

TREATIES.

Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Venezuela. Concluded at Caracas, April 25th, 1866. Proclaimed by the President of the United States, May 29, 1867.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Venezuela was concluded and signed by their respective plenipotentiaries at the city of Caracas, on the twenty-fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, which convention being in the English and Spanish languages, is word for word, as follows:—

The conclusion of a convention similar to those entered into with other republics, and by which the pending American claims upon Venezuela might be referred for decision to a mixed commission and an umpire, having been proposed to the Venezuelan government on behalf of the United States of America, as a means of examining and justly terminating such claims; and it having been thought that the adoption of the contemplated course will secure at least some of the advantages attending arbitration, so strongly recommended in article the 11th of the federal constitution of Venezuela, while it will preserve unimpaired, as reciprocally desired, the good understanding of both nations, the citizen first vice-president in charge of the presidency has accepted the above proposal, and authorized the minister for foreign relations to negotiate and sign the proper convention. Thereupon said minister and Mr. E. D. Culver, minister resident of the United States of America, also duly empowered for that purpose, have agreed upon the following:

ARTICLES OF CONVENTION.

ARTICLE I.

All claims on the part of corporations, companies or individuals, citizens of the United States, upon the government of Venezuela, which may have been presented to their government, or to its legation in Caracas, shall be submitted for examination and decision to a mixed commission, consisting of two members one of whom shall be appointed by the government of the United States, and the other by the government of the United States and the other by that of Venezuela. In case of death, absence, resignation or incapacity of either of the commissioners, or in the event of either of them omitting or ceasing to act, the government of the United States, or that of Venezuela respectively, or the minister of the United States in Caracas, by authority of his government, shall forthwith proceed to fill the vacancy.

The commissioners so named shall meet in the city of Caracas within four months from the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, and before proceeding to business they shall make solemn oath that they will carefully examine and impartially decide according to justice, and in compliance with the provisions of this convention, all claims submitted to them, and such oath shall be entered on the record of their proceedings.

The commissioner shall then proceed to appoint an umpire to decide upon any case or cases concerning which they may disagree, or upon any point of difference that may arise in the course of their proceedings. And if they cannot agree in the selection, the umpire shall be named by the diplomatic representative either of Switzerland or of Russia, in Washington, on the previous invitation of the high contracting parties.

ARTICLE II.

So soon as the umpire shall have been appointed, the commissioners shall proceed without delay to examine the claims which may be presented to them under this convention, and they shall, if required, hear one person in behalf of each government on every separate claim. Each government shall furnish, on request of either commissioner, all such documents and papers in its possession as may be deemed important to the just determination of any claim.

In cases where they agree to award an indemnity, they shall determine the amount to be paid, and issue certificates of the same. In cases where the commissioners cannot agree, the point of difference shall be referred to the umpire, before whom each of the commissioners may be heard, and whose decision shall be final.

The commissioners shall make such decision as they shall deem, in reference to such claims, conformable to justice, even though such decisions amount to an absolute denial of illegal pretensions, since the including of any such in this convention is not to be understood as working prejudice in favor of any one; either as to principles of right or matters of fact.

ARTICLE III.

The commissioners shall issue certificates of the sums to be paid to the claimants, respectively, by virtue of their decisions or those of the umpire, and the aggregate amount of all sums awarded by the commissioners, and of all sums accruing from awards made by the umpire, shall be paid to the government of the United States. Payments of said sums shall be made in equal annual payments, to be completed within ten years from the date of the termination of the labors of the commission; the first payment to be made six months from same date. Semiannual interest shall be paid on the several sums awarded, at a rate of five per cent. per annum from the date of the termination of the labors of the commission.

ARTICLE IV.

The commission shall terminate its labors in twelve months from the date of its organization, except that thirty days' extension may be given to issue certificates, if necessary, on the decisions of the umpire in the case referred to in the following article. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, and may appoint a secretary.

ARTICLE V.

The decisions of this commission and those (in case there may be any) of the umpire shall be final and conclusive as to all pending claims at the date of their installation. Claims which shall not be presented within the twelve months herein prescribed will be disregarded by both governments, and considered invalid.

