

There are at least three outstanding women poets: P.K. Page, author of As Ten as Twenty and The Metal and Flower; Anne Marriott, whose poem, The Wind Our Enemy, is an epic of the drought years on the prairies; and Anne Hebert, a sensitive lyrical poet. Widely-read female novelists are Mazo de la Roche, author of the famous Jalna series; Gabrielle Roy, whose first novel, The Tin Flute, won her international acclaim; and Ethel Wilson, a stylist of mature understanding. Adele Wiseman, winner of the Governor General's award in 1957, is a young novelist of talent.

There are at least two women who are composers of merit: Barbara Pentland and Jean Colthard Adams who, in 1957, received a coveted overseas scholarship from the government of Canada. Ellen Ballou, a pianist, and Lois Marshal, a soprano, are perhaps the best-known interpreters of music. Ethel Stark has for years led the celebrated Women's Orchestra in Montreal.

Canadian women are doing sound work in practically all branches of scientific research. For example, a woman scientist has done pioneer research on wheat rust, another is second in command of the textile section of the Department of Applied Chemistry at the National Research Council, and a third is one of the most respected aeronautical engineers in the country.

Status of Women

Citizenship

Canadian women have full citizenship rights. When a Canadian woman marries an alien, she retains her Canadian citizenship. An alien woman marrying a Canadian citizen and legally admitted to Canada is eligible for citizenship after one year's residence.

Legal Rights

Single women have the same legal rights as men in every part of Canada. That is not true of married women.

In nine out of the ten provinces, the civil law is based on the Common Law of England. There are small legal variations in each province but in all of them a married woman has full citizenship rights. She may enter into contract, administer her own property and keep her own earnings. She and her husband have equal rights and obligations for the care, custody and discipline of their children.

In the province of Quebec, the status of married women is different from that in the other nine provinces.

There is a historical reason for this. The Treaty of Paris, signed by Britain in 1774, guaranteed the French-speaking people living in what is now the Province of Quebec the right to keep the Civil Law under which they had been governed for over two hundred years when they were members of a colony of France. Later, in 1866, these laws were codified into the Civil Code of the Province of Quebec. In the following year, 1867, the British North America Act gave exclusive jurisdiction of property and civil rights to the provinces.

Under the Quebec Code, a woman married without a marriage contract is in "community of property" with her husband and has no legal rights to administer the joint property. The woman who has a marriage contract, which makes her separate as to property is a free agent in respect to the disposal and