

SAYS PLASTERERS CONTROL BUILDING

Edward Flannery Declares Alliance Between Employers and Union Gives Stranglehold DENIAL IS MADE BY MEN

Edward W. Flannery, builder and chairman of the committee of twenty-three, said today that the master plasterers had a strangle hold on the building industry through an alliance with the plasterers' union.

According to Mr. Flannery, the plasterers' union has increased its membership since 1914.

Says Agreement Was Made Through the assistance of the International Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, the Master Plasterers' Union and the Union known as the American Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Association.

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Plasterers' Union, and one of the signers of the agreement, speaking for the union, said today: "We welcome an investigation. To begin with we do not think the agreement is illegal. Our attorneys have assured it is not, for it is not secret, we have circulated it publicly, and have given it to all parties interested, and their acceptance of it has made it in part, to the agreement under the law. It has been sent all over the country, to every architect, builder and contractor in this city, Chicago, New York, Washington and other places."

There is nothing unfair about it. What we want to prevent is a builder getting the contract, and then offering it for lower bids, signifying his willingness to accept inferior work. Thus the owner suffers, the contractor loses an additional \$10,000 this way.

As for charges of collusion, we do not deal only with the Master Plasterers' Union. We deal with independent firms also. We welcome an investigation by the district attorney or anybody else. We have nothing to hide. There is nothing wrong about this. If a man doesn't pay on one job why not work on another job of his? We must get our wages from our employers, and if we don't, we are going to look for work elsewhere.

Agreement for Good Work "We wouldn't back an employer up unless we thought he was in the right. In fact, we have master plasterers who are making arrangements to build new, and we have also found master plasterers for not doing work as it should have been done."

We made the agreement to do the work properly as the public would get for service. It was paying for. This agreement was not made to increase the cost of plastering. No builder need fear this.

John C. Humphress, of John C. Humphress & Son, plasterers, who is president of the Master Plasterers' Union, said: "It is well known that persons working in the building trades have less security for their money than in many other lines. They are subject to the will of the contractor. If he is honest, he gets their money. If he is not, they are not. These clauses in question were put in for their protection against dishonest contractors."

The honest contractor need not fear anything. Our main absolute would support anything that would support honest operations.

These clauses have resulted in some large building operations being held up for four or five months. In all such cases judgment in the courts or by arbitrators has been refused. These sections of the agreement have been abandoned, but there is nothing to prevent a similar agreement. Furthermore, arbitration and litigation do not reduce the cost of building. They might attract the attention of various operations.

The strong stand taken by the union is new taking is more important than the previous conditions. In the opinion of the master plasterers in continuing to pay last year's wages, in spite of the demand of the public, and the program of wage reduction being put into effect. We wonder whether the master plasterers were influenced in granting their men's demands by the extraordinary working arrangements in their district.

Counter Steps By Builders "The builders have already taken steps to have the plastering of the year done in spite of the strike, and in the master plasterers' and their men, and have no further interest in the matter. Estimates for plastering are being made on actual work to be arranged through Harry A. Smith of 14 South Second street, and on a basis of a day's work. A National Association of Builders.

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At no time in my memory has the arbitration committee failed to sift the matter brought before it fairly. "Why are not the builders, contractors, architects or owners represented on the arbitration board?" he was asked.

"We never thought of that. We always asked them to appear and present their evidence, but they have no vote. The board has always tried to do the right thing. We have no antagonism in this matter. We are trying to serve the builders faithfully."

TO GIVE NOTED COMEDY "College Widow" Will Be Presented at Benefit Performance "The College Widow," will be produced by the Newman Club Players of the University of Pennsylvania in the ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford at 8:15 o'clock this evening.

The play is given under the auspices of St. Bede's Auxiliary for the benefit of St. Bede's Chaplaincy and the Newman Club. Mrs. Eugene C. Bonnell is chairman of the auxiliary. A dance will follow the play, in which John C. LaRouche, Rose Scharfe, Anna McVain, Mary Galen, Edward O'Neill, Lawrence Elmer, Reuben S. Bartley and Harry Halloran will have parts.

Continue Church Exposition The Presbyterian Exposition, held this week in the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Broad and Diamond streets, which was to have been concluded last night, will be continued until this evening as a result of the large demand for tickets.

PLAN FOR JULY 4 FETE Jenkintown to Raise \$2000 for Celebration of Independence Day Jenkintown officials and a committee of members of the Jenkintown Business Men's Association have planned to raise a community fund of approximately \$2000, with which to stage a real Fourth of July observance.

Chairmen of the several committees, as announced, are executive, J. Howard Hay, member of Council; finance, John Stoeckinger, sports, Samuel Hiltz; parade, Edwin H. Bellis; fireworks, Herbert Cliffe; concessions, George Richardson; announcements, J. Frank Fleck. Associate officials of Mr. Hay on the executive committee are Ernest Haines, secretary, and Herbert Cliffe, treasurer.

JENKINTOWN MAY BUILD Legion Men Start Movement for Borough Hall and Home Contes-Jordan Post of the American Legion, Jenkintown, with Dr. William H. March as commander, is fostering a project to erect a new borough hall.

Positions are being circulated to determine sentiment of the voters in the matter of a new borough building, the first floor of which shall be used for the permanent use of the American Legion and the Red Cross, and to have an auditorium for use of patriotic organizations and for community gatherings.

A committee will confer with borough officers to devise ways and means of meeting the cost of the building. Sentiment strongly favors the movement.

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