In the event that, upon the termination of the labors of said commission, there should remain pending one or more cases before the umpire awaiting his decision, the said umpire is authorized to make his decision and transmit same to the commissioners, who shall issue their certificates thereupon and communicate them to each government, which shall be held binding and conclusive; provided, however, that his decision shall be given within thirty days from the termination of the labors of the

commission, and after the expiration of the said thirty days any decision made shall be void and of no effect.

ARTICLE VI.

Each government shall pay its own commissioner, and shall pay one half of what may be due the umpire and secretary, and one half the incidental expenses of the commission.

ARTICLE VII.

The present convention shall be ratified and the ratification exchanged, so soon as may be practicable, in the city of Caracas.

In testimony whereof, the plenipotentiaries have signed this convention and hereunto affixed the seals of the ministry of foreign relations of the United States of Venezuela, and of the legation of the United States of America, in Caracas, this twenty-fifth day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

The Minister resident of the United States of America.

[L. S.] E. D. CULVER,
Minister of Foreign Relations of the United States of Venezuela.

[L. S.] RAFAEL SELJAS.

And whereas the said convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at Caracas on the tenth day of April last:

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, have caused the said convention to be made public, to the end that the same and every clause and article thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year

[SEAL.] of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninety-first.

An Englishman stopping at a country inn in one of the Eastern States, was continually boasting of the superiority of everything in England, and depreciating the production of America. The landlord, as may be surmised, did not relish this, and therefore thought of a plan to get "square" with the English blower. Procuring a bushel of fine healthy crabs, he poured them into the Englishman's bed; then telling his guest that his room was ready, he lighted a candle and escorted him up stairs. Upon reaching the door the Yankee managed to put out the light. Of course it didn't make much difference to the Englisher, so he undressed himself and jumped into bed. Immediately he gave a terrific yell: "Landlord! landlord! come here! What are these in my bed?" The landlord, who was outside the door, came in, looked in the bed and coolly said: "Them's bed-bugs; can you beat them in England?" The Englishman left at once.

This story of a spunky widow comes from a local journal:

"Mrs. Arnold is a widow in Malone, New York, who tills her farm with her own hands, whose barn was accidentally burned, and who proposed to have another one built. In consequence of the advice of a friend, she varied from the usual custom. He supplied coffee, tea, and good eatables to the laborers who were to raise the frame, but no whisky—the consequence of which was that the men refused to go on with the "raising." The circumstance was mentioned in three of the local churches on Sunday. Fifty men, women and boys visited the widow on Monday; ministers and farmers became carpenters for the occasion. Within a few hours the barn was complete, double boarded all around, and roofed in."

A number of wags in the Prussian army before Metz, whose fondness for practical jokes had not gone under amid the terrible carnage, crept during the night to a very advanced position, and there planted an imitation battery behind some ruins of a destroyed farm house. Beehives turned upside down represented mortars, and stovepipes, with the outward rims turned over so as to look broad, were the cannon. Some old uniforms hung on poles were soldiers. In the morning the French batteries opened a terrific fire on the supposed battery, and with such an effect that soon not a vestige of it was to be seen. Another great French victory can thus be bulletined from Tours.

DROWNED AT SEA.—Capt. Thomas Stimpson, late master of the fishing schooner Shooting Star, which sailed from this port on the 8th of September last, and on the 15th, while scudding before a heavy northwest gale, in lat. 40 50 north, long. 125 west, she was boarded by two cross seas at the same time which swept the deck, carrying overboard Capt. Stimpson, who was lost. Every effort was made to save him, but without success.

A little fellow, some four or five years old, and who had never seen a negro, was greatly perplexed one day when one came to where he and his father were. The youngster eyed the stranger suspiciously till he had passed and then asked his father: "Pa, what painted that man all black so?" "God did, my son," replied the father. "Well," said the little fellow, still looking after the negro, "I shouldn't 'a thought he'd held still."

A man in Buffalo pulled off his coat and jumped in a canal to save a woman from drowning, when a pickpocket stole his pocket-book from his coat, and the woman swore at him for pulling her hair in his efforts to save her life. There isn't much inducement in Buffalo for a man to act as a retriever.

Benson J. Lossing is at work on an illustrated life of General Wool.