

1-28-1876

Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of New Mexico, asking the passage of an enabling act for admission into the Union

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ADMISSION OF NEW MEXICO.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW MEXICO,

ASKING

The passage of an enabling act for admission into the Union.

JANUARY 23, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Territories and ordered to be printed.

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, respectfully represent that by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in the year 1848, New Mexico was ceded to the United States by the republic of Mexico, under the most solemn guarantees and stipulations by said treaty that the citizens who did not retain their character as Mexicans should be incorporated into the Union of the United States, and be admitted at the proper time to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principles of the Constitution; that none of the citizens of New Mexico elected to retain their character as Mexican citizens, but voluntarily yielded implicit obedience to the new Government, preferring to be citizens of a strong and powerful government, under which they could have immediate protection, to that of foreign and distant nations, without the means to furnish them aid or assistance; that at every session of the Congress of the United States since the organization of New Mexico as a Territory, her citizens, relying upon the good faith of the Government in carrying out the true spirit and intent of said treaty, and most anxiously wishing to enjoy all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the Constitution, have asked and sought admission as a State into the Union; that they have patiently and without complaint watched the action of the Government in admitting into the Union several other Territories as States with much less population, and still less to recommend them than the Territory of New Mexico has been able to present, and the citizens of New Mexico have noticed with the greatest of mortification that their Territory and her claims, based upon the high obligations of national treaty, have been disregarded and left without respectable attention or consideration, (except at the last Congress,) which said disregard and rejection of their claims the people of New Mexico believe to be unjust and in direct violation of the sacred rights guaranteed to them by the aforesaid stipulations of the treaty of 1848.

Your memorialists are confident that New Mexico possesses more than

the requisite population, with abundant means and resources to entitle her to admission as a State; that although immediately after the taking of the census of 1860, two-thirds of the area and one-third of the population of New Mexico was cut off from her for the purpose of organizing Colorado and Arizona, yet, notwithstanding that a constant Indian war was being carried on within her borders, she entirely regained her population and more than doubled her wealth by the time of the taking of the census of 1870, showing an increase, under adverse circumstances, greater than the average of the States of the Union; and that during the last five years, since the taking of the last census, owing to the fact that peace from Indian hostilities has reigned in New Mexico, her population has increased more than fifty per cent. and her material wealth advanced threefold; her lands are fast being explored and occupied by the very best of citizens from all portions of the Union and Europe, which is fast transforming her from a wilderness into a garden.

Your memorialists do not believe it can be the purpose of a great Government such as ours to disregard the solemn obligations of a treaty, or reject or treat with contempt the reasonable claims and demands of the people of New Mexico.

Therefore, your memorialists most earnestly insist that the time has come when justice and right demand, and the exercise of a sound discretion requires, that the people of New Mexico should be admitted to the enjoyment of all rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principles of the Constitution; they therefore, in behalf of the people of New Mexico, protest against any further discrimination and distinction against them and in favor of other Territories, and ask that this their claim may be heard and justice accorded to this Territory and her people by an admission of New Mexico into the Union as a sovereign State.

PEDRO SANCHEZ,

Presidente.

ANICETO ABEYTRA,

Presidente Interino.

(Indorsed:) 2 ex. rec. 241. Filed in the secretary's office Jan. 14, 1876. W. G. Ritch, secretary N. M.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Territory of New Mexico.

I, W. G. Ritch, secretary of the Territory of New Mexico, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of an original enrolled memorial on file in my office with said original, and that the same is a true and correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original.

Witness my hand and official seal this 19th day of January, A. D. 1876.

[SEAL.]

W. G. RITCH,

Secretary.