

Local Cabinet Maker Testifies in Glue Case

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Little Valley—Warranty or non-warranty of adhesives for a particular use, as a custom in the adhesive industry, came under sharp attack Monday as the \$500,000 Supreme Court suit by Fancher Furniture Company of Salamanca against the Arabol Manufacturing Company of New York opened its fifth week before Justice Hamilton Ward and jury of nine women and three men.

Defense counsel Ulyses S. Grant of New York added two more witnesses Monday to the roster of defense witnesses who have stated there is a custom and practice in the adhesive industry to not warrant its products as suitable for a specific purpose.

However, Clayton M. Smith of Buffalo for the plaintiff, promised Monday to offer proof that many large glue makers do guarantee their products.

During his cross-examination of Donald Pascal of Brooklyn, vice president in charge of sales for the National Starch Products Co., Inc., Mr. Smith asked, "Is your testimony as to non-warranty influenced by the fact that your company is being sued similarly to Arabol?" Mr. Pascal gave a negative reply, and also to questions asking if he knew that the Bakelite Co., the Perkins Glue Co. and the I. E. DuPont concern guarantee their adhesives.

Mr. Grant produced a furniture manufacturer who has used Arabol's polyvinyl acetate adhesive. The witness, Edward R. Jackson of York, Pa., plant superintendent for the Keystone Furniture Co. there, said his company used Arabol's GRC-34 glue since early 1947. He said it had been used for edge gluing of wood and for laminations, and

that his company had experienced no difficulty with joint openings.

Charles VonWeinstein, Arabol salesman, also gave the trade practice of not warranting adhesives. Under direct questioning by Mr. Grant, he told of early 1946 tests with Arabol's GRB-10 at a Philadelphia furniture concern, and identified the glued-up blocks made then which Mr. Grant placed in evidence. He told of attempts to break the glue bond by hammer blows.

Difficulties with the English language curtailed the admissible testimony given by Andrew Gustafson of Jamestown, for 50 years a cabinet maker, who retired two years ago from the employ of the Elite Furniture Company there. He was a furniture maker in Sweden before coming to this country, he said.

He told of examining pieces of Fancher dining room furniture in evidence, claimed by the plaintiff to be part of the thousands of component parts damaged by defective Arabol glue during 1946 and 1947. Mr. Gustafson said joint openings were due to moisture in the wood, referring to a table pedestal and dining room chair.

Robert Diggs of Olean, associate defense counsel, finished reading a deposition as court ended Monday. The statement was taken from Louis Kubichek, furniture buyer for the Koos Bros. store in Rahway, N.J., where Fancher dining room sets are sold. Mr. Kubichek's description of the furniture defects he observed were warped-cores in table tops, twisted and warped cores in other items, checked and split veneer surfaces and wobbly chairs, loose at assembly joints.