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THE PENSION OF SIR EUGENE Fiset.

Major-General Fiset, now standing as the Liberal candidate in Rimouski, is none other than the former Deputy Minister of Militia and Vice-President of the Defence Council, who receives a pension of \$6,300 per annum from the country, the Orders-in-Council granting this pension being as follows:

"By P. C. 89-1876, September 23, 1922, Major-General Sir Eugene Fiset, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D., . . . because his health 'required treatment,' and he having been Deputy Minister since 1906, and previously an officer of the permanent force, who performed gallant and meritorious service in South Africa for which he was awarded the D.S.O., and because of 'ill-health occasioned by his onerous duties,' was granted a year's sick leave. Later another Order-in-Council extended it for six months. During that year and six months he was on full salary, which, according to Sir James Loughheed speaking in the Senate was officially \$6,000, but approximately \$10,000.

"The pension granted by the first Order-in-Council was \$5,686.19 per annum, or 80/50ths of the pay and allowance he would be receiving on the day of his retirement. Additional grants raised the pension to \$6,300. One provided for payment of \$88.81 after three years and seventeen days. The other provided \$525 to be paid after three years and 331 days, the two amounts representing unpaid pension dues which presumably in the periods mentioned would be recovered by General Fiset, and which the Government purposed continuing."

Under these circumstances the question arises whether General Fiset should not resign the pension granted him when he retired on the score of ill-health, since his health is evidently so far recovered that he is able to stand the fatigues of an election campaign and fulfil his duties in Parliament. Furthermore if the General sits in Parliament and retains his pension he will then be drawing from the country \$10,000 per annum, the same amount that he formerly received as Deputy Minister and Vice-President of the Defence Council.

We are of the opinion that a servant of the Crown who receives a pension on retirement, and later assumes public office with a salary attached to it, should by all means give up his pension and the more so when the unsatisfactory state of the national finances are taken into consideration. A precedent has been set for this by some of the British ex-Ministers, who voluntarily surrendered their pensions in order to lighten the burdens of the country.

The issue is moderately but plainly defined by the Toronto Mail and Empire when it says:

"General Fiset has no political opponents who would not be glad to learn that he has come back. In office he was well liked and was considered very capable. So far, though some remarks of his as a possible candidate have been published, we have not heard that he has made any announcement to the effect that he has asked his pension to be stopped. If he considers himself fit enough to earn the sessional indemnity of \$4,000, he must feel that he has thrown off such physical incapacity as his \$6,000 a year pension was meant to be set against. The Liberal voters of Rimouski would surely be more enthusiastic for him if they could welcome him as a champion who had cut loose from a pension of \$6,000 a year in order to represent them in the House of Commons."

180

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