

## Joint Resolution Annexing Texas

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Joint Resolution for annexing Texas to the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, that ~~the compact of~~ annexation and union between the said United States, and the Republic of Texas, ~~take effect~~ as settled the twelfth of April last, in the following words, viz:

“Article 1st

“The Republic of Texas, acting in conformity with the wishes of the people and ~~every department of its~~ government, cedes to the United States all the territories of Texas to be held by the United States in full property and sovereignty, and to be annexed to the said United States as one of their Territories, subject to the same constitutional provisions with their other Territories: This cession including all public lots and squares, vacant lands, mines, minerals, salt lakes and springs, public edifices, fortifications barracks, ports and harbors, navy and navy yards, docks, magazines, arms, armaments, and accoutrements, archives and public documents, public funds, debts, taxes, and dues, unpaid at the time of the ~~exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty.~~ annexation.

Article II

“The citizens of Texas shall be incorporated into the Union of the United States, maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and admitted, as soon as may be consistent with the principles of the federal constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, privileges, and immunities, of citizens of the United States.

Article III.

All titles and claims to real estate, ~~valid under the laws of Texas, shall be held~~ so by the United States; and measures ~~adopted for the speedy adjudication of all unsettled claims to land, and patents shall be granted to those found to be valid.~~

Article IV.

“The public lands hereby ceded shall be subject to the laws regulating the public lands in the other Territories of the United States, as far as they may be applicable; subject, however, to such alterations and changes as Congress may from time to time think proper to make. ~~If, in consequence of the mode in which lands have been surveyed in Texas, or from previous grants or locations, the sixteenth section cannot be applied to the purpose of education, Congress shall make equal provision by grant of land elsewhere. And it is also further~~

understood that hereafter, the books, papers and documents of the General Land Office of Texas shall be deposited and kept at such place in Texas as the Congress of the United States shall direct.

#### Article V.

“The United States assume and agree to pay the public debts and liabilities of Texas, however created, for which the faith or credit of her Government may be found at the time of ~~the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty~~ annexation; ~~debt~~ debts and liabilities ~~estimated not to exceed, in the whole ten millions of dollars, to be~~ ~~ascertained and paid in the manner herein after stated:~~ ~~ascertained and paid in the manner herein after stated:~~

“The payment of the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars shall be made at the treasury of the United States, within ninety days after ~~the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty~~ annexation, as follows: Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to Frederick Dawson of Baltimore or his executors, on the delivery of that amount of ten per cent, bonds of Texas, one hundred thousand dollars if so much be required, in the redemption of the exchequer bills which may be in circulation at the time of ~~the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty~~ annexation. For the payment of the remainder of the debts and liabilities of Texas, which, together with the amount already specified, shall not exceed ten millions of dollars, the public lands herein ceded, and the net revenues from the same, are hereby pledged.

#### Article VI.

“In order to ascertain the full amount of the debts and liabilities herein assumed, and the legality and validity thereof, four commissioners shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall meet at Washington in Texas, within the period of six months after ~~the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty~~ annexation, and may continue in session not exceeding twelve months, unless the Congress of the United States should prolong the time. They shall take an oath for the faithful discharge of their duties, and that they are not directly or indirectly interested in said claims at the time, and will not be during their continuance in office, and the said oath, shall be recorded with their proceedings. In case of the death, sickness or resignation of any of the commissioners, his or their place or places may be supplied by the appointment as aforesaid, or by the President of the United States during the recess of the Senate. They or a majority of them, shall be authorized, under such regulations as the Congress of the United States may prescribe, to hear, examine, and decide on all questions touching the legality and validity of said claims, and shall, when a claim is allowed, issue a certificate to the claimant, stating the amount, distinguishing principal from interest. The certificate so issued shall be numbered, and entry made of the number, the name of the person to whom issued, and the amount, in a book to be kept for that purpose. They shall transmit the records of their proceedings and the book in which the certificates are entered, with the vouchers and documents produced before them, relative to the claims allowed or rejected, to the Treasury Department of the United States, to be deposited therein; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall as soon as practicable after the receipt of the same, ascertain the aggregate amount of the debts and liabilities allowed; and if the same, when added to the amount to be paid to Frederick Dawson, and

the sum which may be paid in the redemption of the exchequer bills, shall not exceed the estimated sum of ten millions of dollars, he shall on the presentation of a certificate of the commissioners, issue, at the option of the holder, a new certificate for the amount, distinguishing, principal from interest, and payable to him or order, out, of the net proceeds of the public lands hereby ceded, or stock of the United States, for the amount allowed, including principal and interest, and bearing an interest of three per cent per annum from the date there of; which stock in addition to being made payable out of the net proceeds of the public lands hereby ceded, shall also be receivable in payments for the same. In case the amount of the debts and liabilities allowed, ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ which ~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ with the sums aforesaid to be paid to Frederick Dawson, and which may be paid in the redemption of the exchequer bills, shall exceed the sum of ten millions of dollars, the said Secretary, before issuing a new certificate, or stock as the case may be, shall make in each case such proportionable and ratable deduction on its amount as to reduce the aggregate to the said sum of ten millions of dollars; and he shall have power to make all needful rules and regulations, necessary to carry into effect the powers hereby vested in him.

“Article VII.

“Until further provision shall be made, the laws of Texas as now existing, shall remain in force, and all executive and judicial officers of Texas, except the President, Vice President, and heads of Departments, shall retain their offices, with all power and authority appertaining thereto; and the courts of justice shall remain in all respects as now established and organized.

“Article VIII.

“Immediately after ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ the ratification of this treaty ~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ annexation the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a commissioner, who shall proceed to Texas and receive the transfer ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ thereof ~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ of the Territory thereof, and all the archives and public property, and other things herein conveyed, in the name of the United States. He shall exercise all executive authority in said territory necessary to the proper execution of the laws, until otherwise provided.”

Resolved ~~[[?]]~~ and the said articles are hereby declared to be the fundamental law of union between the said United States and Texas, so soon as the supreme authorities of ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ Texas ~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ the said Republic of Texas shall agree to the same. And it shall be the duty of the President of the United States; so soon as he shall be officially notified of such agreement on the part of Texas to announce the same by proclamation.

Resolved further, by the authority aforesaid, that it is understood and intended that whatever was stipulated to be done immediately; or at a fixed period after the exchange of the ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ ratification of the aforesaid ~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ said compact, shall be done immediately or in a like period after the supreme authorities of Texas shall have formally agreed to these resolutions

~~[[reverse of document]]~~

Joint Resolution for annexing Texas to the United States

(No. 46)

(No report)

{December} 12, 1844

Read & Committed to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reports the following {Joint} Resolution

(525)

C. J. Ingersoll

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