

Meeting of Patriotic Association.

War Memorial Discussed--Committee Reports Presented--Deputation to Meet Government Appointed.

A meeting of the Patriotic Association was held in the Board of Trade Rooms last night. His Excellency the Governor presided, but the meeting was not as largely attended as it might have been. His Excellency explained the object of the meeting, which was to hear the report of the Committee appointed to go into the matter of a War Memorial to the memory of our fallen heroes, and called upon Mayor Gosling, the Chairman of the Memorial Committee, who presented his report as follows:—

REPORT.

At the last meeting of the Patriotic Association your Committee was authorized to consult the celebrated architect, Mr. Giles Gilbert Scott, in the matter of the proposed War Memorial.

It is regrettable that so much time has again elapsed before the Committee is able to report, but the delays were unavoidable.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Scott, your Committee at once communicated with him and asked if he would be able to give advice and possibly furnish plans for the erection of a war memorial. He replied that he had already prepared plans for forty or fifty memorials to be erected in Great Britain and the Colonies and would be willing to undertake our work if we were entrusted to him.

After several interviews and long discussions on the various projects submitted to the Association and a visit to the different sites which had been proposed he submitted the following report, accompanied by the attached design. The Committee unanimously approved of the plan and strongly recommends it to the Association for its adoption:

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, PROPOSED WAR MEMORIAL.

Report by G. Gilbert Scott, A. A. A. To the War Memorial Committee. "Gentlemen,—In accordance with your wishes, I beg herewith to submit my report upon the proposed Newfoundland War Memorial.

"I understand it is desired that this Memorial should take a double form (1) A Monument to be erected by public subscription, (2) An Educational Building, which it is hoped the Government will erect and towards the cost of which the Patriotic Association will devote all moneys left from the public subscription after defraying the full cost of the Memorial Monument.

"If it proves financially possible to carry out this double scheme thoroughly, a very fine memorial could be erected by combining the monument and building in one architectural composition, but it is essential for the success of this idea that the educational building should do more than merely provide the practical requirements. It should also be a fine piece of architecture, simple, dignified and monumental in character, so as to form a fitting setting for the Memorial Monument itself. The whole group of buildings and monument could then be made to form as fine a memorial as could be desired and one of which Newfoundland could well be proud.

"The success of this idea depends primarily upon sufficient funds being available to do the work well, for unless the building is fit to look upon it would ruin the effect of the monument.

"As regards site, I consider the Parade Ground would be very suitable for the purpose, provided that no ground has been let that would prevent the formation of a fine wide avenue of Triumph leading from the Parade Ground up to the Memorial and Building, as shown on sketch plan attached hereto.

"It should be possible on this site to leave sufficient room at the ends of the building for future extensions, should these at any time be required. "The Memorial Hall should occupy a central position in the building behind the monument and this Hall should be approached by the public from Morrymeeting Road.

"As regards the monument itself, a very fine effect could be produced if this was placed in the centre of the building and attached to projecting

wings of the building by colonnades. This would form an exceedingly effective composition and would be as far as I know unique. The monument itself would be placed under a Triumphal Arch and should be designed to consist of something more than Caribou, something of deeper significance is required for a Memorial commemorating the glorious dead and though the Caribou could be very effectively worked in to the design, it should not form the main outstanding feature.

"The time at my disposal has not allowed me to consider the design in any great detail, but I strongly recommend that the Monument should take the form of a Cenotaph with a plain cross carved upon the front, the whole placed beneath a Triumphal Arch and at the sides flanking the arch, it would be possible to work in caribous as decorative features. The whole composition, if properly designed, could be made extremely effective.

"I do not consider that the building and monument together could cost less than \$250,000, assuming the cubic contents of the building as given to me to be correct and this is exclusive of any laying out of site.

(Sgd.) G. GILBERT SCOTT.

August 27th, 1920.

