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pg. 44

ASBESTOS CONCERNS ACQUITTED BY JURY

Special to The New York Times.

PHILADELPHIA, May 21—Two asbestos-products companies and an official of one of them were found not guilty today of charges of price fixing.

After one of the longest civil trials ever held in the Federal District Court here, the jury of six women and six men reached its verdict in eight hours. The trial began Jan. 9 and testimony was heard from 150 witnesses. Their testimony filled 14,044 pages.

Aquitted were the Johns-Manville Corporation, of New York; Keasbey & Mattison, of Ambler, Pa., since acquired by the Certain-Teed Products Corporation which was not involved, and Robert F. Orth, vice president and general manager of the pipe division of Johns-Manville.

The defendants were accused of conspiring to restrain trade through the fixing of prices for asbestos-cement pipe and couplings. The indictments were returned June 1, 1962.

Early in the trial Judge Francis L. Van Dusen directed a verdict of acquittal for Robert P. Porter, former president and chairman of Keasbey & Mattison. He also directed that the two companies and Mr. Orth be acquitted of charges that they sought to monopolize the asbestos-cement pipe business.

Three others indicted in the alleged conspiracy have been granted severances for separate trials. They are Louis F. Frazza, sales manager for Johns-Manville; Norman Barr, vice president of Johns-Manville, and James R. Reichel, general manager of Keasbey & Mattison.

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