

**CONSERVATIVES  
ARE EXPECTANT  
IN RIMOUSKI**

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**Belief Spreads That Choice of  
Sir Eugene Fiset Was a  
Blunder**

**TALK OF NEW CANDIDATE**

**Liberals Are Worried and  
Willing to Adopt a Farm-  
er Nominee if One Can  
be Found**

(Special to The Gazette.)

Rimouski, Que., August 4.—To what extent the Liberal party has retained its popularity even in the rural districts of this province since the general elections of 1921 is to be tested in this county, judging by the activity in both camps, and never since 1911 have the hopes of the Conservative leaders run so high.

The belief that the choice of Sir Eugene Fiset, a state pensioner and a former deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, has been a blunder is spreading so much, especially in the rural section of the county, that talk of retirement of the Liberal choice at the convention is heard. Rimouski has returned Conservatives in the past on several occasions, even in the days of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Today the situation is such that the best arm used by the Liberals, the conscription talk, will have to be carefully avoided in view of the character of the Liberal candidate in the field.

Liberals fully realize what a defeat for the Government in a county like Rimouski would mean regarding the solidity of the Quebec bloc, but there has been so much dissatisfaction due to unfulfilled promises that they are worried, and if Sir Eugene Fiset has to be sacrificed to a farmer candidate, the change will be made. This would perhaps not mean, however, the retirement of Sir Eugene, whose stronghold is the town of Rimouski, where he has always kept a home even when he resided in Ottawa, and a clash would occur between the rural and town sections of the county.

Opponents of the convention choice are finding the same argument against him as has been used by Liberals in the last seven years by their leaders to attack the Meighen supporters.

Charges that the former deputy Minister of Militia is not only a militarist but an Imperialist are the common topic of the conversation at meeting points, and yesterday preliminary meetings held at St. Fabien by the Liberal candidate brought him no enthusiastic reception.

Conservatives, who have called their convention for Thursday and who will choose between Hon. L. G. Belley, former Postmaster-General in the Meighen Government, and Mr. Paul Emile Gagnon, a local attorney, are expectant. For the first time in years they contend that they have been offered an opportunity of discussing political questions without appeal to the prejudices being possible on the Liberal side. There has been a reaction through the province in regard to Mr. Meighen, and the fall and winter tour of the Conservative leader, which has given him the occasion of showing that he had learned the language of the majority of the province by talking to them in their own language, has been very favorably commented upon.

Rimouski is the county next to Temiscouata, where Jules Langlais, a Conservative, was returned to the Provincial House last year.

Conservatives intend to make a big fight and Mr. Meighen is expected to show up in the county. On the Liberal side Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, will start touring the county next week, and much is expected from his personal appearance with General Fiset, as at least his attitude regarding conscription is beyond suspicion.

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