

# CHILDREN TAKE PART IN NEW PARK OPENING

With Dancing and Songs They  
Celebrate the Formal Using  
of Colonial Park.

## SPEAKERS DEFEND STOVER

One Says Criticisms of His Administration Are Due to Real Estate Men's  
Anxiety Regarding Land Values.

Park Commissioner Charles B. Stover officially opened yesterday the southern half of Colonial Park, conducting the ceremony that marked the addition of twelve acres of park and playground to the public lands of Manhattan Borough. State Senator Josiah T. Newcomb, Alderman John A. Bolles, Reginald P. Bolton, Secretary of the Washington Heights Taxpayers Association, and John J. Rooney made addresses in which they praised Mr. Stover's administration of the parks which has been recently the subject of unfavorable report by the Bureau of Municipal Research. More than a hundred children from other playgrounds of the city marched in fancy costume, and with a brass band lent to the occasion color and animation.

Colonial Park, as it now stands, is a narrow terrace extending from 145th to 155th Street and includes the land between Edgecombe and Bradhurst Avenues. Only a short while ago the plot was a general dumping ground and received the refuse of the neighborhood. At a cost of \$2,000,000 the land was taken over by the city. Walks have been laid out and a good lawn has been cultivated. In the northern half of the plot are many good trees.

The natural scenery, which is striking, includes a high cliff of rock in the centre of the park. Commissioner Stover said that there was still about \$3,000 of the fund set aside for improving the park and that this sum would be used this Fall in setting out new trees.

The playground is in the centre and includes the regular equipment of swings and see-saws. A tent has been set up for a temporary shelter. Only games for small children will be allowed and youths who want to play baseball will be sent to St. Nicholas Park, a few blocks to the south.

The children's part in the ceremony yesterday included a "march of the States" under the direction of William J. Lee, Supervisor of Recreation. Six little girls from the Thomas Jefferson playground attracted much attention decked out to represent the Southern States, with a pickaninny costume and a liberal use of burnt cork. They carried large slices of watermelon which they were allowed to eat later while cinematograph operators took pictures for the Budget exhibit next Fall.

Other groups represented the Puritans, the Quakers, the grain States and the ranch life of the West.

All the costumes, according to Supervisor Lee were the work of the children themselves. In addition to the march of the States there was a flag drill by fifteen very small girls from the Tompkins Square Playground, followed by a Colonial dance of children from Hamilton Fish Playground and an Indian dance by children from Seward Park. Moving pictures were made of all the dances and they will be shown in the park departments exhibit next Fall.

John J. Rooney, a lawyer of 24 State Street, spoke in defense of Commissioner Stover's administration, praising especially his interest in children's playgrounds.

"You have heard a great deal of criticism of the management of the parks from people who wish to enjoy beautiful trees and well-kept lawns," said Mr. Rooney. "These criticisms come largely from real estate dealers, who are unduly anxious over the values of their property. The most valuable property the city has is its children. Mr. Stover deserves the very highest praise for what he has done in the last two years for the children of this city. Looked at from the human standpoint, his work has been a great success."

Senator Newcomb followed Mr. Rooney, advocating the extension of municipal activities in the interest of the citizens.