

## LONDON CO. OPENS INVESTMENT TO PUBLIC

The London Company has been granted a new charter by King James I. This second charter differs from the first in two ways. First, the form of government used in the colony will now be the responsibility of the London Company instead of the king. There has been great dissatisfaction in the Royal Council in England with the progress being made at Jamestown. The inability of the leaders of the colony to work together, the shortage of food and the lack of any substantial profit—a few iron chisels, some glassware, sassafras root and lumber being the only commodities the colony has produced so far—are all seen as reasons to make some changes. The form of government in the colony is held to blame for the unsatisfactory progress; therefore, it will be changed.

From henceforth, sole authority in the colony will rest in the hands of one man, the Governor and Captain General of Virginia. The person holding this position will have a council of men in Virginia to advise him, but he will have the final word. In his absence there is to be a Lt. Governor to serve in his place. We are pleased to announce that Thomas West, Lord de la Ware, has been named Governor and Captain General of Virginia for life.

The second difference is that investment, which has been by invitation only, is now open to the public. There has been much excitement in the city since this announcement was made. Members of the nobility, merchants and ranking members of government, who have already invested in the company, are pledging more. The reaction from the general public has been amazing: there is no poor man or woman who is not willing to invest something.

The amount of money raised is expected to be great. It will go to outfit the largest fleet ever sent to Virginia—nine ships in all. For the first time families are encouraged to be part of the expedition so there will be women and children aboard. Lord de la Ware is not expected to be ready to sail with the fleet; therefore, Sir Thomas Gates will represent him as Lt. Governor.

*Sea Venture*, commanded by Christopher Newport, is the largest of the nine ships and therefore will carry most of the provisions for the 500 settlers that are expected to sign up for the voyage. The Admiral of the Fleet, Sir George Somers, Sir Thomas Gates, the Lt. Governor, and a company of soldiers who fought with Gates in the Netherlands will also be aboard *Sea Venture*.