

City housewives often belong to such organizations as church associations, parent-teacher groups, reading clubs or service clubs which require members to do voluntary work for the community every week. Many women who do not belong to a service club register with a volunteer bureau run by the Council of Social Agencies; in due course, they are placed where their particular skills can do most good. Canadian volunteers are busy taking case histories in hospitals, driving crippled children to clinics, doing group work in the YWCA, assisting in Red Cross blood-donors' clinics, and helping with group work activities and a score of other projects. Women also earn money for worthwhile projects by running bazaars, secondhand clothing stores and organizing charity balls and theatrical entertainment. Every year, an army of volunteers canvass for social and service agencies dependent on public subscriptions for support.

The National Council of Women, the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the University Women's Clubs and the Canadian Association of Consumers are highly efficient pressure groups that can be credited with persuading the federal, provincial and municipal governments to bring in many needed reforms.

Education

Every year, in increasing numbers, Canadian women are achieving a higher education. In 1964-65, the percentage increase in the enrolment of women was 18.4 per cent, while the increase in the enrolment of men was only 10.2 per cent. In spite of this continuing trend, male undergraduates and graduate students in Canadian universities greatly outnumber their female counterparts. (In the academic year 1964-65, undergraduate enrolment was 50,695 women and 113,746 men. Graduate students numbered 11,477 men and 2,320 women.)

At Work

Most Canadian women expect to work when they finish their formal education. In this century, there has indeed been a dramatic increase in the number of Canadian women who hold paid jobs. In 1911, only 13 per cent of the people in the labour force were women; today, 30 per cent are women, the increase being chiefly because there are more job opportunities for women. The increasing complexity of production processes has meant that craftsmen have been replaced by machine operators, many of them women. Changed factory techniques have also enabled women to do work which was once too heavy for them. The growth of record-keeping and other office jobs has also provided more openings. Perhaps most important of all, women have so proved their worth during two world wars that prejudice against hiring them is beginning to disappear.

Today, Canadian women are doing practically every job on the list of the National Employment Service. For example, women are now aviators, veterinarians, morticians, lumber "jills", trappers and welders. Furthermore, their main occupations have changed greatly over the years.