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Sir Mackenzie Bowell's Reply.

ON Friday last there was distributed a copy of the Senate debates of March the first containing a verbatim report of the speech of Sir Mackenzie Bowell in reply to the remarks of Mr. Foster and Mr. Haggart made to the House of Commons a few weeks before, with respect to the ministerial crisis of 1896. Sir Mackenzie was reluctant to revive the memory of such an unpleasant episode but appeared to think that in justice to himself it was necessary that he should speak. He found it difficult to understand why after a lapse of 9 years Messrs. Foster and Haggart should make the statements they had. Sir Mackenzie gave the lie direct to both Messrs. Foster and Haggart. He stated that the reason given to the House of Commons by Mr. Foster for resigning was never discussed in the Privy Council before he resigned and, therefore, Mr. Foster's statement that he was prevented from giving his reason by virtue of his oath as a privy councillor, was not true. He drew attention to the fact that in the carefully-prepared written statement made to the House of

Commons at the time giving the reason for the breach there was an express declaration that there was no divergence of opinion on questions of policy, yet during the last Dominion elections Mr. Foster stated publicly that he had resigned on grounds of public policy.

Sir Mackenzie read a letter dated October 28 last written to a Conservative elector in Toronto in which he stated that the answer given by Mr. Foster to questions put to him by the electors "were absolutely untrue", as proved by the fact "that he and his fellow conspirators were to come back into the fold without any stipulation as to change of policy." The ex-premier went on to say in the letter that he humiliated himself by taking back the seven ministers who resigned, a fact well known to the public but, made interesting when put in writing by the ex-premier. The concluding paragraph of this letter reads as follows:—

"I am content to let him alone to fight his own battles but decline further to demean myself by asking my friends to put