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THE CASE OF SIR EUGENE FISER.

A correspondent questions whether THE JOURNAL was correct in stating that Major-General Sir EUGENE FISER, former Deputy Minister of Militia, is receiving a pension of \$6,000 per annum. Investigation shows that the correct figure is \$6,300 per annum.

THE JOURNAL reporter who looked up the orders-in-council makes the following memorandum:

By P. C. 89-1976, September 22, 1922, Major-General Sir EUGENE FISER, 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 LOUGHEED 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 30/50ths 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 351 days the two amounts representing unpaid pension dues which presumably in the periods mentioned would be recovered by General Fiser, and which the Government purposed continuing.

The correspondent further reminds us that Hon. Mr. DOHERTY while Minister of Justice continuously drew a judge's pension of \$4,000, and he suggests that the Conservatives in Parliament can have no kick if General Fiser follows the example then set.

THE JOURNAL in its previous comments on the fact that there was a possibility of General FISER being the Liberal candidate in Rimouski admitted that there were precedents. The political aspect of the thing did not concern us. Whether a man is a Conservative or a Liberal, we considered open to discussion the policy of permitting retired public servants enjoying large pensions, presumably because they were physically unfit for further work, sitting in Parliament and drawing a sessional indemnity of \$4,000. Formerly when the indemnity was small what appears to be an anomaly was not so apparent.

If General FISER sits in Parliament and does the work of a member, he will be receiving \$10,000 the same as the country paid him as Deputy Minister, and Vice-president of the Defence Council. Perhaps he will be worth it, for, as we said the other day, he has many qualifications, but it is an interesting question just the same.

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