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Denmark Day, June 5, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago

On June 5, 1849, Frederick VII, King of Denmark, granted to his people a national constitution defining the royal prerogative and providing for the election of a parliament, and the anniversary of that day is kept in Denmark as a general holiday. Many of the former subjects of that country living in and near Chicago came to take part in the celebration of their national day.

More than six thousand were present, and the Danish societies were represented in a parade in which about two thousand were in line. They formed in the city and marched in a body to the grounds, with bands of music, flags, and banners, making a striking impression as they passed through the Manufactures Building and stopped at the Danish pavilion. After the inspection of this exhibit, among the distinctive features of which were the relics of Thorwaldsen and of Hans Christian Andersen, the pictures illustrating the adventurous and hardy character of the Vikings, and the primitive sketches believed to represent the voyages of Leif Ericsson, the line of march was taken up to Festival Hall, where a large audience listened to addresses and music. President C. Michelsen, of the Danish Royal Commission, made a speech of welcome in his native tongue.

The address of welcome on the part of the Exposition was made by Hon. Thomas B. Bryan, and the King of Denmark and the President of the United States were happily coupled in the remarks of Commissioner-General Emil Meyer, after which the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner followed that of the Danish national song, "King Christian stood by the Lofty Mast." Other addresses, alternating with music by Danish composers and artists, filled out the program, the orchestra closing with The Vikings, by Hartmann.