

CARNIVAL TO OPEN CONEY'S 1913 SEASON

**Beginning on May 15, Six Days
of Festivity Will Be Spread
Over Two Weeks.**

A NEW LUNA PARK READY

**Special Attractions Provided by Re-
sort Showmen, Who Are Praying
for a Long, Hot Summer.**

Coney Island's 1913 season will open a week from next Wednesday. On that day the gates of Luna Park will swing wide, the barkers on Surf Avenue and the Bowery will tune up, the Rough Riders will mount their make-believe horses, Steeplechase Park and the side shows will display all their attractions to the best advantage, and if the weather man is kind there will be a rush of visitors from far and near to the popular resort for a regular old Coney Island good time. Painters, carpenters, and decorators have been working overtime for weeks to put the resort in presentable shape, and everybody down there by the sea says this is going to be Coney's banner year.

At Luna Park, the biggest and the most famous of Coney Island's playgrounds, Fred Thompson has been busy for the best part of a month putting everything shipshape.

Yesterday he said he was pretty well satisfied with the result, for with the exception of a daub of paint here and there, a sweep of the broom somewhere else, the turning of the water into the big tanks, and the arrival of the men and women and girls who will have parts in the various shows and street pageants, Luna was ready for the crowds.

The music one heard at Coney yesterday was made up of the thump, thump, thumping of hammers and rasping of saws. In every building, no matter whether it was a hotel or a schute-the-schutes sled or the home of a merry-go-round, the painter and the decorator hel dforth. The streets were well crowded despite the fact that the opening is still ten days off, and there was just enough going on to keep in good humor the crowd attracted there by the unusually fine weather.

The Coney Island Citizens' Committee, of which C. S. Tate is President, was busy completing final arrangements for the carnival which will this year usher in as well as usher out the Coney Island season. The 1913 Spring carnival has been spread over six days. The first three days are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 15, 16, and 17, and the last three days the same days in the week following.

On Thursday, May 15, there will be an auto floral parade in the evening. There will be a special celebration the second night, on which occasion the beautiful and the grotesque will be so blended as to make what the promoters have called "The Carnival Cabaret." On Saturday, May 17, there will be a series of parades in which the automobile will predominate and in which men, women, and children will appear in fancy costumes. In the second week the floral parade will be repeated three nights in succession. On Friday of the first week a feature of the street festivities will be a comic and fancy figure contest in which \$250 in prizes will be given to those who are adjudged the most comical in appearance.

It will be a new Luna that is thrown open for public inspection a week from next Wednesday night. Fred Thompson said so himself, and he ought to know, for he is responsible for it all, beginning with "Crazy Town," as he calls a little village in which the Mother Goose characters are featured, and ending with "Fire and Sword," the most pretentious amusement production Luna Park has ever offered.

"Fire and Sword" will represent the siege and capture of a fortified city in the Near East (presumably Adrianople,) and in it will be used cannon and powder, fire and water, an army of 500 men, some women, and fifty horses.

An idea of the size of the spectacle may be gathered from the fact that the stage on which it will be presented is three times as large as that of the Hippodrome. In the rear of and on the sides of the big stage are the mosques and shops of the city that is to be destroyed, while in front of the stage is the great tank into which horses and warriors will plunge from giddy heights at the climax, when mosques and houses are in flames and cannons are booming from the tops of distant hills.

"Crazy Town" will be a delight for the little folks. Mother Goose will be there in a shoe big enough to accommodate a whole school of little people. The "Home that Jack Built" and the builder, too, will entertain visitors in this section, and there is a tiny little opera house where grand opera will be given, all the singers and musicians in which will be midgets.

There will be the Labyrinth easy to get into and difficult to get out of, and a new circus ring in which something will be doing from 1 P. M. to 1 A. M. The diving girls will dive in a building all their own. A big show in which wind and water and fire will figure is to be known as "Tornado and Flood," and will represent the submerging of the City of Dayton, O.

Another Coney Island place where all was hustle yesterday was George Tillyou's Steeplechase Park. The steeplechase horses are ready to race, and they all have new paint and most of the new saddles and bridles. The big Ferris wheel is ready for its swing around the circle and inside the great pavilion all the lesser amusements are ready for the public whenever Mr. Tillyou says the work.

Midway between Luna and Steeplechase Parks, Henderson's is already opened for business, and every night the vaudevillians hold forth, and the big restaurant is always crowded with those who like to watch the fun between courses.

At Stutch's also they are ready for the expected Summer rush, and the same is true of most of the other places well known to the Coney Island frequenter.

Surf Avenue and Bowery will again offer scores of attractions, in addition to the frankfurter and the cow that gives buttermilk. The Giant Racer is primed and ready for the start, the Tunnels of Love are all ready, Dublin is waiting to be visited, the Palace of Thrills is complete, and the Dreamland side shows have their signs out, while the various riding shows that take you a quarter of a mile at dizzy speed and sometimes at dizzy heights are waiting for the signal to start. Coney is ready for its Summer, and the men who make Coney are hoping that it be a long and a hot one.