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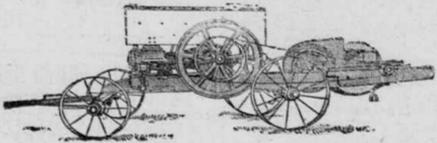
NUMBER 37.

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**ADDRESS OF
GOV. SWANSON**

on "Virginia Day," June 12, 1907,
at the Jamestown Exposition.

VIRGINIANS, DESCENDANTS OF VIRGINIANS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: The Commonwealth of Virginia and the Republic, the United States of America, have united to celebrate this the third century of their beginning. Jamestown is the joint cradle of this State and this nation. Thus, as we participate in these commemorative exercises, our hearts flame alike with state and with national patriotism.

This day of the Exposition has been designated as "Virginia Day." Today the children and the descendants of the children of Virginia gather at this birthday party to pay loyal, loving devotion to their glorious mother for her three hundred years of brave endeavor and splendid achievement. Virginia extends to all of you a cordial, warm and loving welcome. To her children, who have come from afar, she gives her blessings and benedictions. She places her loving hands on their heads and wishes them all measure of prosperity and happiness. She salutes her many fair daughters in staidhood with maternal pride and joy; she rejoices at their bright career and feels that their glories add to her a deeper majesty. To her sister states, who so generously rejoice and celebrate with her, she gives an affectionate greeting, while she thrills anew with that love which cements them and her into a perpetual union. To her foreign friends and nations, who have graced this occasion by their presence and approval, she extends the hand of true friendship and hospitality. To this nation to whose growth and power she has made such vast contributions, her heart goes out in an abounding and abiding love.

Virginia! thy very name like that of Scotland, England, France, Greece and Rome, has a distinct and individual meaning, bringing to the mind scenes of natural loveliness and visions of sacrifice, suffering, heroism and glory, which will encircle thee with a deathless renown. Bounded by high mountains and majestic ocean, decorated with hill, plain and valley, threaded by beautiful broad rivers, kissed by sunshine and radiant with warmth, nature designed thee as the fit abode of a joyous and chivalric, courageous and lofty people. Virginia furnished a magnificent and suitable stage for the cavalier to unfold the drama of his new destiny. Here man and nature were found in perfect harmony. Here brave people and beautiful country combined to create a history so resplendent with genius and grandeur as to make this Commonwealth illustrious the world over. Soft and sweet as the memories of buried love will ever lie in our hearts the old colonial homes and plantations of Virginia, embowered in forests, shrubbery and flowers, bright with joyous romantic life, ruled by superb women and noble men. The history of the old Virginia, from Jamestown to Appomattox, is the history of a great and glorious people, ever to be noted in story and in song. No people, no civilization in the same length of time ever accomplished so much for the betterment of mankind, or produced so many eminent men, who will be numbered forever among the immortals. Her history is replete with great deeds and great names.

The two most important rights of modern times are the trial by jury, and legislative government. Within Virginia was empaneled the first jury that ever administered justice in the Western Hemisphere. Here in the new world was first exercised and firmly established that precious heritage of the Anglo-Saxon, which has been the chief source of his liberty and his main protection against oppression and despotism. At Jamestown, on the 30th of July, 1619, assembled the House of Burgesses of Virginia, the first legislative body that ever sat or enacted laws in America. This was the world's first elementary body of the first parliament of members from designated boroughs and elected by universal suffrage. In the modest wooden church at Jamestown was first exercised the great principle that government should be the expression of the will of the masses of the people. The birth of free representative government in Virginia was coeval with its destruction elsewhere. James the First had deprived Parliament of its power and privileges, seven years, not to be convened for dissolved years. The Spanish King had destroyed the National Cortez and his will was the supreme law of Spain. The States General of France was dissolved, not to be called until 1789, on the eve of the French Revolution. The only place free from arbitrary power and despotism was the small colony of Virginia fringing the Atlantic coast. Liberty had no refuge save in the forests of Virginia. Right valiantly did the brave cavaliers of Virginia preserve the sacred fire entrusted to their keeping. In 1624 without a dissenting voice the House of Burgesses enacted that no taxes should be levied within the colony and no money appropriated except by its authority. This bold declaration was made years before the same was asserted by the British Parliament against Charles the First. This principle that taxation is a gift of the citizens, dependent on their consent, and not a prerogative to be exercised by rulers, is the very foundation of all free government. This is the right for which we contended a century and a half later in the Revolutionary war. The germ of free institutions was first planted and nourished in the soil of Virginia. Protected by brave, loving hands, refreshed by heroic blood, it was strengthened, has

