National Labor Board) in Washington, and they told me that our union had acted entirely within the law. If we just represented the 'lasters' in one of the plants, we would still be able to confer with the manufacturers, and a refusal to meet us would be a violation of the law."

"Wages in the two cities are 50% below union shoe wages in other places. The hours worked are from 20 to 25% longer than in other union shops. The workers in the shops here are supposed to work no longer than from 48 to 55 hours per week as the manufacturers admitted. Stories from the workers themselves indicate that they are working from 60 to 70 hours a week, many days working even until midnight. The average amount of wage given to the workers is \$14 per week, according to statements made by the manufacturers themselves."

He went on to state: "Manufacturers on the witness stand admitted an \$84,000 payroll for 6,000 workers in the shoe industry. That would mean a very low average payroll which includes even the high wages paid to the executives of the companies. Hundreds of the girls in the factories have told me that they earn no more than \$4 or \$5 per week; with the amount they get for piece work, they would have to be geniuses to earn more."

"Another cause of great dissatisfaction among the workers is the so-called manufacturers' 'Black-list'. The Manufacturers' Association has agreed to refuse employment to any person who has for any reason been discharged from work in any of the local shops."