

Silk Stockings Appeal to Girls, Wage Board Told

THAT Duluth working girls buy silk stockings when they could obtain more serviceable wear from cheaper cotton stockings was the assertion made to the Minnesota Minimum Wage commission which met at the Commercial club last night to gather data on living costs and wages in Duluth. Women who appeared before the board challenged statements made by department store managers that girls of the city are inclined to dress beyond their means.

Frequent arguments ensued when figures on clothing prices at different Duluth stores were presented to show what it costs girls earning the minimum wage of \$11 a week to live. Woman welfare workers asserted that investigation showed the average working girl must pay \$7 a week for board and \$3 a week for room leaving \$1 for shoes, clothes and other expenses, not including carfare and amusements.

"Girls are inclined to purchase silk stockings when they could get better wear from a pair of 39 cent cotton stockings," L. Fremuth told the commission. He said that the price of stockings, linens and handkerchiefs are lower than a year ago.

Several women asked Mr. Fremuth for prices on other articles stating it is necessary for girls to buy other articles than stockings and handkerchiefs to be properly dressed.

B. Silberstein said that he had made a survey of several of the larger stores of the city and had found the following conditions prevailing:

"In one store where there were 229 employees, only six were receiving the minimum wage of \$11 per week. One of the larger five and ten cent stores of the city has 123 employees and we found that \$18 is the average and \$13 the lowest, with \$27 as the highest wage paid. "We also found that 60 of the girls lived at home and 10 outside the home as an average."