

ber of women and girls employed in these four stores were as follows:—322, 20, 190, 1900. This is increased in the ratio given above at the busiest season of the year.

Coming now to the all important question of the wages paid in these stores, your committee have found them to be so much better than they know they are popularly believed to be, that they wish to state clearly just how these figures about to be given were obtained. In every case they were secured from the management by your chairman and one other member of the committee who, before they went to the different stores, made some study of the points involved and the questions for which answers were desired. In every case the managers were most frank in dealing with us, and showed every willingness to co-operate in our inquiry. In only one case were we permitted actually to examine the wage cards. In two other cases the wage figures were read to us from books of the Company. In the fourth case we were given a signed statement which purported to be taken off the books of the Company and which the manager amplified for us during discussion. Information as to the wages of various departments was readily given, except in one store where we were permitted to have general figures only. We believe these figures to be correct, first from the manner in which they were given, and second from the fact that we have been unable to find contradictory evidence. At the same time we recognize that this evidence is rather difficult to obtain, the women employees not caring to answer questions freely with regard to their own wage, but we offer these figures as generally true of the wage of women in department stores here.

Your committee desire to call attention to two general conclusions which they have drawn from their inquiry. First, that the wage of saleswomen, particularly of experienced saleswomen, is about the same in all four stores, for where the actual figures differ other indirect additions bring it up to the general level. Second, saleswomen of average efficiency in Winnipeg are earning at least nine dollars a week.

It is perfectly true as so often reported that there are girls earning five, six, seven and eight dollars a week, but in every industry there must be an apprentice stage and these figures represent that stage. More than one manager told us that he did not want six dollars a week girls, he wanted efficient saleswomen who would earn the higher wage but he had to train the younger girls for these positions. Your committee have no conclusive figures as to the number earning each wage, but from the departments examined in detail your chairman is of the opinion that these lower paid workers constitute only