

February
Twentieth
1923.

Major-General J. H. MacBrien, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Militia Headquarters,
Ottawa.

My dear MacB.:-

I learn from Victoria that Lieutenant
R.V.C. Bessonette, R.C.E., is being retired on the
30th of June next.

The Department has probably good and
sufficient reasons for this action, though it does not
follow the lines which would pertain in a business
organization. Bessonette is only 46 years of age. I
have known him for many years. He is a particularly
high type of man, although he served in the ranks of
the Royal Engineers. He is well educated, capable,
honourable, loyal and efficient. It seems to me that
such a man ought to be of value to the service for
another ten years. As he holds only Lieutenant's rank
the cost of his retention is very much less than the
ordinary officer at 46 years of age, though I do not
mean to say that his military education is on a par with
that of the ordinary officer of his age.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,