grown and fructified until now it over spreads the world. The people of Virginia, through their elected representatives, levied and appropriated all taxes, declared war or made peace, guarded their own forts, furnished and commanded their own troops and practically exercised all the functions of government. In 1629 Virginia made another firm assertion of her privileges and rights. Charles the First presented a flattering offer to the colony to give him a monopoly of their tobacco. The Assembly vigorously protested against the monopoly, and decisively rejected the proposal. Charles acquiesced in this refusal, and this King, who had ruthlessly monopolized the trades and industries of England to obtain money, dared not to extend his despoiling hand to Virginia. Later Charles received a bolder and more dangerous defiance. He sent his Commissioners to inquire into the affairs of Virginia and demanded the public records of the colony. The Assembly refused, insisting that the records were not for the sight of the King or his Commissioners. The Commissioners finally induced Sharpless, the clerk, to furnish them a copy of the records, whereupon the Assembly condemned Sharpless to stand in the pillory and have the half of one of his ears cut off. Here was the legislative Assembly of an infant colony, that knew its privileges and rights, and dared to maintain them against all aggressors and at all hazards. Even this early torch of liberty illumined the woods of Virginia. On the 28th of April, 1635, the people of Virginia, still more resolutely asserted their rights.

On that day the House of Burgesses removed the Royal Governor, Sir John Harvey, from his office on account of misconduct and exercise of illegal powers, and elected Captain John West as Governor in his place. This preceded by years the deposition of Charles the First, by the British Parliament. The colony of Virginia led the mother country in opposition to tyranny and oppression and in bold maintenance of the rights and liberty of Englishmen. This was the first revolutionary act in America; the first warning given to the kings of the old world that their unworthy and arbitrary deputies in the new world encounter resistance and receive decapitation. The Virginians did not confine their opposition to the oppressive measures of the weak and vacillating Charles. They were equally as defiant of Cromwell, the most masterful and resolute character of the century. After Cromwell had made himself absolute ruler of Britain, and his iron hand had destroyed parliament itself, he sent his ships and Commissioners to subdue the colony of Virginia, which still loyally adhered to the fortunes of the ill-starred House of Stuart. Virginia armed to resist, and the Commissioners could only prevent war by making a solemn treaty, conceding to the people of Virginia freedom of trade, equal to that of the free people of England, the right that taxes should be levied and appropriated, affairs conducted and the governor and all their officers elected, forts guarded, troops raised and commanded as the House of Burgesses should direct. Until Cromwell's death these rights were enjoyed and vast power thus exercised by the people of Virginia. Thus virtually it amounted to independence. When we reflect that these privileges were obtained from the most forceful and despotic ruler of his age, before whose power Europe trembled, we can form some conception of the resolute courage and ardent love of liberty possessed by the cavaliers of Virginia.

The year 1676 was a notable one in the annals of Virginia and marked an important epoch in the history of America. Then for the first time America, with sword in hand, rose to redress their wrongs, assert their rights and reform government. Berkeley, the royal governor of Virginia, had arrogated to himself all authority and power. Having secured a service House of Burgesses, he continued its existence from year to year and refused the people the right to elect another. He assumed the right to appoint all officers. The trade with Indians, the taxes and public lands were corruptly appropriated by him and his favorites. For fear of losing the profits of the Indian trade, he would not protect the people from the tomahawk of the merciless savages. He stubbornly resisted every effort to correct these abuses. Inflamed by the eloquence and animated by the courage of Nathaniel Bacon, the people rose in arms, drove Berkeley and his adherents from Jamestown, forced them to seek refuge in their ships and remote places, seized the reins of government and held them until the death of Bacon. History cannot furnish a more dramatic and inspiring scene than that at the Middle Plantation, now Williamsburg, where on the 3rd of August, 1676, the cavaliers of Virginia assembled and in stormy session, extended from noon to midnight, finally, under the flickering light of torches, signed an agreement that they would never lay down their arms until their wrongs were redressed, though the King of Great Britain should send troops and try to suppress them. This was the boldest, bravest act of the century. While England submitted to the corrupt and wicked Charles, Virginia resisted the tyrannical Berkeley, and obtained the reforms demanded. Thus a century before were sown in the soil of Virginia the seed that afterwards ripened into the Revolution and brought independence to the colonies. No people ever clung to individual and public liberty more tenaciously than the proud and imperious cavaliers of Virginia. "Liberty or death!" has ever been to all Virginians the bugle call to battle and duty. The cavalier, as he advanced across the continent, from the Atlantic to the