After receiving and approving Mr. Scott's design, it was thought advisable, before reporting to the Association, to ascertain whether it would be acceptable to the Government. Unfortunately the Minister of Education, Dr. Barnes was absent from the Colony during Mr. Scott's visit and the Committee was somewhat in the dark as to his plans and ideas. After his return he was taken seriously ill and it was some weeks before he could be interviewed. When finally the Committee was able to see him and discuss the matter with him, he expressed himself very pleased with the general plan and undertook to recommend it to the Government. After a long interval the following reply was received from Dr. Barnes:

"W. G. Gosling, Esq., City.

"Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the preliminary plan of the proposed 'Normal School and Monument,' prepared by Mr. G. Gilbert Scott, A.R.A., during the month of August last, was submitted for the consideration of the Executive Government a few days ago.

"The Executive was much impressed by the beauty of the plan and manifested the fullest sympathy with the desire of the War Memorial Committee to erect a building combining both architectural beauty and educational requirements, yet, that body was unanimously of the opinion that a building erected in accordance with Mr. Scott's plan would entail financial obligations which the Government feel unwarranted at this time in assuming. "I am returning herewith the plan and Mr. Scott's report to the War Memorial Committee, which you were good enough to permit me to read.

"I have the honor to be, Sir, "Your obedient servant, (Sgd.) A. BARNES, "Minister of Education."

The Committee has been informed that, owing to financial conditions it is not likely that any decision will be made immediately by the Government in reference to a Normal School, and it will be noticed that Dr. Barnes, in his letter, does not unqualifiedly reject the scheme, but says that the Government does not "at this time" feel warranted in adopting it.

It will be remembered that the vote of the Legislature for the Normal School is \$100,000 and when the Committee waited upon the Executive in the first instance it was informed that while such was the sum granted at present, a further sum would be forthcoming if it proved absolutely necessary.

The Inspectors of Schools, when asked by the Committee, in the absence of Dr. Barnes, for an estimate of the size of the Normal School, thought it could not be less than 180,000 cubic feet. When Dr. Barnes was consulted he informed the Committee that the building would be about 240,000 cubic feet. In the opinion of the Committee it will be utterly impos-

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sible for \$100,000 to erect a building of that size of permanent materials and of a design worthy to be called a Memorial to our Fallen Heroes.

It has always been estimated by the Committee that the sum of \$50,000 could be readily obtained for a Monument alone and that if the Normal School were added to the plan of a Memorial and the outports took an interest in it, that the sum of \$100,000 might be obtained by subscription. If the Government could see its way to increase the grant to \$150,000 it would seem possible to carry out the plan submitted by Mr. Scott.

In a matter of such importance, and for a building of permanent construction, the Committee is of opinion that the Government could very properly make the expenditure on Capital Account instead of endeavouring to pay it out of Current Revenue in one year.

The Committee is confident that whenever an appeal for subscriptions is made for the purpose of a Memorial, the people of Newfoundland will consider it a debt of honour and will respond to the very best of their ability.

The Committee begs strongly to submit that it would be an irreparable error to adopt any less worthy plan because at the present moment the money required for a worthy Memorial may not be easily obtainable. The plan suggested by Mr. Scott must appeal to everyone. It meets all suggestions which have been made, being a noble and impressive monument in combination with a building devoted to the advancement of education. The plan has been submitted to the Municipal Council, who heartily approve of it. The Parade Ground, it will be remembered, is under the control of the Municipal Council, and it has always been intended, when funds were available, to convert it into a pleasure ground for the people. The sum of \$5,000 was voted this year for the preparation of a site for the Memorial and it is possible that a like sum may be set aside annually for several years in order to make the Parade Ground a site worthy of the Memorial.

