

Education

Every year, in increasing numbers, Canadian women are achieving a higher education. In 1962-63 the percentage increase in the enrolment of women was 15.4 per cent while the increase in the enrolment of men was only 7.7 per cent. In spite of this continuing trend, male undergraduates and graduate students in Canadian universities greatly outnumber their female counterparts. (In 1963, undergraduate enrolment was 36,955 women and 95,997 men. Graduate students numbered 8,436 men and 1,276 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 28 per cent are women, the increase being chiefly due to the fact that 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 The increasing complexity of production processes has meant that craftsmen have been replaced by machine operators, many of them women.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 rapidly disappearing.

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.

Fifty years ago, the majority of women workers were employed as seamstresses, milliners or domestic servants. Today, women at work are concentrated in the following occupations: typists and stenographers, 97 per cent; nurses, 96 per cent; teachers, 70.7 per cent; service occupation, 58 per cent; household workers, 96 per cent.*

Married Women at Work

The "average" Canadian woman marries when she is 23 a man who is three years her senior. She will have an average of 3.8 children. Very often, particularly in towns and cities, the young wife continues to work "until the baby comes". Unless there is grave financial necessity, most Canadian women prefer not to take paid jobs outside the home while their children are of pre-school age. Every year, however, more and more "mechanized" households have helped make it possible for women to work both inside and outside the home. By 1964, half the women in the labour force were married. The greatest number of working wives are between the ages of 45 and 64; they are women whose children are at school or have grown up and left home.

Working Conditions

In general, both men and women are protected by the same laws on minimum wages, maximum hours, unemployment insurance, holidays, vacations, workmen's compensation and fair-employment practices which forbid discrimination on grounds of race, colour, religion or

* (For further details see: OCCUPATIONAL TRENDS IN CANADA, Report II, 1963, Department of Labour.)