LOUISIANA ACADIANS ARE WELCOMED HOME AS NOVA SCOTIA PILGRIMAGE ENDS

Hundreds of persons from this city and several cities in Southwest Louisiana, greeted members of the Louisiana Acadian delegation on their return to this city Friday afternoon from their pilgrimage to Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, where the party attended the celebrations at Grand Pre in observance of the 175th Anniversary of the expulsion of the Acadians.

Relatives, friends, city officials, and tourists, joined in giving the group a warm welcome as they left their special car at the Southern Pacific station here to join in a special program prepared by local organizations under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce. A platform had been erected in the Southern Pacific Park near the station, and amplifiers were provided by the Dixie Electric Company of this city.

President P. J. Voorhies of the Chamber of Commerce presided at the reception, opening the program with the reading of a number of telegrams from state officials greeting the Louisiana delegation back to the state. A telegram from the Jeff Davis Parish Fair extended an invitation to Commissioner Dudley J. LeBlanc to make an address at the special day set aside during the fair which will be designated as Evangeline Day.

The Louisiana delegation was welcomed by Right Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette; George Lessley, City Attorney, officially representing Mayor St. Julien; City Judge Arthur Provost of New Iberia; and President P. J. Voorhies of the Chamber of Commerce. The speakers pointed out the importance of the first official pilgrimage to Nova Scotia from Louisiana, from an advertising standpoint, stating that the Louisiana Acadian Special was perhaps the greatest advertising gesture ever undertaken by the state.

Public Service Commissioner Dudley J. LeBlanc, who is also president of the Association of Louisiana Acadians, and who headed the party to Grand Pre, responded to the addresses of welcome. He told of the party's trip and of the many receptions tendered by cities included in their itinerary and also of the many invitations extended to the group to visit other cities on their next pilgrimage. The reception tendered by President Hoover and Mrs. Hoover at the White House in honor of the Louisiana delegation was a distinct honor, Mr. LeBlanc stated. He displayed a large picture of the Louisiana delegation taken with President Hoover and Mrs. Hoover on the White House lawn. Mr. LeBlanc gave a brief but vivid account of the celebrations at Grand Pre in observance of the 175th Anniversary of the expulsion of the Acadians and told of the prominent part taken by the Louisiana girls dressed in their Evangeline costumes. Members of the group were introduced by Mr. LeBlanc as he concluded his address. Tribute for the success of the pilgrimage was paid by Mr. LeBlanc to the following: Edward LaSalle of New Iberia; Bennett J. Voorhies of Lafayette; J. Maxime Roy, also of Lafayette; Rev. F. Chiasson of Mamou; Rev. J. Mirat of Duson; Rev. J. LeChapelle of Leorneville; and Rev. L. Castelle of Delcambre.

Commissioner LeBlanc exhibited a gold medal presented by the French Consul at Montreal, which will be awarded to the boy or girl writing the best French essay on the "Exile of the Acadians." Second place winner will be awarded a bronze medal from the French Consul. A gold-headed ebony cane, presented by members of the delegation at a reception at the Desoto Hotel at New Orleans, was also exhibited with pride by Mr. LeBlanc.

During the program Miss Ada Moss of this city sang "Evangeline," the theme song for the picture "Evangeline." Mrs. Harvey Hopkins, also of this city, led the crowd in the singing of a patriotic song, at the opening of the program.