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Germany Day, June 15, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago

This was the anniversary of the coronation of the Emperor, William II, and German citizens of Chicago co-operated actively with the Imperial Commissioners in making it an event worthy of the fatherland and of our great German-American population. It was an all-day and nearly all-night celebration, participated in by tens of thousands and running over with national enthusiasm.



A Corner of the German Village on the Midway Plaisance.



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The German colors waved in friendly contest with the red, white, and blue, German music filled the air, and German was the language of the day. The morning parade numbered more than sixteen thousand men in line, occupied an hour and a half in passing, and included bands of music, singing societies by the score, labor organizations and soldiers' unions, *turnvereins*, benevolent societies, and social orders, besides eight hundred vehicles of various kinds, and twenty historical and allegorical floats, representing both German and American subjects.

After passing through the business section of the city it was disbanded, and the thousands that crowded the streets made their way to Jackson Park to attend the celebration at the German building in the afternoon. Two large platforms were erected, one against the front of the building and the other facing it across the lake-shore promenade. On the former were the seats for specially invited guests and the rostrum for the speakers, while the latter was reserved for the chorus of two thousand voices and the various bands of music, one of which had been sent by the Emperor to visit the Exposition.

Both the building and the platforms were decorated lavishly with flags and bunting. The chimes in the tower began to ring at half past one, but it was three o'clock before the last of the societies and bands that had participated in the parade reached the grounds, and the exercises were begun with impressive singing of *Die Wacht am Rhein*. The speakers included the Hon. Carl Schurz, Baron von HoUeben, Minister at Washington, Commissioner Adolf Wermuth, Mayor Carter H. Harrison, and Mr. Harry Rubens, of Chicago. All the speaking and singing was in German, except Mayor Harrison's greeting in the name of the city. The singing of "Deutschland uber AUes" was followed by the address of Harry Rubens, who, in the name of the Germans of Chicago, greeted the fatherland and its representatives on that festival day, and led in an enthusiastic "Hoch ! hoch! hoch!" for old Germany.

It was nearly five o'clock when these exercises were finished, and the order was given for the march to Festival Hall, where the final official ceremonies were conducted. The hall was decorated effectively, the flags of the two nations forming a fitting background.

President Higinbotham, in his address of welcome on the part of the Exposition, acknowledged the debt of this country to the German character and genius, and



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especially that of the Exposition management to the German Government for its splendid exhibit and cordial assistance in making this work the crowning event of the nineteenth century. President Palmer, of the Commission, followed in a second address of welcome, also eulogizing the German nation and its achievements. William H. Vocke, of Chicago, representing the German-American element on the program, then made the oration of the day, rapidly reviewing the history of his native land, and sketching the intellectual, industrial, and commercial intimacy between that country and the United States, in all of which he found a guarantee of mutual esteem and friendship that would outlive the ages.

This address was followed by the singing of The Star-Spangled Banner, and the exercises concluded with Wagner's Festmarch by the Exposition Orchestra. The German Village in the Midway Plaisance next came in for a share of attention, and feasting and music were continued there until a late hour. A grand illumination, with a special display of fireworks, took place in the Court of Honor, the final success of which was reached in two colossal figures representing Germania and Columbia side by side. The attendance on this day was nearly two hundred thousand.