

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): In what way?

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Further than that, I was forced to retire from the service in 1922. I did not go voluntarily; I was compelled to retire after undergoing a surgical operation of the most serious character—a fact which the hon. member for East Hamilton could easily have vouched for. I was forced to take my pension and go and live in the country. For a year, Sir, I was there on sick leave, having hemorrhages every fifteen days, and suffering to such an extent that in April, 1923, I had to go under the knife for the second time. During that period I applied to the government to extend my leave of absence, and the only answer I received when I was on the hospital bed was that my successor had been appointed. Therefore, Sir, the pension I am drawing was awarded because I was not in a fit state of health to perform my duties.

There is another point that has been forgotten, and it is this: no man in this country has paid as much for the pension he is enjoying as I have paid. Towards that pension I contributed five per cent of my salary during a period of thirty years of service. There is not a judge in the country, there is not a brother officer of the permanent corps, who has made contributions to the pension fund to the same extent. I paid that five per cent not only on my full salary as deputy minister, but also on my salary as vice president of the militia council.

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, for taking the time of the House to make these remarks but I consider that no hon. member has a right to make such glaring statements as those which have been made with respect to me tonight. I only wish I could characterize that conduct in language that is parliamentary. The reason for my speaking the second time is that I wanted to offer a defence, to the best of my ability in respect to the insinuations directed to-night against those men who were compelled to remain at headquarters here during the whole duration of the war and who performed loyally, and to the best of their ability, as I have done myself, Sir, their duty to their common country and to the empire.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whether I have the right to rise to a question of privilege. I merely want to assure the hon. gentleman that I cast no imputation on his loyalty or on his courage in any degree—none whatever. I say now, as I said before, that the hon. member is drawing a pension which has been given to him and

[Sir Eugene Fiset.]

to others. I also say that viewing the matter of pensions as I do I only wish I had the power to wipe the system off the statute books and prevent him and many others from receiving them.

On motion of Mr. Hanson the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Robb the House adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

### Monday, March 29, 1926

The House met at three o'clock.

#### TARIFF ADVISORY BOARD— PERSONNEL

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask if the tariff commission, or whatever it is called now, has yet been appointed, or if the government has changed its mind?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The tariff advisory board is what I presume my hon. friend has reference to. The order in council appointing the board has not yet been passed. I hope that will be done in the course of a day or so.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Has the government reconsidered the personnel at all or does it intend to appoint those gentlemen named last week?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The government still has the personnel under consideration.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In reference to the statement of the Prime Minister, I desire to ask another question, and before doing so to quote his words in an answer given on 25th March, as follows:

The Right Hon. Mr. Graham will, as I have said, be chairman and the other two members will be Mr. Joseph Daoust, ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce of Montreal, and Mr. Donald Gordon McKenzie from Brandon.

In the face of this statement, does the Prime Minister still persist that the personnel is under consideration?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my right hon. friend will look at the concluding words of the statement I made and from which he has just quoted he will observe that I said that I hoped to be able "on Monday" to lay a copy of the order in council on the table