Great Lakes, from thence to the Pacific, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, building communities and cities, founding great states, has carried with him a fierce love of liberty and free institutions. There is scarcely a southern or western state that has not felt the touch of his masterful hand and whose social and political structure does not bear testimony to the greatness of his handiwork. The one hundred thousand persons who emigrated and settled in Virginia have now increased to five millions, scattered in every state of this Union. No industry, no genius is sufficient to make an estimate of their achievements in every line of human endeavor, or of their gifts to national greatness and glory. No nation was ever adorned at one time with so many illustrious men as was Virginia during the Revolutionary war and the few years preceding and following. Neither Greece nor Rome ever possessed at once such a prodigality of genius and eminence. It is almost impossible to conceive that a population so small could furnish so many distinguished men. Towering above them all was Washington, the foremost man of all times and of all countries; whose sword won independence for the colonies; whose unselfish patriotism, strict justice, calm judgment and great achievements, isolate him from all others and emblazon him with a glory that is world-wide and eternal. Conspicuous in his shining galaxy was Jefferson, the immortal author of the Declaration of Independence, the boldest and most successful reformer of all ages; who defined the true purpose of government better than all others, whose party tenets have almost become universal, and whose wisdom purchased Louisiana, and thus vast expanse of territory and thus made possible our present national greatness.

Within this group, luminous with learning and genius, stood the gentle and philosophic Madison, who, when the thirteen colonies, under the old articles of confederation, were flying into fragments and dissolving into anarchy, conceived the Federal Constitution and thus created our present national government, the best and wisest that man ever devised. Excelled by none in force and wisdom was resolute George Mason, the author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, the finest declaration of human rights ever penned, and which became a part of the Federal Constitution, and of nearly every state constitution of the Union. He it was who wrote the constitution of Virginia, the first written constitution of the world for a Republic, and whose salient features appear in all others which have followed. Illuminating the skies of America with undimmed splendor was Patrick Henry; the forest-born Demosthenes, "who spoke as Homer wrote," the greatest orator of modern times, whose burning eloquence and soul-stirring appeals called a continent to arms and started a revolution which shall yet encircle the globe, in its onward march for relief and reform. Residing at Chantilly, in Westmoreland county, a home of surpassing beauty, was Richard Henry Lee, whose grace and elegance would have adorned any Court, and whose persuasive eloquence earned for him the title, "The Cicero of the Revolution." He it was who conceived the scheme of "The Committee of Correspondence," from which sprung the union of the colonies with all the resultant benefits. He it was who moved on the 7th of June in the Continental Congress that these United Colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent states. Then attending William and Mary College, which he left to enlist in the Revolutionary war, was James Monroe, who afterwards, as President, when our foreign policy was weak, vacillating and unfixed, had the courage to announce the great Monroe Doctrine, which extended our protection to the Western Hemisphere, saved it from foreign conquest and colonization and dedicated it to liberty, which great doctrine he made a part of the world's international law, and which will forever constitute the foundation of our foreign policy. Serving as a private in the Revolutionary war was John Marshall, the greatest jurist of modern times, and who afterwards, as Chief Justice, by his great decisions so ennobled and strengthened the Federal Government as to make it one of the most efficient and capable in the world. Welding a vast influence was Edmund Perleton, whose manly beauty, clear voice, integrity and piety made him the pride of the conservative element of cavaliers. He was president of the Committee of Safety, which marshaled the forces and directed the measures of resistance to Britain. He was acknowledged as one of the ablest debaters of his time. Scattering everywhere sweetness and sunshine, was general, loving George Wythe, whose culture, learning and legal acquirements were an ornament to any state. He it was who moved on the 16th of February, 1776, in the Continental Congress, "that the colonies had a right to contract alliances with foreign powers." This was the first act of independence, and the means of securing the aid of France, which was indispensable to success. Then living in Albemarle county was George Rogers Clark, who afterwards with a few Virginia troops captured from Great Britain all that vast territory from the mountains to the Mississippi, and to the Great Lakes. The perils and privations encountered by him and his troops have never been surpassed. Historians concur in saying it was the most heroic achievement of an heroic epoch. But for the conquest made by this "Hannibal of the West," the boundaries of the United States would have been limited to the territory fringing the Atlantic coast. Few

