

was apparently opposed to our undertaking the construction of the railway, and grew wrathful at the undue haste which he said we had been guilty of. Instead of reserving judgment, he listened. I suppose, for a few days

To the Voices From Without.

and Eighteen days afterwards came down with a scheme of his own.

Opposition Leader's Change of Front.

If there is anything, Mr. Speaker, that commands my admiration it is that the hon. leader of the opposition, in a period of eighteen short days, should have been able, unaided, except perhaps by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to bring forth and submit to parliament a proposition of the gigantic character that is now engaging our attention. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) did not take long to discover the hon. gentleman's mistake. **The hon. leader of the opposition** propounded a scheme which every person who analyses it will, I think, pronounce as the late Minister of Railways and Canals of this government (Hon. Mr. Blair) described some of it, as moonshine. The thinking business public, understanding the scheme propounded by the hon. leader of the opposition, have given a very good indication that it was necessary for the opposition at an early stage to recede from the false position in which their leader had placed them. And so we have the hon. member for Bothwell to-day professing to give an interpretation of the meaning of his leader's proposition.

At One Time, Two or Three Weeks Ago.

in the estimation of the opposition, the government scheme to build a railway from old Canada to new Canada was wrong—there was to be no railway built. Eighteen days afterwards the hon. leader of the opposition said there should be

Two Transcontinental Railways.

To-day the hon. member for Bothwell says that all that the scheme of the hon. leader of the opposition means is to build a railway from the city of Montreal to Winnipeg. A little later the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche) rises and says that the scheme of the hon. leader of the opposition is even bigger than that described by the hon. member for Bothwell. It is a scheme to construct a railway, as the hon. member for Bothwell says, as far as Winnipeg; but it proposes also to do some other things. It proposes to aid the Grand Trunk Company to build a railway to the mountains, and, I suppose, a railway through the mountains to the coast. He also frankly said that it contemplated some operations in other directions. He was getting nearer to the scheme than the hon. member for Bothwell. He was rasher too, although I am afraid that his friends in the North-west, who are especially suffering for the want of railway communication, and who desire the line proposed by the government to be built, will feel that he has not quite responded to the needs of the great North-west. But inasmuch as these hon. gentlemen differ with the hon. leader of the opposition as to the meaning of his scheme I will take the liberty of going through it as I understand it, and will endeavour to make good my points, if challenged, by reference to the words of the hon. leader of the opposition himself. Probably those words will be considered as indicating to some extent his true meaning.