

Impressive Military Ceremony.

Colors of N. F. Fencible Regiment Deposited in Museum—Prime Minister Accepts Flags For Colony—His Excellency The Governor Makes Interesting Address.

An impressive ceremony took place yesterday afternoon when two flags of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were deposited in the Museum under the supervision of the Agricultural and Mines Department. Elaborate preparations for the ceremony had been made by the Newfoundland Historical Society, and all sections of the community were invited to attend. A guard of honour composed of the C.B. Cadets, the Catholic Corps and the Newfoundland Rangers were also in attendance. His Excellency arrived at 2 p.m. and after a few minutes to 3 o'clock a Royal Salute was sounded by the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Entering the building, His Excellency was met by the President and members of the Historical Society, who escorted him to the upper flat where the chamber and after the chamber had been sounded his Excellency signed the Visitors' Book. The mounted on their staffs, were then placed on a pillar in the centre of the room, and near which a hoist was formed on two sides of the room. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the C.B. Cadets, the Catholic Corps and the Newfoundland Rangers buglers and Boy Scouts were present. His Excellency was then escorted to the square and on taking place a bugler played a bar of the National Anthem, various detachments of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the C.B. Cadets, the Catholic Corps and the Newfoundland Rangers were present. His Excellency was then escorted to the square and on taking place a bugler played a bar of the National Anthem, various detachments of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the C.B. Cadets, the Catholic Corps and the Newfoundland Rangers were present.

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a reply from Bristol, but will send a reminder and will keep you informed as to how things proceed from time to time.

Meanwhile I shall be glad to have your views on the above matter with kind regards.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) EDGAR R. BOWRING,
High Commissioner for Nfld.
H. F. Shortis, Esq.,
Sec. Historical Society,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

(Enclosure.)
St. Brélade Rectory, Jersey,
January 22nd, 1920.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 11th ult. has been transmitted to me by the Dean of Jersey.

The statement on behalf of the "Historical Society of Newfoundland" that two banners, formerly belonging to the "Regiment of Newfoundland Fencibles" are hanging in our Parish Church is quite accurate. At the request of the late General Phipps, C.B., to whom they had come as heirloom, they were placed there in the year 1882. In our ecclesiastical archives I find the following entry: "On the 14th September, 1882, the Flags of the Newfoundland Fencible Regiment, formerly commanded by Major Elias Phipps, were placed in the hands of the Rector and Churchwardens of the Parish of St. Brélade by Major General P. G. Phipps, C.B., R. Artillery, nephew of the said Major Elias Phipps, to remain in their custody and in that of their successors in the said Parish."

(Note by Major General Phipps follows: "I have been trying to get some account of these Colors, but have failed. All I know is that the colors are those of the 'N.F.R.' which was disbanded or converted into the 'Newfoundland Companies' in the early part of this century. My uncle Major Phipps, was in command at the time and the colors evidently became his property.")

I submitted your letter to a meeting of our parochial ecclesiastical authorities last week, and also interviewed the daughters of the late General Phipps. Both parties agree that while they would offer no objection to the return of the banners to the Government of Newfoundland, they hesitate to give a final decision until they have ascertained the status of the "Historical Society."

Is there any possibility, however remote, of that body ceasing to exist and of the banners eventually being neglected or lost?

Before the removal of the banners from our church could be effected, a faculty, incurring some expense, would have to be obtained from our local Ecclesiastical Court, and our authorities also suggest that a brass plate, indicating the reason of the return of the banners to Newfoundland should be placed in the Church.

May I therefore ask for the information required. Meanwhile, believe me to be, Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) JOHN A. BALLEINE,
Rector of St. Brélade, Jersey.
Edgar R. Bowring, Esq.,
58 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London, S.W.1.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE.
Dept. of Colonial Secretary,
St. John's, Nfld.,
3rd August, 1920.

Sir—Reference is made to the 28th May, covering copy of Resolution passed by the Historical Society of Newfoundland, relative to certain Banners of Newfoundland Fencibles, now in the Church of St. Brélade, Jersey. I have the honor to intimate that the Government have instructed the High Commissioner, London, to arrange for the return to Newfoundland of these banners, and the payment of the expenses in connection with the same, as well as of a brass plate, explanatory of the event which will be erected in the Church at Jersey.

The proposal of the Government is that these Banners shall be in charge of the Government authorities, and be placed in the Museum under proper keepership, and with a detailed statement, setting forth so far as possible, all the circumstances in connection with these banners.

I feel sure that this action of the Government will commend itself to the members of your Society.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) ARTHUR MEWES,
Deputy Colonial Secy.

H. F. Shortis, Esq.,
Corresponding Secretary,
Historical Society of Nfld.

This completes the account of the Historical Society's connection with these Flags.

I now have the honor to request the Prime Minister, Sir Richard A. Squires, to formally acknowledge the receipt of the flags and to give them place in the Museum as the property of the Government.

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the people of Newfoundland, formally accepted the flags, and intimated that they would be placed in the charge of Mr. George E. Turner, Esq., Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines.

He congratulated the Society on having secured the trophies, and agreed with the idea that they should be placed in some public place where they could be always open to view.

The flags being looped up with a ribbon were released by his Excellency.

(See 7th Page.)

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(See 7th Page.)

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(See 2nd Page.)

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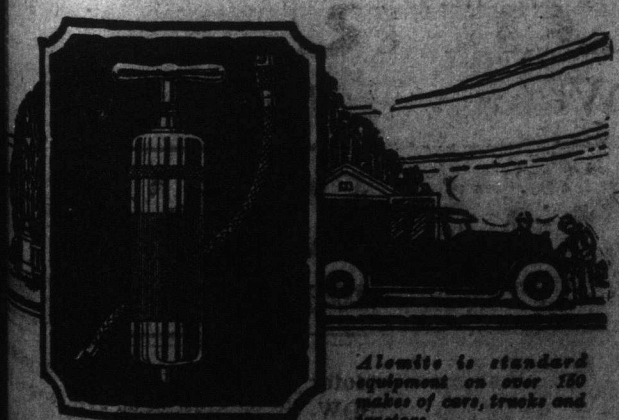
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