

A WOMAN'S STANDING UNDER B. C. LAW

There has been a good deal of discussion lately on British Columbia laws as relating to women. A statement of some of these laws may be of interest.

Education and Disposition of the Child.—A mother has no right of possession in her legitimate child.

The father has sole authority in the education and disposition of his child, though the mother is equally responsible for its maintenance.

The father has the right to arrange by will the guardianship and education of his child, even before its birth, till it shall be 21 years of age.

The consent of the father or guardian is necessary to the marriage of minors of either sex under 21 years of age, but the consent of the mother is **not** necessary if the father, or guardian appointed by him, consents.

A girl of 12 years or a boy of 14 years may be legally married in this province.

In the case of a deserted wife the husband has the right to collect and use the earnings of their minor children. He may also collect and use his wife's wages in some cases.

A wife is not entitled to dower in any land in the ownership of her husband. He may sell it or give it away without consulting her. This holds good even if **the wife's money helped to buy it**. He may leave her penniless.

A widow's portion.—If the husband should die without a will, the widow has one-third interest for life in all real estate owned by him at his death. If a widow and children survive, the widow gets the use of one-third of the real estate, the children inherit two-thirds and at her death the mother's portion.

If there are no children, one-half of a man's estate goes to his widow, the other half to his own people, however remote the relationship. If no next-of-kin can be found it may go to the crown.

If an unmarried son or daughter die without a will, leaving a father, mother,

brother and sisters, the father inherits it **all**, the mother **nothing**, unless the property came through her, when she inherits a life interest in it. A minor (under 21) cannot make a will.

Attempts to reform these laws have again and again been made but have always failed, and must inevitably fail so long as women have no representation in the legislature.

VERSE

A Great Writer has compared Humanity to a Bird, Man and Woman the two Wings, useless without each other on any lofty flight.

A Bird in flight across earth's open spaces
Sang to God's glory when the World was young,
Beat strong wings in the evil angels' faces,
And soared triumphantly as it had sung.

But, reckless in the pride of its high calling,
It brushed the Tree of Self and broke a Wing,
And thenceforth feebly rising, quickly falling,
Crippled, it flew near earth and ceased to sing.

Till, impotent in that low air, and dying,
It raised a tremulous note of prayer and pain,
And He Who made the Bird for upward flying
Touched the poor broken Wing to strength again.

Then the glad Bird, with white Wings spread in beauty,
Swept on its journey, circling near the skies,
Waking the world to know its lofty duty,
Thrilling all life to undreamt harmonies.

H. C. H.