

Mr. Plimsoll won much renown in the Imperial parliament for his advocacy of sailors' rights, and his efforts to introduce reforms in the merchant marine of Great Britain. Less noisy, but with equal determination, Mr. Kirkpatrick urged the claims of Canadian lake sailors on the consideration of government and parliament.

At last his labors in the cause of justice to a class, who had few friends and no defenders among those who move the springs of legislation, were crowned with success.

In 1877, the Hon. Edward Blake, after consultation with Mr. Kirkpatrick, brought in the Maritime Court Act, which practically extended the Vice-Admiralty Court jurisdiction to the inland waters, and, in this way, the object Mr. Kirkpatrick had so much at heart, and so long advocated, was obtained.

In 1875, after Lord Dufferin had pardoned Riel, and Lepine, and O'Donoghue, without the advice of his ministers, Mr. Kirkpatrick laid upon the table of the House resolutions affirming that, under constitutional government, the Governor-General must act according to the "well-understood wishes" of the people, as expressed through their representatives, and that his ministers must be held responsible for his action.

The state of business and the rules of the House prevented Mr. Kirkpatrick moving these resolutions, but they had their effect. Correspondence took place between the Colonial Secretary and the government at Ottawa, which resulted in new instructions being issued to the Governor-General requiring him to take the advice of the Privy Council, or one of the ministers, before exercising the prerogative of pardoning.

The far-reaching consequences of Mr. Kirkpatrick's resolutions will be more clearly understood when we reflect that it was owing to this change in the wording of the Governor-General's instructions that Lord Dufferin's successor, the Marquis of Lorne, was compelled, much against his will, to consent to the dismissal of Lieutenant-Governor Letellier de St. Just.

During recent years Mr. Kirkpatrick interested himself in obtaining reciprocity in wrecking between the Dominion and the United States. After defeat in two sessions, he succeeded in carrying the Bill through the House of Commons, when it was defeated in the Senate. In this, however, as in the lake sailors' case, Mr. Kirk-