

a gentleman should be discredited by those who are bound to support him, who are here to support him, and who applauded his scheme, is something I am at a loss to understand.

Mr. HENDERSON. Or anybody else.

Discrediting Their Leader's Scheme.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Or anybody else. It does seem a most extraordinary thing that the leader of the opposition should propound a scheme, that it should receive the loud applause of his colleagues about him,

And That Then They Should Proceed to Discredit it.

—not in so many words, but saying in effect that his whole proposition was absurd and ridiculous. Why they should hit him in this way from the rear, I do not know. Nevertheless it is my duty and my pleasure to come to his rescue, and to show his supporters exactly what he means. If they do not understand it, surely they will permit me to read it to them, and to dwell upon some of its features. I propose to read to them his own utterances, and to explain them to those hon. gentlemen that they may the better understand the true policy of their leader, for they seem to have read but superficially either the government's scheme or that of the leader of the opposition.

Let Me Summarize the Propositions of the Leader of the Opposition.

The government's proposition appears to have commended itself to the judgment of the country, and the country is prepared to adopt it unless a better is forthcoming. The leader of the opposition has presented his alternative, and

If it is Better Than Ours, it is Our Duty Loyally to Accept it.

I am sure if we can convince the majority of this House, and if we are satisfied that public opinion is with us in the opinion that the scheme of the leader of the opposition is better than that of the government, it would be our duty promptly to accept his proposition. But let us understand it first. The confusion that seems to exist in the minds of the members of the opposition justifies a little attention to the details of that important scheme, emanating as it does from a gentleman of such gigantic constructive capacity. But remember I approach it with great deference, because, although it took us a year or thereabouts to evolve our modest proposition.

The Gentlemen Who Leads the Opposition Evolved His in Less Than Eighteen Days.

Again let me give you for careful consideration, for prayerful consideration, the details of the scheme that we are now asked to adopt.

The leader of the opposition asks us to adopt the following proposition:

1. To build a railway from Montreal to Coteau, 37 miles in length.
2. To buy the Canada Atlantic Railway from Coteau to Depot Harbour, 342 miles in length, or to build another between the same points paralleling the Canada Atlantic Railway.
3. To build a railway from Depot Harbour to Sudbury, 120 miles in length.