











TEXAS HISTORY FROM MUSTY PAST TAKEN FROM BEXAR COUNTY ARCHIVES

Note: This is one of a series of articles taken from the 300 special collections of family archives in the University of Texas library.

of these family collections, some chosen for their intrinsic significance in the development of the empire of Texas, others for their purely human interest in portraying personalities, economic conditions and social intercourse.)

SERIES II, No. 7

An authentic view of the political situation as it confronted the colonists in Austin's settlement

just a hundred years ago is given in letters written by Ira Ingram, one of the settlers, to his uncle, Roswell Ingram in New England.

On March 19, 1833, Ingram wrote: "As to Texas—the civil commotions which have overspread a considerable portion of Mexico proper, with suffering and fevers, have rather tended to invigorate and improve her condition.

"All that has thus far been done by the people of Texas, (about thirty five thousand in number; twenty, to twenty five thousand of whom are north Americans) is to remove those out-works of ambition which the usurper had thrown around the principal settlements, by capturing the garrisons, or permitting them to retire without bloodshed or annoyance; and to adopt measures preliminary, and preparatory to the formation of a State government, as a member of the confederation.

"A convention by deputies, of all the people of Texas, has been

called, in pursuance of previous arrangements, to meet on the first of April next, for the purpose of framing and adopting a constitution for, the state of Texas—this step is likely to be very warmly opposed, by what is here called the Aristocratic party, headed by Stephen F. Austin, the founder of this colony.

A month later, April 18, 1833, he wrote of the framing of the constitution:

"I inform you that a convention of the people by means of their delegates, were then about to meet, for the purpose of framing a constitution for the State of Texas. This convention met on the first of April, had a quorum on the third, and proceeded to business. They framed a constitution, and adopted it by a unanimous vote, and elected three delegates to proceed to Mexico, and present it to the National Congress, for its resolution.

"We have recommended an organization of the militia of the country, have organized a central, and subcommittees of correspondence, vigilance and safety, and are preparing, by the use of all prudent and silent means, for the worst that can happen.

"There is now but one mind, one head, one soul, one wish, and one resolve, concerning the future course of the injured and oppressed settlers of Texas - - -

"We have thus far occupied the attitude of defendants in the cause, and do not intend, either to shift, or abandon our position.

"In short, our policy is to merit, that we may command, and enjoy, in case we should need them, the sympathies of the civilized world.

"I leave here for the town of Brazoria, 70 miles below, to superintend the publication of our Memorial to the Congress, and our constitution. From there, I will write you again."

In mid-summer, July 23, 1833, he hinted at the possibility of independence of Texas from Mexico: "News from the interior of Mexico, augurs unfavorably to the cause of Union and United counsels. Our present Executive, Gen. Santa Anna, appears anxious to give a new, and vigorous impulse to the civil authorities of the country, by reducing the privileges of the clergy, and the influence of the military. This has already led to some irregularities on the part of the latter, favoured no doubt, by the secret intrigues of the former. Where, or how, or when, these commotions will terminate, is impossible I apprehend, for any

living man to foretell. The ordinary laws of domestic and national strife, afford no barometer by which to calculate the incantations of a nation of semibarbarians. If they will listen to the claims of Texas, and receive her as a State, by herself, in this quarter, all is safe. But if not, and Mexico revolutionizes, Texas must go for herself, and stand or fall, alone."

The question of adoption of the Texas constitution was still unsettled almost six months later. On December 9, 1833, Ingram wrote: "No doubt is now entertained, that Texas will soon be a co-ordinate, and co-equal member of the Mexican Federation. Should this event take place as we now flatter ourselves it will, within the ensuing year, and we can succeed in putting our private affairs in the train which we now have in contemplation, it may be in our power, in life and health are spared us, to visit, ere long, the land of our nativity."

Spring still found the political status of Texas undecided, but prospects were more promising, Ingram wrote:

"The question if a State government is yet undecided, and may be suspended for some time to come, but many improvements have recently been made in the local affairs of Texas, occasioned, no doubt by the spirit indicated by the conventions of 1832 and '33; reconciling the people, for the time being, to a temporary suspension of the act of separation. An entirely new, and greatly improved organization of the judiciary system of Texas, is one of the effects already realized, of the general and decisive movements here one and two years ago. With this, and such other improvements as we much need, and hope to obtain, we can move quietly, and prosperously along for some time to come, attached as we still are, to the government of Coahuila. And indeed, under even a partial reform, making our situation at all tolerable, I would greatly prefer temporary delay, to the untired expedient of organizing immediately, with present materials, a separate State government."

The year 1835 found the State question "lost," Ingram wrote, and organization of a State government was indefinitely deferred:

"The reaction which I feared, and more than half predicted in my last, is now in full progress. The Congress of the Nation, was, I have since learned, composed mostly of young men—inexperienced of course; and too hasty in the work of reform. This I feared. How the powers that be can soothe the awakened sensibilities of the mass of the nation, without making concessions according to the friends of toleration, and of highly prejudicial to political freedom, is beyond my pretensions to foretell. However, these moral and political excitements do not affect all portions of the country alike. We of Texas, are immediately, but little affected by them. But they have an indirect and remote influence, even on us. They excite alarm for the security of rights, and thus retard immigration.

"The State question is lost—at least, for the present. And for the cause, we may look to the infidelity of its professed, but weak-minded, and indiscreet friends. The benefits, therefore, which were anticipated from the immediate organization of a State government for Texas, are now indefinitely deferred. And perhaps it is better to defer the change till we have more, and better materials to organize with."

Mrs. Cecile Combent and children of McLean are visiting Mrs. Rhea Couch this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gilbert had for week end guests his mother, Mrs. C. C. Gilbert of Claude and his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. O'Neal of Eldorado.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE FUNDING BONDS

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of April, 1935, the Commissioners' Court of Donley County, Texas, will pass an order authorizing the issuance of Road and Bridge Funding Bonds of said County in the maximum amount of \$50000.00, for the purpose of funding and in lieu of a like amount of indebtedness against the Road and Bridge Fund consisting in valid and legally issued time warrants now outstanding against the Road and Bridge Fund, described as follows:

aggregating \$50000.00 and certain registered scrip warrants issued for the purpose of purchasing right of way and for other road and bridge purposes, aggregating \$50000.00 as is shown on the list of said time warrants and scrip warrants on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Said funding bonds shall bear a maximum interest rate of 5 1/2% and shall mature serially over a maximum period of not exceeding thirty (30) years.

This notice is given as required by law.

S. W. LOWE, County Judge, Donley Co., Texas (2-5c)

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Dr. Milling cured my boy sound and well. At present it is impossible to tell there was ever anything wrong with the child. Would advise every one to go to Dr. Milling and be cured.

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DOROTHY DARNIT

A Weekly Feature of

The Donley County Leader



Grocery Specials FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY

- K. C. Baking Powder—25 oz. 18c
SUGAR—10 lbs. 53c
2 lbs. Cocoa 19c
Chilli—Per Can 11c
COCOA—One Pound 10c
MUSTARD—Quart prepared 13c
CRACKERS—2 lbs. 18c
KETCHUP—14 oz. size 13c
Pickles—Sour per quart 18c
SPUDS—Good grade, per Peck 25c
Macaroni and Spaghetti—7 oz. 5c
PORK & BEANS—16 oz. can 6c
CORN FLAKES—Per Box 10c
BRAN—All kinds 10c
8 oz. Vanilla Extract 15c

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