LeBlanc Thanks Citizens for Aid in Celebrations

Says Acadians from Canada Appreciated Courtesies Extended Them

April 30, 1931

Public Service Commissioner Dudley J. LeBlanc, president of the Association of Louisiana Acadians, upon his return from New Orleans where he led an auto trip to the 13th Acadians from the Maritime provinces of Canada who visited Louisiana and the Land of Evangeline, and witnessed the unveiling ceremony of Evangeline’s Statue at St. Martinville on Sunday, April 19, expressed his deepest appreciation for the cooperation extended him by the citizens of the city of Lafayette and other cities during the pilgrimage.

"Oy my return to Lafayette I could not attempt to do anything until I had publicly thanked the people of this city for the wonderful receptions given to our visiting Acadians," Mr. LeBlanc stated.

"It has been conservatively estimated that these distinguished guests traveled approximately one hundred miles and saw three hundred thousand people. The receptions in every community exceeded our fondest expectations. The manifestation of interest and enthusiasm by the citizens of Louisiana was appreciated by the visitors and myself and was heralded in the press throughout the entire country. Cablegrams received recently state that every newspaper of France was carrying the story.

"Louisiana received more publicity from this event than anything that has ever occurred in the history of this glorious State. The editors of the French newspapers of Canada were unanimous in their praise of the people of Louisiana and said that the favorable publicity given Louisiana by this tour could not be purchased for one million dollars. There were thirty-eight Priests and Bishop in the delegation. These Priests are.

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