

ACCUSED BY SIEGEL, COOPER & CO., GIRL IS CLEARED

Charging that Siegel, Cooper & Co. has persecuted her, Miss Helen Powers left Judge Barrett's courtroom yesterday cleared of a charge of shoplifting.

The store charged Miss Powers with stealing a \$25 silk dress. Two detectives, a store detective and a clerk testified to how they found the dress in her muff. The state produced a confession the girl had signed admitting that she had stolen the dress.

But here is what Helen testified:

"I left my muff on a table while I went into the fitting room to try on a gown. A short time later we continued to shop. We were looking at some waists when the officers arrested me. (The girl was with her aunt, Mrs. Rowe, 144 N. Waller st.)

"I was taken to the room of an assistant superintendent, where I was held two hours. They put me through the third degree. City Detective Gorman told me I had better buy the dress. At last they promised to stop questioning me and let me go home with my aunt if I would sign a paper. They dictated this statement and I signed it. Then they arrested me, but not before I had been undressed and searched by one of their matrons."

Miss Powers is the daughter of one of the officials of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railroad and resides in Nashville.

CIVIC FORUM GIVES FOLKS A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THINGS

The Seventh Ward Civic Forum, a non-partisan, non-political, non-dues paying organization, held its monthly meeting at the Woodlawn Masonic Temple, 64th and University av., last night.

The Forum is the New England town meeting brought up to date. It is an idea of Ald. Merriam and has nearly 1,000 enrolled members. It is maintained by subscriptions and at the monthly meetings the people are

told by their aldermen just what is being done for them. Votes on big measures are explained and the inside dope on political questions and city projects are handed out by competent speakers.

Last night Lorado Taft, the sculptor, spoke on improving the Midway, which runs along the north end of the ward. There were more than 300 people present.

Ald. Merriam told what was going on in the council and Ald. Kimball told what was going on in the ward.

"The idea of the forum is to get the people's support, not by political machines or subsidizing the workers, but by bringing democracy into politics," said Ald. Merriam. Anyone may speak or ask questions. The aldermen learn the attitude of the people on different questions and the people learn to take a correct view on these questions.

"We have discussed transportation with R. F. Kelker, the city's expert. The transportation company was invited to send a representative, but declined. We had a debate on the Loeb rule. We discussed big bond issues, our public schools and other public questions. There are three special meetings a year to discuss ward improvements.

"The forum is a success and I think it has done untold good by developing the civic interest of the people."

JUDGE REFUSES TO MARRY AN UNMARRIED MOTHER

Judge Jacob M. Hopkins of the court of domestic relations had established a precedent in eugenics today. He refused to marry an unmarried mother.

"You are unfit for matrimony," he said to the couple, Lina Anderson and David Kuhlman, the father of her child.

"Scientific parenthood is more than a fad," he added. "Seventy-five per cent of feeble-mindedness is traceable to unfitness of parents."