172752

In Canada the legal age of protection is 16. A considerable difference is made, however, in the punishment of offences committed against girls of over or under 14, treating the former in the nature of a misdemeanour only.

JF 851

Equal Guardianship of Father and Mother Over Their Legitimate Children.

In countries where women have the vote the mother has been made equal co-guardian with the father of her own children. Such legislation was enacted in most cases at once after women obtained the ballot.

It took the unenfranchised women of Massachusetts fifty-five years to secure such a law, which the enfranchised women of Colorado obtained in the very next Legislature following upon their enfranchisement. The women of New York obtained this right in 1860 after ten years of persistent effort, and it was quietly repealed in 1862. After another thirty years of agitation it was again granted to them in 1893. In Canada the father is the only recognized legal parent of his legitimate children to the exclusion of the mother. This right extends even to the "infant at the breast." He has absolute control over their religious and secular education, place of residence, etc., and his consent alone is necessary for the marriage of his minor sons or daughters.

Children.

The school age in Colorado is from 8 to 16. In New Zealand and Australia there is compul-