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Dowcraft Is Charged With Unfair Practice

An unfair labor practice charge, filed last week against Dowcraft Corporation of Falconer, is expected to be heard during the March term of Buffalo Federal Court.

The charge was filed last Thursday by three members of lodge 2109, International Association of Machinists. The company is accused of failing to honor a work contract formerly held with Steel Partitions, Inc.

Dowcraft Corporation was organized last June and purchased assets of Steel Partitions which included its Dow Street plant, dies, fixtures and other industrial equipment.

Company officials maintain Dowcraft is not a successor to Steel Partitions but had purchased some of the latter firm's assets. They contend further that Dowcraft has no contract with the union.

The complaint by the three IAM members contends that the

contract still is in effect and that the new company has failed to rehire former employes on a seniority basis.

Union spokesmen said Dowcraft has rehired only 12 of the plant's 75 former production employes and has hired 40 new employes in the meantime.

The firm has 20 days in which to answer the charges. Although Federal Court convenes Nov. 14 in Buffalo, a court officer said the trial probably will not be scheduled until the March term. It also is possible, he said, that the trial may be set either for the May term in Rochester or the July term in Jamestown.

The Dowcraft Corporation was organized June 16 and produces steel office partitions, special metal boxes and cabinets. Officers of the firm are G. Elving Lundine, president; Ralph S. Millard, vice president, and Theodore E. Johnson, secretary-treasurer.