

patrick finally succeeded in gaining his object, for, in 1892, the measure was taken up by the government and passed.

This brief outline of the more important incidents in the parliamentary career of Mr. Kirkpatrick gives but a faint idea of his public services during the twenty two years that he sat for Frontenac. To obtain a broader view we must recall the history of that period. It included several stormy epochs.

The year he entered parliament, 1870, the confederation of the British North American provinces was only three years old. Nations, like individuals, have the tribulations of infancy to pass through. They must learn the use of their faculties, and, in doing so, run those risks, encounter those trials, suffer from those errors and accidents which, though always painful and occasionally dangerous, are the means, wisely appointed by nature, for the development of their institutions and the strengthening of the national body, brain and nerve.

Our young Dominion was no exception to this rule. Although it was launched under the happiest auspices, with words of hope and cheers of encouragement, with a blessing from the mother-land and with the good will of its neighbors, it was not long before its trials began. The acquisition of the North-West Territories raised issues which even yet remain unsolved. The weird form of Louis Riel, with his primitively obstinate half-breeds loomed defiantly on the banks of the Red River. After the military expedition had done its work, and the authority of Canada was established in Rupert's Land, the scene of conflict was transferred to Ottawa. Then it was that the demagogues and the hot-heads made all the mischief of which they were capable. Fortunately for the country their capacity was not equal to their desires. There was mischief enough, however, and to still the troubled waters of popular wrath required wisdom, firmness and moderation.

Among the men looked to for the exercise of these qualities, and who really did exercise them with commanding success, was the young member for Frontenac. His equipoise of character and elevation above the passions of the hour were attributes which gave him a constantly widening influence, and the soundness of his judgment may be estimated by the fact that Edward Blake on many occasions sought his counsel and advice in matters of policy and legislation, although each was opposed to the other in party politics.