

ern Light

July 16, 1920

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First Sod of College Turned Last Sunday

An event of particular interest to all of the Maritime provinces and especially to the citizens of Bathurst and the county of Gloucester took place on Sunday afternoon last when the Turning of the First Sod in the construction of the Sacred Heart College took place.

The affair which was in charge of the Eudist Fathers assisted by a committee of active workers from Bathurst and vicinity was a grand success in every way. It was well advertised throughout the county by means of posters and announcements in the churches as well as the press and early in the afternoon the roads leading to the grounds where the college is to be erected was lined with people making their way to the grounds. The weather was a bit hot but in that spot which seems to be so favored a gentle breeze was blowing which made it very pleasant. The road from the Station to the grounds was marked with flags on high masts and the entrance and college site was marked with spruce trees and flags in the centre of which was erected a speaker's platform with rows of benches around for the listeners.

Higher Education

At 2.15 p. m., the C.M.B.A. Band arrived and although great numbers were already there a couple of selections soon gathered a very large crowd.

At 2.30 p. m., the chairman of the Committee Mr. N. A. Landry, K.C.

He spoke of the great benefit our young men would derive from the erection of this institution and how it would help to advertise the town by the men it would produce, and the building alone would be an asset to any city. He wished the Eudist Fathers and the committee every success in their undertaking and felt sure that Bathurst would easily pass its objective, in the drive which was to take place.

All Donations Welcome

Hon. P. F. Veniot, Minister of Public Works in his usual oratorical style gave a very interesting address both in French and English and explained the campaign which was to take place in the Maritime provinces to raise \$100,000.00 to assist the Eudist Fathers in the construction of this college and that the objective of \$10,000.00 set for the parish of Bathurst should easily be surpassed. Every person in the parish should the poor would be just as much appreciated as the large donation from the rich. He said that in a short time canvassers would go from house to house and he felt sure they would be well received.

Rev. P. LeBastard, Superior of the Eudist Order was the next speaker and he told of the wonder-

Committee Mr. N. A. Landry, K.C. announced the object of the meeting giving emphasis to the importance of the event which was to take place. He pointed out the wonderful advantage it would be for the town of Bathurst to have an institution of this kind where higher Education could be obtained. The objective set for the parish of Bathurst by the central Committee was \$10000.00 and he felt sure that this amount would easily be surpassed. He then introduced Monsignor Chiasson, Bishop of Labrador.

Bishop Chiasson spoke of the work of the Eudists in this country and of their ability as teachers of higher Education. He said that Bathurst was indeed favored by having them come to settle here and he felt sure that the citizens would appreciate their presence and give them all the assistance possible in their efforts.

Rev. Father Cormier of the Assumption parish of Moncton was the next speaker and in an eloquent address impressed strongly the great need of institutions where higher education could be obtained in order that New Brunswick may retain its percentage of professional men and men who in the future will make a name for themselves either in business or in the government of the country.

Mayor Burns was called upon to give a short address as he was not present when the ceremony was started and on behalf of the town of Bathurst welcomed those present who had come from far and near to witness the turning of the first sod for the new college and also welcomed the erection of the college at Bathurst.

the Eudist. Craci was the speaker and he told of the wonderful advantages Bathurst afforded them in carrying on their work. It was centrally located on a main line and the site secured for the college could not be surpassed anywhere. It commands a wonderful view of the town and of the harbour and the air was most invigorating and healthful. There

Rev. Father Wallace of West Bathurst in whose parish the college is to be built expressed how pleased he was that an institution of this kind was to be built here where the boys could get the education they so much needed, and which was so necessary in the advancement of the country and of our town in particular. He said that some time ago he heard that it was the prayer of a woman now deceased but who formerly owned the property where the college is to be built as well as the church property that a place be built to educate our boys and he had no doubt that this college was an answer to her prayer.

He spoke of the efforts his predecessor Mgr. Varrily had taken to have the college built here and he promised it his every support also which he showed by putting down on the table \$200. to go towards the campaign.

Rev. Father Van de Mortel was a very interesting speaker. He told

Mons. S. J. Doucet who is president of the Central Drive Committee and who is taking a great interest in this college explained how pleased he was that such an interest was being taken in the campaign which he was sure would meet with great success.

A committee consisting of Hon. P. J. Veniot, Mr. Azad Landry, L. L. DesRoche, H. A. Melanson, F. T. Frénette, Gilbert J. Doucet, Rev. Van de Mortel and others took charge of the turning of the sod. Baskets were placed at each interval where it was taking place where donations could be put. Among the first to advance was Mr. O. Turgeon M. P. and nearly everyone present had their turn at the shovel. About \$400 was realized.