

Women Lawyers of British Columbia

By Edith M. Cuppage.

The study and practice of law has proved an attractive new field for the woman prepared to pit her mental powers against her brethren, since by an amendment to the Legal Professions Act in 1912 it has been possible for women to be called to the bar of the Province.

Miss Mabel Penery French was the pioneer lady-lawyer in British Columbia, and Mr. W. J. Bowser—now Leader of the Opposition at Victoria but then Attorney-General in the McBride administration—is the officer of the Crown to whom the credit lies for widening the gate into the legal profession.

Like the Attorney-General of that day, a native of New

Brunswick, Miss French had the honor of fighting a winning fight for the entry of women to the legal profession in her native province before coming to Vancouver. Although relinquishing her position at the Vancouver bar to engage in educational and commercial work in the United States, Miss French's place has since been filled by other ambitious girls of our own province, so that the provincial bar now boasts four qualified lady practitioners and a number of girl students who have not yet completed their examinations.

Of British Columbia's four women barristers, three of them, Miss Edith Paterson, Miss Gladys Kitchen, and Miss Leone Lalonde practice in Vancouver, while Miss Muriel Ringland is taking advantage of a wide connection in Victoria.

THE TEACHER AND THE SCHOOL

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developing many of the qualities of mind and heart that best become the boy and girl, and that are most certain to ensure success in life. And in this sphere the co-operation of the pupil with the teacher is usually hearty, and often enthusiastic, while in the class-room it may be but indifferent.

If the school, then, is an extension and a complement of the home, a little world of citizens in the making, a miniature of the greater world which the pupils must later enter and for which they should be prepared, it is essential, I think, to the efficiency which this age demands, that our boys and girls there receive their training from both men and women, and from these in about equal numbers.

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MISS RINGLAND

and of British Columbia.

For a year or so after her return to this province Miss Paterson was associated with the legal firm of McNeill, Bird and MacDonald, and made several successful appearances as counsel in court as well as daily appearances as a solicitor in chamber applications in the Supreme Court. Her grasp of legal principles and directness of logic, even more than her sense of humor and pleasing address won for her at once a place of genuine fraternal esteem from her brother lawyers.



MISS PATERSON

Three years ago, Miss Paterson entered Sir Charles Hibbert's Tupper's firm, and until her recent departure to engage in legal practice on her own account, was continually employed under that leading King's counsel in the preparation of commercial law cases, examinations for discovery and arguments on legal questions in judge's chambers.

Miss Gladys Kitchen, who is associated with the office of Mr. A. H. MacNeill, K.C., believes that women will make successful solicitors provided they are willing to work hard, and acquire grey hairs in the pursuit of wisdom. She believes, however that woman's place is in the office and that in the court room she will be a novelty for some years to come. This