THOUSANDS OF ACADIANS
TAKE PART IN CEREMONY
AT GRANDPRE, NOVA SCOTIA

Aug. 28, 1930

"If there be any enmity let us bury it to-day under the shadow of the cross."

Thus, Hon. T. A. LeBlanc of the supreme court of New Brunswick sounded the keynote of the great commemoration which took place at Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, August 29, when Acadians from far and near gathered in "the heart of the Acadian land" to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the deportation of the Acadians and the inauguration of the historical museum at Grand Pre.

It was an impressive gathering with 5000 to 6000 persons present, including substantial delegations of Acadians from New Brunswick and Quebec as well as the already well known Louisiana delegation.

**Louisiana Girls Noted**

The 50 Louisiana Acadian girls formed the most impressive part of the huge audience. During nearly two centuries the descendants of the expelled Acadians who settled in Louisiana have maintained the traditions which bound them to the land of Evangeline in Nova Scotia and as a living proof of these traditions they sent the delegation of 50 lasses in commemoration of Evangeline.

Apart from being a rally of Acadians the gathering also was representative of the various countries which were directly or indirectly connected with the tragedy of the expulsion.

The United States was represented by Dudley J. LeBlanc of Lafayette, La., representing the Acadian group in the United States, and John C. Chase, deputy governor of Massachusetts and president of the New England Historic Genealogical Society of Boston.

**French Marines There**

Great Britain was represented by His Honor, Lieut.-Governor J. T. Tory, of Nova Scotia, who represented the governor-general of Canada and the British crown.

From France there were a number of French marines headed by Hon. Henri Scoursier, charge d'affaires at the French legation at Ottawa; Captain J. B. de Maisonneuve, commandant of the French training ship Aldebaran which is in Nova Scotia waters, and A. S. Lanfranchi, French consul at Halifax.

The Acadians proceeded to the little graveyard in the park to say mass for their forefathers. Mass was said by the Rev. Father F. A. Bourgeois, chaplain of the penitentiary at Dorchester, N. B. He was assisted by the Rev. Father Landry of Sydney and the Father la Chapelle of Louisiana, while the Rev. Father R. Boudreaux was master of ceremonies.

**Girls Are Introduced**

Dudley J. LeBlanc introduced each of the Louisiana girls, telling whether she was genuine Acadian by both mother and father or only by father or mother. Mr. LeBlanc then spoke. He had travelled 3000 miles to be able to say a few words upon the land made sacred and holy by his ancestors, he said. It was a pleasure, honor and distinction to address this great audience, he added, and the deportation was not made in vain.

"The Acadians from Louisiana are at Grand Pre due to the call of instinct born with them," he continued. "They are proud to be with their kinsmen in Nova Scotia."

He was followed by Gordon Brunson, mayor of Crowley, La., who as an American citizen assured the audience that the spirit of animosity was a matter of yesterday.

**New Englander Talks**

Deputy Governor Chase of Massachusetts expressed the appreciation of the society he represents for being invited. The society is celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and historical pageants will form an important part in the celebration. In referring to this occasion he expressed the hope that nothing would take place in the future to sever these harmonious anniversaries.

Henri Gofuen, Leominster, Mass., spoke for the Acadians of New England. He quoted and applied Shakespeare's words: "To thine own self be true."

Telegrams and letters of regret from those who could not be present were read by the chairman, among them being messages from Sir Robert L. Borden, and Frank G. Allan, governor of Massachusetts.

The delegation left by special train for Halifax, where a program was held before departure of the delegations for their homes.

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