

LOWER RIO GRANDE AND LOWER COLORADO RIVERS

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, TO THE END THAT
LEGISLATION MAY BE ENACTED TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITY
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE EQUITABLE USE OF THE
WATERS OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE TO ENABLE IT TO DEAL
WITH THE WATERS OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER IN
ADDITION TO THOSE OF THE RIO GRANDE

FEBRUARY 2, 1927.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered
to be printed

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, February 2, 1927.

To the Congress of the United States:

I recommend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the inclosed report from the Secretary of State, to the end that legislation may be enacted to extend the authority of the Commission on the Equitable Use of the Waters of the Lower Rio Grande to enable it to deal with the waters of the lower Colorado River in addition to those of the Rio Grande.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 2, 1927.

MR. PRESIDENT: Under an act of Congress, approved May 13, 1924, you were authorized to designate three special commissioners to cooperate with representatives of Mexico in a study regarding the equitable use of the waters of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman, Tex., with a view to their proper utilization for irrigation and other beneficial uses. The act further provided that upon the completion

of such study the results were to be submitted to Congress. Early in January, 1925, the following commissioners were named:

Dr. Elwood Mead, chairman, Mr. W. E. Anderson, of Texas, and Gen. Lansing H. Beach, United States Army, retired.

In due course the Mexican Foreign Office was informed of the appointment of this commission and inquiry was made as to when the Mexican representatives would be prepared to meet the American commissioners. The reply stated that since the Mexican Government had been gathering data for about two years concerning the use of the waters of the Colorado River, it preferred to appoint a commission authorized to consider this question first. It appeared, therefore, that no representatives would be appointed by the Mexican Government until the Government of the United States informed it of its attitude toward the question of considering the use of the waters of the Colorado River.

Subsequently, it was learned through the Mexican Embassy at this Capital that the Mexican Government would be disposed to agree to have one commission deal with both rivers. Accordingly, on August 12, 1926, telegraphic instructions were sent to the American Embassy at Mexico City to ascertain whether such was the case. The department has since received a dispatch from Ambassador Sheffield transmitting a copy of a note from the Mexican foreign office to the effect that the Mexican Government is prepared to appoint such a commission soon after the 1st of the present month.

Recently the contents of that note were brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Interior, and in a letter received from him under date of December 17 he makes the following comment:

This seems to render it desirable that the American commission, whose authority is at present confined to the Rio Grande, should have its authority extended to include the Colorado at the earliest possible date, in order that it may begin at once the collection of data on the Colorado. Provision for the expenses of the American commission to deal with both rivers should be made in the present appropriation bill.

In order that the commission may deal effectively with both rivers, as suggested by the Secretary of the Interior, it will be necessary to extend the authority of the commission and to obtain an additional appropriation. It is therefore recommended that Congress be requested to extend the authority of the present commission so as to enable it to deal with the waters of the Lower Colorado River, in addition to those of the Rio Grande.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANK B. KELLOGG.

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