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SPEECH

OF THE

Hon. Sir William Mulock

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, 26th AUGUST, 1903

Comparison of Government and Opposition Scheme

RESPECTING A

Transcontinental Railway

THE POST MASTER GENERAL (Hon. Sir William Mulock) :

Mr. Speaker—There is a variety in the arguments advanced by the hon. gentlemen opposite which at least lends charm to their speeches. As was correctly stated by one of them a short time ago, each is a free lance, each can advance such views as he thinks fit, and in this connection I observe that there are as many views upon the proposal of the government, and even upon the proposal of the leader of the opposition, as there are speakers on the other side of the House. Just now we have had an interpretation from the member for Marquette (Mr. Roche) of the proposition of the leader of the opposition, which differs entirely from the interpretation put upon it by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy). The view of one gentleman did not harmonize with the view of the other, nor does the view of either harmonize with the view of the leader of the opposition. I should judge by the remarks of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Roche) that although coming from the North-west, he is not altogether favourable to the scheme proposed by the government.

I should judge also, from his observations, that he is almost equally opposed to that of the leader of the opposition. I should judge, from the opinion expressed by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) that he also is opposed to the proposition of the hon. leader of the opposition. The situation has undergone a change, Mr. Speaker, since this question was propounded in parliament on the 30th of July last by the Premier of Canada. On that occasion, after the presentation of the case, the hon. leader of the opposition arose; and, although he confessed

That he had no Knowledge of the Scheme,

and was utterly unable to understand it, he was quite able to manifest a very marked hostility to it. He spent an hour in abusing and condemning it, from time to time throughout his speech expressing his ignorance of the nature of the contract. Although the government had given many months to its consideration, the hon. leader of the opposition, in a moment, without knowing the scheme, was able to pronounce against it. Well, Sir, as time went on, I think, he learned his mistake. He said that we had manifested undue haste in preparing our scheme, when every one knows that it has engaged the attention of the government and of the country for the best part of a year. He