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THINKS PENSION BAR TO FISET'S CANDIDATURE

Statement on Conscription Issue
Also Rouses Critics

OUTSPOKEN COMMENT

If Too Old for Office, Too Old
for Commons, Say
Opponents

Special to The Gazette.

Ottawa, July 30.—The possibility of Major-General Sir Eugene Fiset being nominated by a Liberal convention for the Rimouski seat in the House of Commons, rendered vacant through the resignation of Emmanuel d'Anjou, has provoked much criticism in certain circles in the Capital.

The criticism is based on two grounds. First, the propriety of a gentleman in receipt of a pension of \$6,000 per annum from the people of Canada—which pension being granted on the understanding that General Fiset was either too old or incapacitated for work in the Militia Department—now seeking the votes of the people to be returned to Parliament at another \$4,000 per annum.

General Fiset is 50 years of age and it is understood he retired a little over a year ago and received a pension of \$6,000 a year on account of poor health. Criticism is therefore levelled at him for desiring to return to Parliament with an increase to his income from the country of \$4,000 per annum.

His critics state that if he is not too old to hold a seat in the House of Commons, which entails a certain amount of work, he should therefore not be too old for the position of deputy minister in the Militia Department, which he previously held.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

An Ottawa morning paper, dealing with the subject editorially, has the following to say today: "But we are brought back again to the \$6,000 superannuation that presumably a grateful country pays General Fiset for having lived to be 49 years old in its service. We suppose, according to the generally accepted theory in these parts about individual transactions with the Government, it is all right if he can get away with it. There will be those quite ready to condone with General Fiset, even congratulate him on his business acumen, but for ourselves we have a suspicion that the thing is not right and that something should be done about it—that civil servants who resign to private life with large superannuation allowances should be made to stay out."

CONSCRIPTION ISSUE.

The second criticism made of General Fiset's possible nomination is the statement made to a delegation last Sunday that while Deputy Minister of Militia he had never approved conscription and that he had taken all possible means of obtaining exemption from compulsory service for theological students.

Such a statement by one who was for many years vice-president of Canada's Defence Council all through the war is considered here to be in rather doubtful taste.

While vice-president of the Defence Council, he was, it is pointed out, among the most energetic in carrying out conscription proposals, and if he then disapproved of them he gave no evidence of it. He could have resigned his position as a protest and could have secured a good pension at that time.

It is felt here in political circles that General Fiset for the good of his own military and political reputation should have taken a different course in replying to the delegation on the matter of conscription.

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