

“PROVISO,” SLAVERY, THE TARIFF, AND THE WAR WITH
MEXICO.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS,

IN RELATION TO

The proviso, slavery, the tariff, and the war with Mexico.

MAY 18, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
AUSTIN, March, 20, 1848.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to your excellency the annexed resolutions of the legislature of Texas.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE T. WOOD.

Hon. D. S. KAUFMAN,
House of Representatives.

JOINT RESOLUTION on the “proviso,” slavery, the tariff, and the war against Mexico.

Be it resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas, That any attempt on the part of the Congress of the United States to interfere with the domestic and internal policy of the States or Territories is unwarranted by the constitution of the United States, and in violation of the rights of the State. The “proviso,” if submitted to, would prevent the slaveholding State from enjoying the full benefits of any territory which may be hereafter acquired by the United States. The constitution of the United States recognises slavery as one of our domestic institutions, and we acknowledge no right to abolish it but that which belongs to the slaveholding States themselves. We will not submit to any law which prohibits the citizens of the southern States from taking their property to any territory which may be acquired from Mexico. We are willing to submit to the compromises of the constitution, but we will never submit to a usurpation of power which robs us of our rights.

Resolved further, That we deny the right of the Congress of the United States to pass any law prohibiting any State, that may hereafter be ad-

mitted into the Union, from coming in either with or without slavery, as the popular voice of such State may determine. This principle we will not yield.

Resolved further, That the just and equitable mode of raising revenue is to levy a tariff on the *ad valorem* principle, for purposes of revenue, as contradistinguished from the protective policy. That we believe that the tariff of 1846 will yield more revenue to the United States than could be derived from the tariff of 1842, and that the former is at the same time less burdensome to the people than the latter would be; and believing it to be a cardinal principle of government, that the burdens should be equally borne by all classes of the community, we hope that the general principles of the tariff of 1846 will not be altered. We are willing to pay for "revenue," but not for "protection."

Resolved further, That we consider the war with Mexico as necessary to the vindication of our national honor; as a war which was brought on by Mexico, by making an attack upon the army of the United States, at a time when the Mexican government expected to destroy that gallant band, who have added fresh lustre to the American name. After the bad faith which has characterized the Mexicans, we have nothing to hope for, but that justice which we must compel them to grant by force of arms. We recommend, therefore, a vigorous prosecution of the war, until we obtain full indemnity for the wrongs and injuries done us. If it be necessary to appropriate some of the most valuable portions of Mexican territory, we recommend that it be done. We should never give up California. We should secure a communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, across the isthmus, for all time to come. We should take possession of the Mexican ports, collect her revenues, and levy a tax upon all the property of the nation, to support our armies. As long as Mexico compels us to keep an army there, we should make her support it.

Resolved further, That our Senators be instructed, and our Representatives in Congress be requested, to support the principles set forth in the foregoing resolutions, and to use all just and constitutional means to resist encroachments upon the rights of the slaveholding States.

Resolved further, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, the governors of each of the States in the Union, and to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, under the seal of the State and with his signature of approval.

JAMES W. HENDERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JOHN A. GREER,
President of the Senate.

Approved March 18, 1848.

GEORGE T. WOOD.