

foothill country given over to raising of cattle. In the east - Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario - "mixed farming" on small holdings is usual and the farm wife still carries on the traditional chores of growing the vegetables, feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs. "Egg money", is one of her time-honoured sources of private income.

On the other hand, on the prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, farms ranging from three hundred to several thousand acres are often entirely mechanized so that the farmer's wife need do little more out-of-door work than she would if she lived in the suburbs of an urban community. The same is true of the wife of a man operating a big cattle ranch in the foothill country of Alberta. When times are good, many western farmers and their wives travel during the winter months or move into town until it is time for the spring seeding.

Of course, the many women living in the far north or in sparsely populated parts of the country lead a restricted social life, especially in the winter, but because of the radio and the aeroplane they are no longer cut off as in the past.

City Housewives

An ever-increasing number of Canadian women now live in a town or city. Many young married couples occupy a small apartment in "centre town" during their first years of marriage until they have saved enough money for the down-payment on a house, usually in the suburbs. Home ownership is important to family security as well as to social prestige. Often when the family has grown up, older couples move back from the suburbs to a city apartment.

The average Canadian house has four or five rooms and is either detached or semi-detached. In a climate where heating is needed for eight out of the twelve months, the cost of fuel is an important item in the budget, so that most Canadian houses have small rooms and are only two storeys high. In recent years, "ranch style bungalows" and "split level" one-and-a-half storey houses have become popular, even though they cost more to heat.

In general, whether she lives in an apartment or a house, the Canadian housewife runs a highly mechanized household in which she moves a thermostat to turn on the furnace and pushes a button to make toast or the morning coffee. In 1957, 94 per cent of Canadian households had electricity; 66 per cent either a gas or an electric cooking stove; 57 per cent a furnace which burns either coal, gas or oil; 79 per cent an electric refrigerator; 81 per cent a power washing machine; 81 per cent water piped into the house; 68 per cent both hot and cold water; 74 per cent telephones, and 96 per cent a radio. Although only 54 per cent had television sets, the number is growing rapidly. Television, a comparatively new development in Canada, now reaches over seventy per cent of the settled parts of the country and is expanding its coverage rapidly.

Most Canadian women do their own housework and look after their own children. The cook-general and nurse maid have practically vanished from the scene and those few who do remain demand such high wages that few housewives can afford to employ them. As a result, even business girls living alone in apartments do their own domestic chores, perhaps with help of a weekly cleaning woman, as do the mothers of large