

mother to share equally with the father in the guardianship of their child. Under our present law, while the child of the unmarried mother belongs to her, the child of the married mother belongs exclusively to the father during his life time.

Until 1913, the father could will away from the mother the child unborn at the time of his death. This law was modified in England in 1886, but until February, 1913, British Columbia mothers were living under an Act passed in the time of Charles II. Like some other laws now happily obsolete, it was intended at the time of enactment to serve a good purpose. Before this, the King, as "father of his country," was the guardian of all "infants," viz., persons under twenty-one, and English history contains accounts of many disgraceful quarrels for the hand in marriage of this or that rich ward to be bestowed as reward for services rendered the sovereign.

So the Infants' Guardian Law was originally passed to limit the right of the King and to enable a father to act himself or appoint someone other than the King to stand as guardian to the child.