As the suggestion for the erection of a replica of the Caribou statue as a Memorial came from the G.W.V.A., the plan which is now proposed has been submitted to that Association, and the following letter of approval has been received from it: "Mr. W. G. Gosling, Chairman War Memorial Committee, City.—Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Executive of the Great War Veterans' Association to advise you that having considered the sketch of a memorial proposed by Mr. Scott, A.R.A., and submitted to our Executive by Mr. McKay, Hon. Secretary of your Committee, our Executive passed an unanimous resolution, endorsing the proposal of your Committee as outlined by Mr. Scott in his sketch and letter accompanying same. Our Executive wish to say that in their opinion the Memorial as proposed would be worthy of the effort put forth by Newfoundlanders in the War. Yours respectfully, G. WHITTY, Secretary. Nov. 6, 1920.

In moving the adoption of the Report, I would like to add, it will be noticed that Mr. Scott has only submitted an outline of his proposal, as the time at his disposal did not permit of the preparation of any details. In the course of conversation he said that he would not advise an elaborate building or ornamental monument. He thought that plain, classical design would be more solemn and impressive than excessive elaboration. If the preparation of the plans were entrusted to him he would endeavor to submit something of which we would be proud, but that he would not submit a competitive design nor would he design a monument in connection with a building for which he did not also furnish the plans. Apart from the financial condition of the country, there is one other consideration which seems to me to warrant some delay in the carrying out of the plans, and that is the probable reduction in the cost of building materials before this time next year.

Rev. Dr. Curtis seconded the adoption of the Report. His Excellency thought the Report as presented, was an admirable one, but thought that the meeting ought not to adopt the resolution until all were satisfied that this was the opportune time for such a project to be attempted; as owing to the financial conditions at present existing, it

might be better to delay the building for another year or so.

Sir Patrick McGrath, whilst endorsing the plan as outlined in the Report, thought that in view of the small attendance, the public should be given more information, and suggested that the matter be held over till a later date, and that the Report and all communications in relation to same be given to the newspapers, so that the public could get an idea of what was going on and be in a position to attend the next meeting of the Association.

Mr. R. G. Rendell, speaking in connection with the Report, did not wish to throw cold water on the project, and whilst he hoped to see the plans as outlined by the Committee carried out, still he was of the opinion that by the time anything of a tangible nature was accomplished that he would probably be gathered to his fathers. He believed that something less costly in the shape of a monument should be erected, as there was quite a lot of dissatisfaction already in connection with the manner in which our War Memorial had been handled.

Hon. John Browning agreed with Sir Patrick McGrath, that the meeting was not large enough to handle a matter of such importance, but he supported the project and hoped that the plans of the Committee would mature, and whether we had to wait for a year or two to finalize matters, he expressed the wish that the building of this Normal School would take shape. The Association should get the people enthused and whilst at the present time money was a little tight, he was sure that when the present financial trouble had blown over, the people would respond to the call.

Mayor Gosling did not see anything stupendous or impossible in the project. The Government had already voted \$100,000 for a Normal School, and he felt that they could also arrange to raise the necessary money in connection with the Memorial School and the paying back of which could extend over a period of years. The prices of building materials were decreasing, however, and it might be better to wait. Still he hoped that we would not be continually postponing action, and that some definite understanding would be reached.

Mr. H. Mitchell, representing the G.W.V.A., spoke and explained the position of that organization in agreeing with the Report as outlined by the War Memorial Committee, and he hoped that something would soon be accomplished.

Sir Patrick McGrath then gave some interesting data in connection with War Memorials. He also discussed the different phases of the Report under consideration, both from financial and other viewpoints, and he proposed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the further consideration of the Report be deferred for a month, and that in the meantime the newspapers be requested to publish the Report and accompanying statement of the Chairman of the Committee in order that the public may gain a fuller idea of the project.

This resolution was seconded by Sir William Lloyd, who could not understand how at the present time the money could be raised, as from what he could see the building as proposed would cost \$300,000 and he thought that the Government should take the responsibility of paying for the undertaking.

Mayor Gosling, Hon. John Browning and Rev. Dr. Curtis took part in the discussion regarding the resolution of Sir P. T. McGrath, and on being put to the meeting it was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. G. Higgins, also of the G.W.V.A., next spoke in connection

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