

Liquor Laws, Equal Suffrage and other Saskatchewan Legislation Affecting Women.

INTRODUCTION.

Since Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 a large number of laws have been enacted by the Legislative Assembly and many of them are of special interest to Saskatchewan women, because of their effect upon the domestic, social and business welfare of every woman in the province.

Among the many progressive laws in force in Saskatchewan may be mentioned the Homestead Act, passed in 1915, which prevents the mortgaging of the homestead without the consent of the wife; the Devolution of Estates Act, passed in 1907, which affects the property of persons dying without a will; the Hospital Act, passed in 1916, the Factories Act, passed in 1909; the Deserted Wives Maintenance Act, passed in 1911; the Children's Protection Act, passed in 1909; Employment of Female Labor, and a number of others.

But because they provide the means for the overthrow of the liquor traffic in Saskatchewan and give women a voice in the government of the province the statutes of greatest interest and value are the Sales of Liquor Act and the Election Act. It now appears likely that the women of Saskatchewan will be the first in Canada to exercise the right and privilege of voting out the legalised sale of liquor and of taking part in the election of members to the Legislative Assembly.

While many women have made a close study of the position of women under our Saskatchewan laws, many others, due partly to their very busy home life, and also to the fact that until recently they had no voice in the government of the country, have not been able to devote much time to such considerations. The following notes have accordingly been prepared for the purpose of presenting in concise form summaries of the laws of Saskatchewan affecting Saskatchewan women.