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Venezuela Day, July 5, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago

On the day, in 1811, Venezuela declared herself free from Spanish rule, and, after fourteen years of warfare, through the efforts of General Simon Bolivar, together with Columbia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, secured her freedom.



Venezuela Building - note the statue of General Simon Bolivar on the roof.



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The anniversary was observed by the Venezuelans at the Fair by the opening of their building, with appropriate exercises.

Among the interesting relics shown were Bolivar's jeweled sword, his golden saddle cloth, the medallion picture of Washington sent by himself and delivered by Lafayette, and also Pizarro's battle-worn and time-stained banner, under which he invaded Peru in 1533.

The ceremonies of dedication began with an address by Dr. Hermogenes Rivero-Saldivia, Consul General at New York. Dr. Manuel V. Toledo, President of the Venezuela Commission, turned over the building to his Government, for which it was accepted by Dr. Francisco E. Bustamente, Minister at Washington.

At that moment the bronze statues of Columbus and Bolivar were unveiled and the Iowa State band played the national hymn, "Gloria al Bravo Pueblo" (Glory to the Brave People).