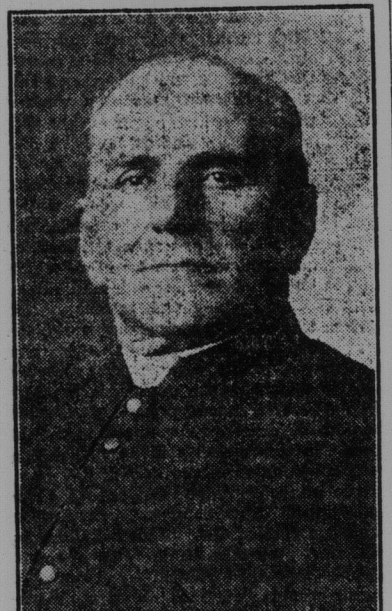


## ACADIANS IN GREAT ANNUAL GATHERING

### Thousands at Caraquet for First Day of Convention

Great Assemblage at Mass on Campus of Eudist Fathers' College—Speeches in Afternoon by Dr. Comeau, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Richard, Senator Poirier and Judge Landry.

Caraquet, N. B., Aug. 15.—(Special.)—Caraquet is joyous and in gala attire to-day because we have here the annual gathering of the Acadian brethren from various parts of New Brunswick, from all parts of Canada and from the United



Right Rev. Mgr. Marcelus F. Richard, Domestic Prelate to His Holiness Pope Pius X.

States. Excursion trains have been bringing them back to us for a welcome hand shake and a talk over other days and to gather and discuss matters of importance. The first day of the convention is a decided success and tomorrow promises to be even better.

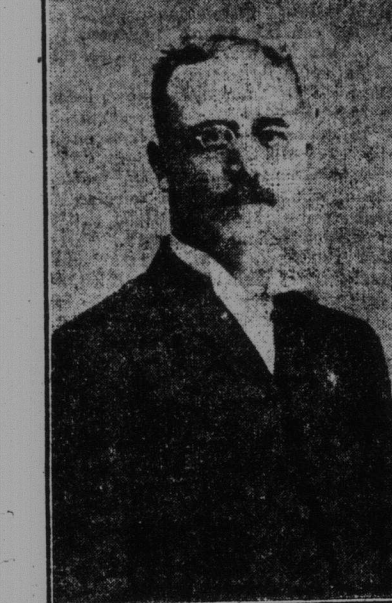
The first excursion train to the Acadian convention arrived here this morning at 9.15 bringing about 200 people from the lower part of the maritime provinces. There is fine but windy weather.

Delegates and visitors immediately proceeded to the Sacred Heart College kept by the Eudist Fathers, at the rear of the college on the campus. A large altar had been constructed for the occasion, and in the presence of about 6000 people mass was sung. Mgr. Richard acting as celebrant and Rev. Fathers A. D. Cormier and P. P. Arsenault respectively as deacon and subdeacon.

After the Gospel, Father Lebeaud, president of the Caraquet College, wished all a hearty welcome and thanked the delegates for having chosen Caraquet as the place where they would hold their fifth congress.

After communion Rev. Father J. R. Doucet preached a very able and eloquent sermon.

P. J. Veniot, collector of customs at Balthurst, has done much for the success



P. J. Veniot, Secretary of Transportation Committee for the Convention.

of the gathering. He is the secretary of the transportation committee of the Acadian convention and as such had a very heavy task in completing all the arrangements with the railway and steamboat companies but has done it well.

Mr. Veniot has also been chosen by the executive committee to treat the question of the French language in the primary schools of the maritime provinces. This consideration the most important question before the convention, and it is the first time that it has been publicly discussed in the province.

At 2 o'clock in the presence of an immense crowd which had assembled on the campus of the Sacred Heart College, Dr. Comeau made the opening address. Reviewing the work done since the last meeting, held at Arichat five years ago, he said he was glad to see that the Acadians were gaining ground in the hierarchy of the Catholic church and he was also glad to note the patriotism and the Acadian people.

Speaking on agriculture, he said that Acadians must pay much attention to in order to develop more fully their prospects. "I am glad," Dr. Comeau remarked, "to notice that the French has been practically adopted in the public schools."

The secretary read several letters of regret, among which were those from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Chas. D. Herbert, U. Johnston, M. P., and Judge Blanchard.

Mgr. Richard made a very able speech. He thanked the committee for bestowing on him the honor of addressing so large an audience and for making mention of the new dignity conferred on him. Mgr.

Richard, speaking on colonization, said that although strictly speaking we could do away with the judges and lawyers of today, we could not do likewise with the farmers, hence a most strong reason why the farming class should be better protected by the government than it is at present.

Moreover if the farmer be not more protected he, too, will soon strike and then his real value and worth would come to light in an altogether too forcible manner. Mother Earth belongs to all and when the government gives a large grant of it to the rich man it necessarily deprives the poor man of his right. In terminating the monsignor made an eloquent appeal to the loyalty all Acadians should have towards the British flag, which floats to-day so peacefully in union with the French tricolor. "Be true, be temperate," added Father Richard, "in your religious convictions."

Senator Poirier, although somewhat husky in tone, was most attentively listened to. He was glad to note that the Acadians were commencing to occupy a place in the Catholic hierarchy. Judge Landry, who was the next orator of the day, compared very favorably the progress of the Acadian race with that of other nationalities, declaring that comparatively they had advanced more rapidly on the road of progress during the last fifteen years than any other people. This has been occasioned, he said, by the necessity of the times. During the last two new colleges have been built, namely, that at Caraquet and that at Church Point. Moreover several convents and other houses of superior education have been erected.

