

Mier y Teran leads to Law of April 6th, 1830

Perhaps the greatest dispute that set the wheels in motion for the Texas Revolution was the Mexican Decree of April 6, 1830.

This decree came about due to a report by General Manuel Mier y Teran, "an astute soldier, scholar, and statesman." He was dispatched in 1828 to survey the eastern boundary of the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty that terminated the earlier Neutral Ground Agreement between Texas and Louisiana. He was also to determine if more military outposts were needed. His report concluded that the farther northeast he traveled the more discriminated against were the Mexicans. Mier y Teran reported that they were treated as inferiors, that the Mexican Colonization Laws were increasingly ignored by the Anglos and that the Anglos seemed to relish this flaunting of Mexican authority. He recommended that Mexico act immediately or Texas would be lost to the Anglos.

Several of General Teran's recommendations were:

1. Colonize Mexicans in Texas
2. Colonize Germans and Swiss.
3. Place more troops in Texas, preferably with convict soldiers who, upon completion of their enlistments, could become permanent settlers.

The Mexican Government responded to his recommendations.

Some of their 1830 decrees were:

1. Further Anglo colonization was to discontinue, however, Europeans would be encouraged to colonize.
2. Slavery would be outlawed.
3. More troops would be sent to the settlements, mostly convict-soldiers.

The Americans were incensed and felt that their rights as citizens had been completely taken away. Not until after the Convention of 1832, with Stephen F. Austin representing the colonists, was part of the decree to be repealed in 1834, but at a very high cost to Mexican-Anglo relations.