

Transcript of Olympiad is Opened at the Coast, 1932 Excerpt

Olympiad is Opened at the Coast

Los Angeles, July 30-- Standing in serried rank on rank, the great amateur athletes of the world today heard Vice President Charles C. Curtis officially open the Olympic games, the 10th of the modern era.

Watched by a capacity crowd of 105,000 under a blazing California sun, athletes and dignitaries put on a soul-stirring spectacle.

The parade of the Olympic nations, with the athletes dressed in sparkling gay uniforms of varied hues and contrasts, backed by the great crowd formed a once-in-a-lifetime picture.

Each nation's athletes formed in line behind its flags, all facing to the south side of the stadium where the presidential box was located.

It was a warmly responsive crowd and the spectators had a hearty cheer for each of the nations, from the tiny Latvian and Haitian groups to the imposing squads of Italy, Germany, Great Britain, the United States, Japan and the others.

The uniforms were grand. Most consisted of white trousers with coats of varied colors.

The athletes formed across the field and Vice President Curtis and other officials moved to the "tribune of honor," a small festooned stand placed at the south edge of the field. There the address of welcome was given by William May Garland of Los Angeles. He requested Vice President Curtis to order the games open. This done there was a fanfare of trumpets from the peristyle. Ten cannon boomed out the Olympic salute. The Olympic torch, a bronze bowl atop the peristyle was lighted and the Olympic flag was raised.

Two thousand gray pigeons were released as world wide messengers of good will, just after the torch was lighted.

Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul president of the University of California, delivered a lengthy address of dedication and benediction. The great choir of 1,200 voices massed around the large band, then sang a hymn and the Olympic flag was raised.

Then came one of the most inspiring moments. The young men bearing the bright banners of most of the civilized nations of the world came forward in a shallow semi-circle and surrounded the stand upon which Lieut. George Calnan of the United States navy took the Olympic oath in behalf of his brother athletes of all races.

Lieutenant Calnan, a member of the United States fencing team, repeated the impressive oath in a measured and resonant voice.

As he stepped down, the flag bearers dropped back, each taking position in front of the columns of athletes.

The choir sang a recessional, the athletes paraded from the field, and the show was over.