

# Expert Heard

OCT 10 1950

## In Furniture

### Adhesive Suit

#### Fancher Company Witness Declares Glue Defective

Little Valley—Cross-examination of Thomas D. Perry, development engineer and expert in the field of plywoods and adhesives which he has covered in textbooks, was concluded Monday as Supreme Court was adjourned for the day by Justice Hamilton Ward, Jr.

Mr. Perry, called to the stand Friday, was under direct examination by plaintiff's counsel Clayton M. Smith of Buffalo during Monday morning and spent the balance of the day replying to questions by defense counsel Ulysses S. Grant of New York.

His day and a half of testimony was the longest given by any of the witnesses called by the Fancher Furniture Company of Salamanca in its \$500,000 suit for damages against the Arabol Manufacturing Company, New York City, since the trial started Oct. 3. The plaintiff claims adhesives sold and warranted suitable for furniture manufacture by the defendant concern was the cause for thousands of defective pieces of dining furniture, which had to be re-worked or replaced to customers.

Questions by Attorney Grant indicated a trend which the defense case will take when the Arabol company starts presenting evidence, probably on Friday. He received affirmative replies from Mr. Perry when he asked if improperly kiln-dried lumber would cause joint failures in plywoods no matter what adhesive was used; if excessive moisture in the wood might cause joints to fail, if improperly machined edges on the wood or if planing of flat pieces too soon after gluing could cause defects at the joints.

However, Mr. Perry answered an unqualified 'No' when Mr. Grant asked, "Is a polyvinyl acetate emulsion (adhesive) suitable for edge to edge gluing?"

Shown several exhibits where dining room chairs and table pedestals and legs had come apart at glued joints, Mr. Perry found one which he said indicated torn wood and one where wood had split, but that the rest showed no evidence of wood failure.

He told the court and jury that wood failure at a glued joint had nothing to do with the adhesive used, but indicated there had been strain or stress beyond the "sheer strength" of the wood with the result that the wood fibres tear before the glued joint yields.