All the speeches were well received. The principal personages attending at the convention are Mgr. Richard, Senator Poirier, Judge Landry, O. J. LeBlanc,

and briefly expressed the pleasure he felt in returning to his native land and assisting to the most successful convention yet held.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and F. O. Monk left at 11:30 on the steamer "La Canadienne" for home.

Inspector Rochon was the first speaker in the afternoon. He was glad to note the amount of good work being done and he had come to contribute his part of it. Mr. Rochon said that the committee of education was the most important one, as it was the only one which could perform the end it had in view—that of securing a French education to Acadians, and that he returned home happy to know of the good work being done by the same committee.

P. J. Veniot, the next speaker, thanked Mr. Rochon for his aid. He declared himself to be an extremist on education, in which too much was being asked enough was generally received. He deplored the fact that he himself, like many others, was a victim of the school law of 1894, being obliged to come to Gloucester to learn his mother tongue.

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That the government would render access to the lands more easy this would tend to keep the young men and women at home.

"We have the country and the material," said Father Bellevue. "Let the government assist us in employing them at a double advantage. No constitution," he continued, "can compare with that which governs us. We enjoy liberty and religion, liberty and the British flag which floats over our head today assures us of peace and happiness."

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## CEDING OF SAKHALIN BONE OF CONTENTION

### Discussion Postponed by Envoys to Avoid Rupture

### Russian Stand About Giving Up Territory Causes Japs to Postpone Subject for Final Struggle—Witte Agrees to Surrender of All Claims on Port Arthur and Lio Tung Peninsula.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 15.—The crisis in the peace negotiations upon which the eyes of the world are fastened is approaching rapidly and the end of the week or the first of next, at the latest, should witness the deadlock and the end of the conference is to go to pieces.

Two more of the twelve articles, numbers 4 to 6, were disposed of today. Article four consists of mutual pledges to observe the integrity of China and the policy of the "open door" for the commerce of all nations and article six covers the surrender of the Russian leases to the Liao Tung peninsula, Port Arthur, Dalny and the Blomde and Elliott islands.

To article four both parties gave ready assent, and the official statement of the adoption of that article took care to state that it was agreed to "unanimously."

Article five, the consideration of which was postponed until later, provides for the cessation of the island of Sakhalin. Discussion appearing useless at this stage on the account of the firm negative given in the Russian reply it was decided upon the motion of the Japanese to defer its discussion, thus revealing the Japanese intention of postponing until later, the life and death struggle.

This is the usual procedure followed in diplomatic negotiations, enabling the negotiators to come to an agreement upon all possible points before tackling the crucial issues and the fact that the Russians acquiesced in the proposition shows that they too are as careful and anxious as are the Japanese that the world should not accuse them of being responsible for precipitating the break.

break there is to be, and wrecking the conference. This in itself is a hopeful sign. Besides, by postponing the burning questions for bargain and compromise arrives. Then hurriedly the last trump cards are played.

To the closest observers the final solution begins to crystallize quite naturally—the Russians yielding the cession of Sakhalin for the Japanese "forgoing" the cost of the war; but taking compensation in the money to be refunded to Japan by China on account of the transfer to her of the Chinese Eastern Railway which Russia contends belongs to a private corporation, therefore unseizable by Japan, the Russian government.

thurs and Dalny and remuneration for the maintenance of the 100,000 Russian prisoners in Japan.

Japan Has Secured Much Already

According to the Russian view, Japan has already secured all and more than she dreamed of claiming before the war. To insist upon a foe who has still half a million men confronting her in the field, the price of peace would, the Russians say, change the character of the military struggle henceforth from one for certain principles to one for the exaction of "blood money."

All questions relating to Korea and Manchuria except the cession of the Chinese Eastern Railway and the main Siberian line running through northern Manchuria from the station "Manchuria" on the Amur via Harbin to Vladivostok are settled in the five articles already adopted. Some confusion has arisen about these articles and the following resume can be accepted as absolutely accurate:

One—Recognition of Japan's "preponderant influence" in Korea, etc.

Two—Mutual obligation to evacuate Manchuria. Russia to evacuate China all special privileges, etc.

Three—Japanese obligation to restore the sovereignty and administration of China in Manchuria.

Four—Mutual obligations to respect the territorial and administrative integrity of China and the principle of the "open door."

Six—The surrender of the Russian lease to the Liao Tung peninsula including Port Arthur, Dalny and the Blomde and Elliott islands.

The remaining seven articles are: (They are not in numerical order)

Reimbursement of the cost of the war. Restoration to China of the Chinese Eastern Railway.

The article relating to that portion of the main line of the Siberian railway running through northern Manchuria, which is to be placed in the hands of China and not by Russia.

Fishing rights on the Siberian coast north of Vladivostok to the Bering Sea. The article effecting Russia's naval power in the Far East and that providing for the surrender of the Russian warships to the Japanese.

Besides indemnity and Sakhalin Mr. Witte will strenuously oppose the surrender of the interned warships, the limitation upon Russia's naval power and the cession of the Chinese Eastern R. R. to China.

The article relating to the Chinese Eastern R. R. is No. 7 and comes up at the session tomorrow morning. The Russians are prepared with documentary evidence to show that the article is a private corporation owned by the Russo-Chinese bank, Mr. Pokotiloff, one of the Russian delegates, was manager of the bank in St. Petersburg until a few months ago when he was sent to Pekin as minister upon the death of Mr. Lesar. Mr. Berg, the attorney of the bank, is also in the fight upon this article. It is rare to prove extremely interesting and possibly prolonged as Russia will contest Japan's contention that the Russian government is the real