



## OUR BOSSIES ON THE OCEAN.

**A**LL our young readers who are interested in the sea and in sailors must have heard of a gentleman who lives in England, called Samuel Plimsoll, who was until recently a member of the British House of Commons. He has done so much in Parliament and out of it, to make the life of a sailor safer and more comfortable that he has won for himself the name of 'The Sailor's Friend.' He has frequently visited Canada, where he has very near relatives, and at present he is here once more on very important business.

When you have a chance of visiting Montreal, Quebec, or Halifax, where ships and steamers are coming in from the ocean, you will see a mark, a small circle with a cross in it painted on a prominent part of the side of each vessel. This means that so soon as the vessel sinks in the water to this mark, no more cargo can be put on. Mr. Plimsoll was the man who fought for the sailors in Parliament to get this mark put on, and so it is called the Plimsoll mark. Ships laden far over this mark were most unsafe at sea, and hundreds of sailors were drowned in consequence. This visit of Mr. Plimsoll, though not on behalf of sailors, is still connected with the sea; and as it is on behalf of the cattle that cross the sea, we may now call him

## THE CATTLE'S FRIEND,

the friend of Mr. and Mrs. Bossie, who wag their tails across our fences, and graze in our fields, and grow so fat and big that men in England and other countries offer us very high prices for them. It appears that we have been sending hundreds of thousands of our best fat bossies across the ocean for a great many years, and that of course our farmers and steamship companies have been making a good thing of it.

Mr. Plimsoll has been under the impression that the cattle were not properly cared for; that they were even cruelly treated; and he has been anxious to pass a law that no more live cattle shall be taken across the ocean. He is so anxious to secure this that he has written a book about it, and has come out here to see how it can be carried out. Some of the things in Mr. Plimsoll's book are so dreadful that no young Canadian would believe them, and I am happy to say that they should not believe them for they are not true. For example who would believe that when the bossies are taken on board, and are out on the stormy ocean, the men would pour coal oil into their ears to make them howl with pain; or stuff their ears with hay and set it on fire; or that when bossie wanted to lie down and the men wanted her to stand up, they pulled her tail off in anger?

Well, of course, these are serious charges. Our Government could not sit by. They arranged with Mr. Plimsoll that an official investigation should be made; that he should have an opportunity of explaining his statements, and that the men should also have an opportunity of denying them. The investigation

took place in Montreal and the Government sent down from Ottawa Mr. Smith, the Deputy Minister of Marine, to preside. A great many gentlemen were there, those who have charge of sending the bossies on board, and those who have charge of the steamers to take them across the ocean. The investigation was very long and very thorough, and the result is that as I have already said, our young people need not believe about the cruelties.

From all that the gentlemen present said it is quite clear that to carry hundreds of thousands of cattle across the ocean in all sorts of steamers, and in all sorts of weather, is no easy matter. With all its difficulties and dangers, the trade has been conducted not only with gentleness and kindness to bossie, but also with success as far as safety is concerned. It must be admitted that during the past autumn, with its unusually fearful storms, many cattle were lost. But it was also brought out that in other years with less storms to fight against, the loss was only about one in every two hundred and sixty-six. The care in loading; the treatment on board; the arrangements for their stalls; and the supply of fresh air, were all investigated with the most gratifying contradiction to Mr. Plimsoll's book; and some of the steamers were proved to have rules even for changing their course in storms to relieve the sufferings of the animals. Nevertheless all the gentlemen present appeared to admit that the dear bossies, who sometimes have baby bossies with them, should have more care and attention, and they were quite prepared to undertake the trouble and expense that might be considered necessary.

They propose to appoint an inspector who shall be bossie's friend; put in fans to supply fresh air; to pour oil on the waves when they are very angry; to see that men with kind hearts go to take care of the food; and to make the Captain of the ship the master of the men.

One thing did not come out in the investigation, which was a surprise to me; namely, the danger from fire among the rough men that are sent to mind the cattle. I myself have seen them lolling and smoking among the bundles of hay, and, though I'm fond of bossies, and like to see their long rows of heads bobbing out of their stalls in mid-ocean, I should not like the thought of being burned up by a careless smoker.

Here is Mr. Plimsoll, sketched by a young Canadian niece of his.

BYTOWN.



MR. PLIMSOLL.