



CANADA

H.Q. C.1-17-103.

Department of National Defence

Ottawa, Canada,

10th March, 1923.

My dear Sir Arthur,-

I have yours of the 20th February last regarding Lieutenant R.V.C. Bessonette, R.C.E., and have had his case investigated.

I find that this officer's experience in the ranks was that of an Engineer Clerk, and that he has all the good points you mention, but that his age, the fact that he is not a qualified Engineer and the improbability of his ever being promoted render it advisable in the interests of the Service that he should be retired and replaced by, if possible, an R.M.C. graduate who would be properly equipped, in so far as education and age are concerned, for the rank.

We have two other men such as Bessonette in the Corps, and it is proposed to retire all three for the above reasons. One of them, in fact, has a better claim to remain on than Bessonette, as he was a foreman of works, but I think you will agree with me that young subalterns from the R.M.C., who have the necessary education, would be preferable to these old soldiers, however worthy.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

General Sir Arthur Currie, GCMG., KCB., Etc.,
Principal, McGill University,
MONTREAL, P.Q.