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DEBATES
OF THE
TEXAS CONVENTION.

BY WM. F. WEEKS, REPORTER.

PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT, CALLING A
CONVENTION.

By the President of the Republic of Texas,
A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, the people of Texas have evinced a decided wish that prompt and definite action should be had upon the proposition for annexation, recently submitted by the Government of the United States to this Government, and that a Convention should be assembled for this purpose; and,

Whereas, it is competent for the people alone to decide finally upon the proposition for annexation, and "by deputies in Convention assembled," to adopt a Constitution with a view to the admission of Texas as one of the States of the American Union; and

Whereas, no authority is given by the Constitution of this Republic to any branch of the Government to call a Convention, and to change the organic law, this being a right reserved to the people themselves, and which they alone can properly exercise;

THEREFORE, be it known, that I, ANSON JONES, President of the Republic of Texas, desirous of giving direction and effect to the public will, already so fully expressed, do RECOMMEND to the citizens of Texas, that an election for "Deputies" to a Convention be held in the different counties of the Republic, on Wednesday, the fourth day of June next, upon the following basis, viz.: Each county in the Republic to elect one Deputy, irrespective of the number of voters it contained at the last annual elections. Each county voting at that time three hun-

dred and less than six hundred, to elect two Deputies. Each county voting at that time six hundred and less than nine hundred, to elect three Deputies; And each county voting at that time nine hundred and upwards, to elect four Deputies: which basis will give to the county of Austin, two; Bastrop, one; Bexar, two; Brazoria, two; Brazos, one; Bowie, one; Colorado, one; Fayette, two; Fannin, two; Fort Bend, one; Goliad, one; Galveston, two; Gonzales, one; Harris, three; Harrison, three; Houston, two; Jackson, one; Jasper, one; Jefferson, one; Lamar, two; Liberty, two; Matagorda, one; Montgomery, four; Milam, one; Nacogdoches, three; Red River, three; Robertson, two; Rusk, one; Refugio, one; Sabine, one; San Augustine, two; Shelby, two; San Patricio, one; Travis, one; Victoria, one; and Washington, three Deputies: and that the said Deputies so elected, do assemble in Convention at the city of Austin, on the "Fourth of July" next, for the purpose of considering the proposition for the annexation of Texas to the United States, and any other proposition which may be made concerning the nationality of the Republic: and, should they judge it expedient and proper, to adopt, provisionally, a Constitution to be submitted to the people for their ratification, with a view to the admission of Texas as a state into the North American Union, in accordance with the terms of the proposition for annexation, already submitted to this Government by that of the United States. And the Chief Justices of the respective counties aforesaid, will give due notice of the said elections, appoint a presiding officer in the several precincts, who will appoint the Judges and Clerks of said elections, and have the same conducted according to the Constitution and Laws regulating elections, and make due return thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the Republic to be hereunto affixed.

{ L. S. } Done at Washington, this fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, and of the Independence of the Republic the tenth.

ANSON JONES,

By the President,

EBEN R. ALLEN,

Attorney General, and

Acting Sec'y of State.