

'PEOPLE'S' COMMON DEDICATED AT FAIR

Mrs. Roosevelt, the Mayor and Poletti Call It a Symbol of American Way of Life

FASHION CENTER OPENED

First Lady Cuts Ribbon—Japan's Pavilion Will Go to City as a Gift

By SIDNEY M. SHALETT

With representatives of more than forty nationalities that have gone into the great American "melting pot" standing behind her, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the new American Common at the World's Fair yesterday as a symbol of tolerance, while Mayor La Guardia, sharing the stage with the First Lady, asserted vigorously that "the protection and safety of the American people" were secure in the hands of the President.

The dedication of the American Common, a simple meeting place and bandshell situated on the site of the massive and ornate Soviet Pavilion of 1939, was the highlight of the day at the Fair. Other principal events included the opening of the Fair's new World of Fashion, also attended by Mrs. Roosevelt, and ceremonies formally reopening the Japanese Pavilion, at which Consul General Kaname Wakasugi declared taht "Japan stands ready to share with the United States the responsibility of making a better world of tomorrow."

A large, though not record-breaking, crowd went out to see the Fair on the fourth Saturday of the 1940 season. The crowds were slow in coming during the early, cloudy part of the morning, but attendance began to pick up as the hot sunshine steamed through the clouds, bathing the Fair with a July-like warmth. The paid attendance reached 156,283.

At the dedication of the American Common emphasis was placed on the neighborliness and harmonious relations between the sons and daughters of foreign nations who had come to this country and become good and useful American citizens. Men, women and children clad in the colorful costumes of Slavic, Scandinavian and Latin nations, others in kilts and one group even in the headdresses and beads of the native American Indian, appeared on the stage. Folk dances and the music and pageantry of many nations were presented during the afternoon and early evening, following the speaking program.

Praises Idea of Common

Mrs. Roosevelt, in her brief speech, expressed her pleasure at accepting, in behalf of the American people, an American common, and said she always had liked the word "common" because it conveyed to her a realization of what all people in this country had in common and for which they could be grateful.

Those things, she said, include "a tolerance of each other's differences and an appreciation of the gifts which have come to us in this country from all those who make up our country, and of all the characteristics which, while different, combine to make the United States a strong nation."

Then she gave the signal for the flag to be raised on the tall flagpole



OPENING FASHION BUILDING AT THE FAIR

With Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is Harvey D. Gibson

Times Wide World

that dominates the American Common.

The program included an invocation by Dr. B. Benedict Glazer, associate rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, 1 East Sixty-fifth Street; a prayer by Dr. Louis W. Pitt, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, 802 Broadway, and a benediction by Dr. Edward Robert Moore, leader of the Catholic Youth movement in New York City. The session was called to order by Robert D. Kohn, Fair vice president and chairman of the exposition's theme committee, who conceived the idea for establishing an American Common on the site of the razed Soviet pavilion.

Edward J. Condon, assistant to the president of Sears, Roebuck & Co., which financed the construction of the open-air theatre and the landscaping of the three-and-one-half-acre site, presented the American Common to Harvey D. Gibson, board chairman of the Fair Corporation, commenting on the appropriateness of such an undertaking in view of the present world crisis. Mr. Gibson in accepting asserted that "America hates regimentation" and never would have any part of a system fostered by any nation that believed in rising to power by "putting their men and women into strait-jackets."

Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti, who represented the State of New York at the ceremony, commenting that he spoke as a first-generation American, the son of an Italian immigrant, declared:

"In these dark days it must often be recalled that all of us stem from immigrant stock and each and every racial strain we represent has contributed much to the American pattern of living. Into the bloodstream of this nation have gone the hopes, the dreams and the loyalty of millions of men and women of every nationality. No American is a better American than any other."

Then he emphasized the necessity for a firm resolve on the part of all Americans to defend their country both "from assaults from without and attacks from within."

Mayor La Guardia, turning to Mrs. Roosevelt and Mr. Poletti, asked if any gathering could be "more typically American" than a ceremony

in which "the distinguished and lovable First Lady of the land," a daughter of pioneer ancestors, was greeted by the Lieutenant Governor of the State, "a son of the steerage."

He, too, thanked Sears, Roebuck for its contribution to the Fair, though he jested that "in all frankness" he felt there already were "many places where people can gather in New York City—in fact, too many to suit the Mayor."

