

confidence in him which I do not entertain myself."

The real reason as stated to the House of Commons in 1896 by Mr. Foster was correctly given by Sir Mackenzie, as being founded on the conviction that the premier had not the ability to lead a government. Sir Mackenzie described Hon. John Haggart as "an exemplary statesman." Sir Mackenzie went over the whole of the events of the celebrated crisis of Jan. 1896, including the resignations of Messrs. Oimet, Angers, and Caron in July of the previous year, but of all the resignations Sir Mackenzie appears to resent only those of Messrs. Foster and Haggart. The other five who resigned were Hibbert Tupper, W. B. Ives, A. R. Dickey, W. H. Montague and John F. Wood. Sir Mackenzie has of course made public before that his resentment included Montague.

Speaking of the return of Sir Charles Tupper to Canada from London where he was at the time High Commissioner, Sir Mackenzie threw additional light on the mysterious mission of the man who in a few months supplanted Sir Mackenzie Bowell. The ex premier said that he consulted both Mr. Foster and Mr. Haggart when Sir Charles cabled that he was coming to Canada, and that both of these men objected to his return. Sir Mackenzie affects to believe in the ostensible reason given by Sir Charles for his sudden decision to come to Canada. The ex-premier compared Mr. Haggart to the viper which the man in the fable took to his bosom and warmed into life, only to have his kindness returned by having the poisonous fangs of the reptile plunged into his bosom.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Mr. Haggart are two of the most prominent Conservative leaders in Parliament from Ontario, and this feud between them is one reason why the younger element of the party are strongly opposed to continuing any of the old leaders. That is also one reason why they have been able to agree to follow the lead of Mr. R. L. Borden, a new man, who only entered politics after the incident of the "Nest of Traitors" was closed and

after Sir Charles Tupper's government had been defeated at the polls.

In two or three important respects Sir Mackenzie Bowell, entirely confirms statements of facts made in these columns in commenting on the statements made by Mr. Haggart who said that it was with the consent of Sir Mackenzie, and the rest of them, that Sir Charles Tupper was asked to form a government. Sir Mackenzie said "I neither sent for nor did I give consent to Sir Charles forming a government at that time nor any other time." He acknowledged being a party to Sir Charles Tupper taking the leadership of the Conservative party in the House of Commons, but that was after the arrangement had been agreed to that those who had resigned should be taken back into the Cabinet and after Sir Charles Tupper had consented to enter his cabinet under his leadership as premier. Sir Mackenzie characterized certain statements of Mr. Haggart as untrue. More than that he referred to Mr. Haggart's statements in the House of Commons as a tirade of misrepresentations of the events of that day. It is, perhaps, as well that Sir William Mulock should have drawn from Mr. Haggart his version of the events, as they enter into the political history of Canada and because we have now on the highest authority, namely, of the man who was the prime minister at the time a version which every one will accept as true. He regretted that he ever consented to recommend to His Excellency the return to the cabinet of Mr. Haggart and those with whom he was associated in the plot. He declared, further, that subsequent events had convinced him that it was "a fatal political error, never to be repeated."

He cited the authority of the Hon. John Costigan, a member of the government at that time. A month or two before Mr. Foster and his friends had extolled Sir Mackenzie Bowell as able mentally and physically for the position of premier. When in the office of Mr. Foster Mr. Costigan was approached immediately after entering by Mr. Foster with the suggestion that they should get rid of Sir Mackenzie Bowell as premier. He very broad-