

## SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

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## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY WOMAN



WOMAN is, has always been, and will always be, the race figure of all time. Bearing and rearing the young of the world is woman's work. Upon her also falls, in large measure, the no less supreme responsibility of child-training, for it is her hand which has first moulded the ideals and character of all children of all generations. "Mother of men" the twentieth century woman still is, and must be; and, to her, as such, the world of mankind pays feeling tribute the depth of which no words can express.

Yet the esteem in which woman is held to-day has not always been accorded her; her present proud status has not come without conscious struggle. In days primeval, she was a hewer of wood, a drawer of water and a tiller of the soil at the behest of man, her master. But, mysterious and irresistible as the tides of the sea, the urge and surge of the social and economic forces of the Christian era have borne her forward and upward until the woman of this, the twentieth, century stands on a plane unoccupied before by any woman this humanity has known.

THE woman of to-day encompasses within her sway, not alone the hearth, but also a multitude of departments of human activity once thought beyond her powers, if not her understanding. It is not so long ago that, to her, our institutions of higher learning were barred. Now, women graduates in science, letters, art and music equal, or surpass, their fellows in ability and erudition, if not in numbers. In the private and primary schools of the world, women monopolize the teaching of children; not a few have donned the cap and gown of the university professorate and fill our chairs of learning with conspicuous ability. Unknown in the professions a few years since, their names now adorn the scrolls of our practitioners of medicine and law. Into the marts of trade woman has come, and, to-day, in office and factory she not only performs clerical work with skill and efficiency, but occupies positions of high executive trust

and responsibility. By slow, yet sure, degrees her power is being felt in the world of politics. Ever the friend of the suffering and oppressed, she takes her place in the vanguard of fighters for social and moral betterment and uplift.

BUT, powerful during the opening years of the century as was the trend towards equal work and equal rights for women, in the past few months the movement has received an irresistible impulse. Among the warring nations to-day the sphere of woman has widened abruptly. We see women decorated for courage under shell-fire. We hear of hospitals endowed by women in which all the doctors, nurses and attendants are women. We see women organizing effectively for the relief of the wounded in the field and of the destitute and stricken at home. We see her battling with the problem of unemployment. We see her carrying all before her in even less accustomed rôles, for the absorption of the man-power of the nations in war activities has thrust upon woman the burden of keeping the wheels of industry and commerce in motion. We see her manning the lathes and forges of the factories of Europe. We see her increasingly and successfully employed upon railways as ticket-collector, booking-clerk and even as porter. She is taking her brother's place as ploughman, chauffeur, gardener, cashier or clerk in establishments which heretofore employed none but men. Nor is this movement confined to one country or one continent. It is worldwide and epochal in its scope. Thrust by cosmic forces into the full stream of the professional and industrial occupations of our modern civilization, the woman of to-day is bearing her full share in the creation and conservation of the wealth of nations.

FIRMLY established as an integral and indispensable part of our financial and industrial fabric, the woman of the twentieth century is earning money. For the first time, perhaps, she is learning the cost of money in human effort—she is learning how much blood and brain and sweat go to the earning of a