The Mayor then declared that, in these "troubulous times," Americans must realize their duty to defend their own interests, and particularly to "prevent any change from taking place, any place on the Western Hemisphere." Americans can meet this task, for "we are living under a government of our own choosing in which the people of this country have full and complete confidence," he asserted.

"We each must contribute our share of security, and we can do so with the complete assurance that the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, is looking after the protection and safety of the American people."

A round of applause greeted this tribute. Then the Mayor closed by turning to Gertrude Lawrence, British actress, who previously had spoken, and saying:

"Yes, Miss Lawrence, we are free and we are happy. And we will continue to be free—but we must also have the freedom of your country to be completely happy."

At the end of Mrs. Roosevelt's address, an announcer called off the roll of nations, and girls from the Hudson Guild Neighborhood House, representing each nation, filed past the First Lady, dropping flowers into a basket held by Tachawin Seymour, granddaughter of the late Chief Yellow Robe of the Sioux tribe, and a Boy Scout. Each child shook hands with Mrs. Roosevelt.

Opens Fashion Exhibition

At the World of Fashion dedication, where Mrs. Roosevelt snipped a blue and pink ribbon stretched across the entrance to the new exhibit, the First Lady voiced the hope that the fashion exhibit "will give many women the feeling that they are important in their inter-

ests and that they are contributing to the well-being of the nation as a whole."

Prior to the public opening, she was entertained at a luncheon at which Mrs. Harvey D. Gibson was hostess, and then was taken on a tour of the exhibit.

At the Japanese dedication, Consul General Wakasugi, who is Japan's Commissioner General to the Fair, gave formal confirmation to the previously announced decision of the Japanese Government to donate its pavilion, an authentic example of Japanese architecture, to the City of New York, to be maintained as a permanent building in the public park which is to be built on the site of the Fair.

"The reason for Japan's participation this year, in spite of the prevailing world situation, is Japan's firm determination not only to maintain but strengthen under any circumstances the traditional friendship between the two countries and to promote our reciprocal trade, which has developed to a tremendous amount in a short period," he said.

Grover A. Whalen, Fair president, and Frederick Sheffield, deputy commissioner general of the United States to the Fair, responded to the Japanese Commissioner's address, and George U. Harvey, Borough President of Queens, expressed appreciation in behalf of the residents of his borough for the Japanese gift to the future park.

The great bulk of yesterday's crowd, bent on seeing the sights and having fun at the Fair, displayed considerable interest in the limerick contest, the first installment of which closed last night. For a week the Fair has been accepting entries in a contest to supply the last line to a limerick. A large crowd assembled at the American Common last night to hear the name of the winner announced. In the amusement area another crowd was on hand to participate in the Golden Key contest, in which a car is given away nightly.

First Winner Is Named

The winner of the limerick contest was Miss Ann F. Gonzalez of 446 East Sixty-sixth Street. Her entry was one of 15,000 limerick last-lines submitted.

At 9 o'clock this morning the second installment of the limerick contest begins and will run until 3 o'clock next Saturday afternoon, with the winner to be announced Saturday evening. The Fair announced that the second week's limerick, to which any Fair visitor may supply a last line in hope of winning an automobile, is as follows:

The Fair was created for you,
And all of its wonders, too,
You'll never regret
Nor ever forget

The Belgian Pavilion, which closed its doors Friday, remained closed yesterday. There still was no official announcement, either from the Fair or from pavilion officials, as to if or when the pavilion would reopen. The Belgian Restaurant, however, continued open as usual.

Fair officials are confident of a huge turnout today, with any sort of break from the weather. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union is celebrating its day at the Fair and will stage a program in the Court of Peace, with Mrs. Roosevelt and Senator Robert F. Wagner scheduled to speak. Lawrence Tibbet and Helen Jepson of the Metropolitan Opera Company will sing. The union has purchased an advance block of 125,000 tickets, which assures the Fair of a busy day.

Among other events today will be a ceremony in the Court of Peace at 5 P. M., sponsored by the Holland Society of New York and the Daughters of Holland Dames, commemorating the settlement of Manhattan Island by their Dutch ancestors, and a performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio "Elijah" at the Temple of Religion at 8:30 P. M.