

File No. 10178 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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July 3rd last, and we are advised by the Van Dorn Company generally that the selling prices of the two materials are about the same. The statement before the Board of Awards, to the implied effect that there should have been a saving of several thousands of dollars to the City if the White Diamond material was used instead of the 5-ply, is based on an entire misconception of the facts, as, we believe, was orally pointed out at the session Wednesday before last.

We, therefore, have the facts, with regard to the materials: first, that they are equally serviceable and effective for the purpose intended; and secondly, they cost about the same for construction and sell for about the same price.

The White Diamond is, therefore, equally as good and valuable as the 5-ply, but our clients contend that there are manifest advantages which make the White Diamond a superior material for the purposes intended. In this connection, you will bear in mind that the construction of the White Diamond is of such a nature that it can be tested at any point without mutilation of the bars. However, you are familiar with all this.

We, therefore, approach the construction of the specifications with the fundamental idea that they should have been prepared for the purpose of allowing and not preventing competition, and that it would, as a practical matter, have been unwise for the draughtsmen of the specifications to eliminate the White Diamond steel therefrom.

In reading the specifications it will be noticed that, in a number of places throughout the whole printed book of 100 pages, the material required for window guards, cell fronts, cell doors, &c. is described as tool proof steel.

Thus, on page 18, under the heading "Yard Cut Off Gates", "Gates to be ten feet in height, constructed of tool proof steel" &c.

On page 19, under the heading of Window Guards:- "The windows both in basement and above, will be provided with guards of tool proof steel."

On page 34, under Specifications for Cell Fronts, Galleries, Stairways, etc. - "the bars to outside windows of tool proof steel."