PILGRIMAGE TO GRAND PRE IS PLANNED

175th Anniversary Of Expulsion of Acadians to Be Observed

Party From This Section Planned

Louisiana Acadian Descendants Specially Urged to Go to Nova Scotia

Several Acadian descendants and other persons interested in the preservation of the history of the Acadians, discussed plans at a meeting here for a pilgrimage to the land of Evangeline, in September this year, to commemorate the 176th anniversary of the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia.

A meeting was held in the office of Public Service Commissioner Dudley J. LeBlanc, and was attended by representatives from several cities of Southwest Louisiana. All talks including the introductions by F. V. Mouton, Secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce, chairman for the occasion, were made in French, said to be the same as spoken by the Acadians.

F. G. J. Comeaux, of Halifax, general freight and passenger agent for the Dominion Atlantic Railway, the principal speaker at the meeting, explained the purpose of the pilgrimage, and outlined the itinerary planned for the trip to Grand Pre. The trip will be made in Pullman cars, and points of interest to be visited include New York, Yarmouth, Digby, Grand Pre, Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, and several other points in Canada and the United States. From 5,000 to 10,000 persons are expected to be at Grand Pre for the occasion, and delegates from England, France, and the United States will be present. Officials in charge of the celebrations have been assured by the French government that a French battleship would be sent to Halifax with a regimental band.

Exiled Acadians from Southwest Louisiana, representing the same group that came here with Evangeline, are expected to visit Grand Pre, the home of Evangeline, for the event. Mr. Comeaux stated: "The principal celebrations," Mr. Comeaux said, "will be held in the Grand Pre Park which occupies fourteen arpents on which was formerly located the church in which the Acadians assembled before leaving their homes. In this park are several monuments, including the Acadian Memorial, a replica of St. Charles Church, the historic farm, Evangeline's well, Evangeline statue, Stone cross marking the cemetery of the Acadians, and other interesting objects."

Reverend Father Chiasson of Mamou, a native of Nova Scotia, in his few remarks stated that he had been in this section since 1921 and had found that the people spoke the same French characteristic of the different localities in Nova Scotia, and possessed the same characteristics. Reverend Chiasson stated that he would make the trip and will act as guide with Mr. Comeaux for the Louisiana delegation.

Public Service Commissioner Dudley J. LeBlanc urged those present to disseminate the news of the pilgrimage to Nova Scotia, and stated that a trip to the Land of Evangeline would never be regretted. He suggested that five or six girls, dressed in Evangeline costume, be taken on the trip. It will be remembered that Mr. LeBlanc last year visited in Nova Scotia on a party with several other persons from this city.

Among those who attended the meeting were: Reverend Mirat of Duson, state chaplain of the American Legion; Reverend Chiasson of Mamou; Dr. P. A. LeBourgeois, A. J. Mommus, Edw. LaSalle and Henry Galois of New Iberia; Pierre Landry of Broussard; Oswald Angel of St. Martin Parish; James Gremillion, district attorney; F. Fontenot, Clerk of Court of Evangeline Parish; Ben Voorhies, Alfred Mouton, F. V. Mouton, C. C. Lomb, Ben Dugas, and Louis Ralph Bienvenu of Lafayette.