STRIKE THREATENS IN GITY BUILDING

Politics Seen in Attempt to Tie Auditorium Work Through Union Claims.

TERRAZZO WORK MEDIUM

Suggestion Made That Delay Would

Injure Mr. Baker's Standing and Opponent Then Could Rush In and Effect Compromise.

Because men employed in terrazzo

work on the Public Auditorium have

no union and are not affiliated with a union, a strike of plasterers and coment finishers on the work has been threatened. N. A. Schanen, contractor for the marbie and terrazzo work, informed City Commissioner Baker Yesterday that the union men have given notice of intention to quit work today. Behind the proposition is said by those watching the Auditorium work to be some politics aimed at Commissioner Baker, who is a candidate for

Mayor at the coming city election. 1t is said certain interests supporting the candidacy of another man for Mayor are doing everything in their power to cause a tie-up of the Auditorium work, hoping thereby to discredit Mr. Baker, who has charge of the building. Two propositions have been mentioned along the political line. One is

discredit Mr. Baker in his eagerness to have the building completed in time for the National education convention and the other is said to be a plan whereby the other candidate in the case can rush gallantly to the front and settle the strike. It is declared that the question of terrazzo work being unionized has

never been raised on buildings in

to try to delay the building so as to

which this class of labor has been engaged. The work consists of the laying and polishing of floors made of chipped marble and cement. The contractor, Mr. Schanen, says Italians are the only men in Portland knowing how to do the work and they are opposed to forming or joining a union. He says they do not want their work unionized. A force of six men is required for the Auditorium work. Ununionized men did the terrazzo work on the Courthouse, police station and other strictly union jobs, without any question having been raised. Whether the plasterers and cement men will strike today is a matter of conjecture. Mr. Schanen says he has

no intention of forcing the Italian | workers to unionize and could not force them if he desired. He says the union people want the work turned over to cement finishers if the unionization demand is refused. Cement finishers, Mr. Schanen says, could not do the work properly. The question of cost also has en-

tered into the case. Mr. Schanen says he made his bid on the supposition that the Italians would do the work. To have inexperienced men do it along union lines with helpers, etc., would entail increased expense, he says, and

would not be satisfactory.