

## Report of Civic Committee

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The Civic Committee of the Women's University Club beg to report on their work for the season 1913-14. In response to a circular sent out by the Executive of the Club, fifteen members volunteered for service on this committee, and the organization meeting was held on November 6th, 1913. The only instructions received from the Club were that this committee should proceed to make a study of some form of women's work. Realizing that the committee included no trained social workers, and no members who were free to give a large amount of time to this study, it was decided to narrow the field for the first year's work. After thorough discussion as to various alternative fields of work, the committee determined upon the department stores of Winnipeg as the subject of this inquiry. It should be understood clearly that in the first place the work of only women and girls is considered, and, in the second place, only the work of those women and girls engaged in the four department stores, T. Eaton Co., Robinson & Co., Ltd., Hudson Bay Co. and Carsley & Co. which employ altogether from 2,432 women and girls to 3,200, according to the season.

In undertaking this inquiry, the object of your committee was two-fold, economic and educational. In the first place, it was felt that accurate information as to conditions in Winnipeg would be of great value, it being now the opinion of experts in social science that too great emphasis cannot be placed on the dissemination of the facts in relation to any industry.

Secondly, your committee have tried to ascertain what opportunities are offered to women in these stores, and what training, if any, would better fit them to take advantage of such opportunities.

Before actually commencing our work, your chairman corresponded with social workers in other large centres where this work had already been done, and your committee was much discouraged by the unanimous opinion of these experts that such a study could not be undertaken with any hope of success by volunteer workers. However, your committee felt that not only was it desirable to obtain facts, but that the training involved for those who sought them was an equally valuable object of this work; and it was determined to proceed. The field work in this study was carried out by ten members, the other five members acting in an advisory capacity.