

however, was to accuse Mr. Foster of bad conduct as one of the "Nest of Traitors" in 1896.

This brought on the really interesting if not important part of the discussion. For the first time since the famous conspiracy of January, 1896, two of the principals publicly referred to it. Mr. Haggart warmly defended Mr. Foster's action on that occasion. He said that the explanation of that concerted action of seven members of the cabinet had never been given. That is quite true, but what purported to be an explanation was made to the two Houses at the time, and it merely shows what sham explanations are made officially to parliament. He added the significant remark that it "likely will be shortly". It's about time seeing that the incident is nearly ten years old. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, he went on, had difficulty in carrying on government. He referred in this connection to the Manitoba school difficulty. As a matter of fact that was the sole difficulty.

In July 1895 when parliament was in session three Quebec ministers resigned in order to force the government to agree to hold another session and introduce legislation to supplement the terms of the Remedial Order which the cabinet had been foolish enough, on the advice of Sir Herbert Tupper, to adopt. The rest of the government capitulated, the three ministers came back, and Mr. Foster read to the House the official statement, under which he and every other of the seven "Nest of Traitors", so called, were equally bound in good faith to pass a remedial bill at the session of 1896. That session was opened on January 2, 1896 by the Speech from the Throne which solemnly promised a remedial bill as part of the sessional programme. Parliament was then adjourned for four or five days. It subsequently transpired that the majority of the cabinet were suffering from stage fright. They had just agreed to put the promise into the mouth of His Excellency, and now they resolved, rather than carry out that pledge, to extinguish the political life of the Prime Minister under whom they were serving. The revolt—Mr. Foster objects to it being called

a conspiracy—was brought to a head in the room of Mr. Foster one famous Saturday afternoon, and after six o'clock a messenger was sent to the room of the Prime Minister upstairs in the same building carrying seven envelopes each of which contained a notification that the ministers had resigned. Sir Mackenzie was as mad as a hatter and he called in his secretary and declared that he would accept those resignations forthwith and reform his cabinet. His replies were actually written and sent to the home of each resigning minister before Sir Mackenzie would consent to go home to dinner.

Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada in London was then actually on his way home from England. He had cabled to Sir Mackenzie that he was coming in connection with the Fast Atlantic service, and so, to give regularity to an official leaving his duties the premier fearfully cabled that he might come. Mr. Haggart said he could not say how Sir Charles came to come out at this critical juncture. His idea was that he came at the request of Sir Mackenzie Bowell. Well, we have indicated how that was technically true. It was clear that he was coming permission or no permission, and our facts were obtained from the premier's own lips at the time.

"It was well known," added Mr. Haggart, "that the Conservative party was dying for want of a leader at Ottawa and it was by the consent of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, as well as the rest of us, that Sir Charles Tupper was called on to form a government." These statements are very interesting, but does Mr. Haggart think it a proper thing to connect as one incident events that happened early in January and the "consent" of two weeks afterwards? A man may "consent" to give up his purse if the alternative is a bullet through his heart. The expression which immediately became famous was used by Sir Mackenzie Bowell a week before he "consented" to recommend Sir Charles Tupper. He had a seat on the floor of the House of Commons on one of the days when Mr. Foster was "explaining" to the House what Mr. Haggart told the House on Friday had