

acquiring of movable property, which includes stocks, bonds, money, furniture, jewelery and so on, but she cannot buy or sell real estate without her husband's permission. Today, "community of property" is the exception.

Furthermore, there are certain incapacities from which all wives living in the Province of Quebec suffer, no matter where they are married, or under what marital regime. They all need authorization to act in the following cases. 1. to appear in judicial proceedings; 2. to give, accept, sell or dispose of property during their lifetime (although they may dispose of it by will without authorization or consent); and 3. to enter into contracts or obligations.

The protective power given the husband over the persons of his wife and children also deprives the wife of the right to authorize medical or surgical treatment not only for her children, but even for herself. The husband alone is legally capable of giving this permission. Under the Quebec Code, the father also has puissance paternelle which gives him sole authority over the education, religious training and discipline of the children. Despite these legal limitations, however, the status of women in Quebec is not in practice greatly different from that of other Canadian women.

Political Women

Canadian women in every province have the right to vote and to hold public office. The federal franchise was granted to them in 1919. The provinces followed suit, although the Province of Quebec did not give women the right to vote until 1940.

Many Canadian women now serve on school boards and city councils. A number have been reeves and mayors: the best known is perhaps Miss Charlotte Whitton, formerly mayor of Ottawa, the national capital.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, appointed to the Senate in 1953, made feminist history in the Commonwealth when she became Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. Since the 1921 election, when Agnes Macphail became the first woman member of Parliament, nine women have been elected to the House of Commons and six have been appointed to the Senate. Mrs. Ellen Fairclough became the first woman to hold a cabinet portfolio when she became Secretary of State after the Progressive-Conservative party came to power in 1957.

Canadian women have also distinguished themselves in government service, in the armed services, and as members of Canadian delegations to the United Nations General Assembly and to other international conferences.

Thus it may be seen that if housewife and business women and if women qualified for courses in the arts, science and government, Canada is a country in which they may pursue their liberal interests in complete freedom, enjoying equality of opportunity with men in every field of endeavour.