

Chief Chemist Of Glue Firm Takes Stand

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No Change Made in Formula in Four Years, He Testifies

Little Valley — Carl Erikson, New York City, chief chemist for the Arabol Manufacturing Company, put in a grueling day Tuesday giving technical testimony from which a Supreme Court jury may determine whether Arabol glues were defective and caused dining room furniture to fall apart at joints as claimed by the Fancher Furniture Company, Salamanca, in its demand for \$500,000 in damages.

He was to be cross-examined further today by Clayton M. Smith, Buffalo, attorney for the plaintiff, who brought out Tuesday that no laboratory tests had been run on Arabol GRB-10 glue to determine its suitability for edge-gluing of wood pieces before it was marketed to the wood-working industry in March 1946.

On direct examination by defense counsel Ulysses S. Grant, New York City, the witness said there was no change in the GRB-10 formula through the years 1944 and 1947. Asked by Mr. Grant, "Aside from the polyvinyl acetate base and the plasticizer, were all other ingredients of GRB-10 the same in each shipment to the plaintiff?"

Mr. Smith objected that no foundation had been laid as to other ingredients, and Mr. Grant said, "If there is any danger of disclosing our formula I am going to stop right here."

Justice Hamilton Ward warned defense counsel:

"I can understand why, and you are not required to disclose it here. But if you examine this witness on facts not disclosed to your opponent, Mr. Smith must not be deprived of his right to cross-examination." Mr. Grant withdrew his question and, up until Tuesday night, Mr. Smith did not seek to get the secret formula into the record.

"If BRB-10 were not stirred prior to use, would it affect the bond of glued wood pieces?" Mr. Grant asked the chief chemist. Learning that it would, Mr. Grant placed in evidence several small wood blocks glued under test conditions with Arabol that had not been mixed prior to use.

Mr. Smith countered implications that the plaintiff had failed to prepare Arabol glues for use in the Fancher plant by asking Mr. Erikson questions leading to the conclusion that GRB-10 was inferior to animal glue. Mr. Erikson did reply that his company did not meet the standards of animal glue tests before placing GRB-10 on the market.