

EQUAL FRANCHISE LEAGUE

ORCHARD HILL RD., TORONTO

What Equal Suffrage Has Accomplished

BY SONIA LEATHES

The Age of Consent has been raised to 18 in all states and countries where women obtained the parliamentary franchise, and mostly within the first legislature following upon their enfranchisement, i.e., New Zealand, all the States of Australia, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Finland and Norway. Bills are already pending in the newly enfranchised States of Washington and California to raise the age from 16 to 18.

Where women do not possess the power to directly control legislation the age of consent varies between 10 and 16 years. The only exceptions are Kansas, which possesses a very wide municipal franchise for women and where the age of 18 was secured by them, without the parliamentary vote, and New York, where the age was 18 was established as the age of consent after twenty-five years of struggle, not, however, without a considerable reduction in the penalty provided, and it is difficult to obtain convictions.

51121