

# *Fair Negotiating for Quintuplets As Substitute for Soviet Pavilion*

## *Officials Feel War May Have Altered View of Canada on Bid Rejected Last Year— Reproduction of Home Part of Plan*

If negotiations now under way are successful, the Dionne quintuplets may be the prime attraction at the 1940 New York World's Fair, with a special home to be built for them on the site of the vanishing Soviet Pavilion, it was learned yesterday.

Harvey D. Gibson, chairman of the board of the Fair corporation, said he could not discuss the reported bid to the quintuplets, but he did say that no contract had been signed. Reliable sources close to the administration of the Fair did confirm, however, that strenuous efforts were being made to get the famous Canadian quintuplets to live on Flushing Meadows next Summer.

Fair authorities made an equally determined effort to bring the quintuplets to the 1939 Fair, but it could not be arranged. The proposal has been renewed, however, in the belief that the changed conditions due to the European war, in which Canada is involved, might bring about a different viewpoint.

If the quintuplets are permitted to come to the Fair, there is a plan afoot to build a reproduction of their home in Callender, Ontario, on the site being vacated by the ornate pavilion of Soviet Russia. It was further learned that Fair authorities had given consideration to the problem of whether such a reproduction could be built between March 1, when the razing of the Soviet Pavilion is due to be completed, and May 11, the opening date of the 1940 season, and that they had decided the work could

be rushed through to completion on time.

Ever since the 1939 Fair failed to attract the 60,000,000 visitors it had hoped for, exposition officials have been searching for some "super-attraction" that will insure the box-office attendance this year. As far back as a month before the closing of the 1939 Fair they were sending out "feelers" by asking newspaper men what they thought the idea of bringing the Dionne children to the 1940 Fair. Officials now feel that a contract with the Dionnes would be the answer to all their problems.

In addition to being a prime attraction in their own right, the little Canadian quintuplets would replace the loss of an exhibit that, in a much different way, was a powerful magnet at the 1939 Fair. The Soviet Pavilion drew an estimated 16,500,000 visitors last season and was one of the most crowded exhibits in the entire foreign area. The 100,000 square feet now occupied by its building and grounds would provide ample space for an impressive exhibit for the quintuplets, it was pointed out.

Efforts to confirm the negotiations from the Canadian end last night were not successful.

In the meantime, the snow and cold yesterday forced the wrecking army, which now is trying to cut across the body of "Big Joe," the Soviet workingman's statue atop the doomed Russian building, to cease their attack and dig in for shelter. If the weather clears up today, the assault on "Big Joe" will be renewed, as the wrecking schedule calls for the removal of the statue by the end of the week.