victories have ever produced such far reaching results as his. In the beautiful valley of Virginia was brave, daring Daniel Morgan, who, Bancroft says, was "the greatest commander of light troops of the world." His rapid march with his Virginia riflemen from Winchester to the relief of Boston within twenty-one days startled and stirred the country. He, with his Virginia troops, was the first commander to successfully resist Burgoyne's army and to him and them belong the chief glory of Saratoga. He, sustained by his brave Virginia riflemen, won the battle of Cowpens, which was acknowledged as the most astonishing and brilliant victory of the war. In superb Southwest Virginia was stern William Campbell, who commanded and won the battle of King's mountain, which victory made possible the final triumph at Yorktown. At Stratford, in Westmoreland county, lived Light Horse Harry Lee, who became the Rupert of the Revolution, the most gallant and dashing cavalierman that ever drew sabre. Surrounding these great luminaries were lesser lights, yet whose brilliance were sufficient to make resplendent any state. Among these was grim, determined Archibald Cary, of Amplehill, called "Old Iron"; scholarly Richard Nelson, who at the battle of Yorktown directed the troops to fire at his own home; pious, patriotic John Page; Edmund Randolph, learned, eloquent and able, the first Attorney General of the United States; Peyton Randolph, first President of the Continental Congress; Meriwether Lewis, whose wonderful explorations from the Mississippi to the Pacific gave to this nation through discovery that lovely stretch of country embracing Oregon, Washington and other magnificent states.

Sirs, eliminate the achievements of these men and you will nearly unwrite the history of America. These were the brains that conceived; these were the hands that constructed our national system and formed the foundation upon which have been built American greatness and glory. Virginia! many and valuable have been your gifts to this nation; great is your title to distinction and immortality. Within your border was erected the first church in this nation; was built the first furnace; was founded the first free school. It was you who first challenged France on this continent. Your House of Burgesses was the first assembly of the colonies to remonstrate against the tyranny of the British Parliament and assert American rights; you were the first to pass a resolution for armed resistance against British power; your freedom and independence unconditionally, and thus you became the first Republic of the Western world. The independence of all the colonies was moved in the Continental Congress in your name, through instructions given to your delegates. To allay colonial jealousies during the Revolutionary war you generously conceded the territorial claims of all the other colonies. To cement the states into a Union you gave to the nation a large territory, an empire in vastness and richness, which was yours by charter and conquest. It was you who called the Convention which prepared the Federal Constitution. To you belongs the honor of being the first to condemn and prohibit the infamous slave trade. It was your wisdom and foresight which saved the Northwestern territory from slavery; which act was the most controlling of all causes which led to its final destruction. That the rich and large stretch of territory embracing Texas and California is a part of this nation is due to the policy of your distinguished son, President Tyler, and the victories of your illustrious soldiers, Scott and Taylor. The first blood shed in the Revolutionary war was on the western border in conflict with the Indians, incited by Britain. The last final blow that destroyed British power in America was delivered on your soil at Yorktown. The first iron-clad vessel, which revolutionized the navies of the world was built and fought within thy waters. During the late war between the States your soil was the seat of the most prolonged and terrific war of all ages and of all countries. Within five years more than six hundred battles were fought within your borders. There is scarcely a hilltop, stream or village within your limits which has not become historical from its association with some daring deed of valor, or splendid display of military genius or prowess. Virginia, your history from Bethel to Appomattox gleams with a glory that has brought to you a renown which is imperishable. You gave the world its most daring exhibition of disciplined valor when amid storm of shell and shot Pickett charged the heights of Gettysburg and by a baptism of blood and death showed the glorious stuff of which Virginians were made. The lurid light of that charge will shine to remotest time. You furnished to that conflict the dashing cavalierman, gallant Turner Ashby, whose name, on his milk-white steed, his drawn sword in hand, his face ablaze with the enthusiasm of battle, will live as long as gallantry, patriotism and chivalry are cherished. You then gave to the world its greatest cavalry leader, who revolutionized the use of cavalry, blue-eyed, flaxen-haired "Jeb" Stuart, "hoisterous as March, fresh as May," who rode and fought like a mighty Saxon King. You produced the best corps commander of his age, A. P. Hill, and the best tactician of his time, Joseph E. Johnston. Then you gave the world that silent, stern, mysterious figure, Stonewall Jackson, the great thunderbolt of war, whose unflinching

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