

The pronunciamiento in independent Mexico, 1821-1876

A research project at the University of St Andrews

Plan de la guarnición de Veracruz

31 July 1827

Veracruz, Veracruz

Content:

Plan de la guarnición de Veracruz o del coronel José Antonio Rincón, 31 de julio de 1827

La guarnición de esta plaza de Veracruz, al desconocer la autoridad del general Barragán, formuló el plan siguiente al que se dió publicidad la mañana del día 31 de julio. Sus artículos dicen así:

Artículo 1°. Se desconoce toda autoridad que no emane de los altos poderes de la federación, por considerarse las de esta plaza en contrario sentido.

Artículo 2°. Se le instruirá al Excmo. señor comandante general de la actitud en que nos hallamos y las causas a que ellos nos impulsan.

Artículo 3°. Nuestra situación será la defensiva, en tanto se reciban órdenes de los mismos altos poderes a quienes nos sometemos.

Artículo 4°. En signo de respetuoso reconocimiento a los supremos poderes de la federación, e instituciones que señala la carta constitucional, las tropas prestarán el juramento delante de las banderas de sus respectivos cuerpos.

Artículo 5°. Serán respetadas las vidas y propiedades, y se cumplirán religiosamente nuestras estipulaciones.

Movidos a sentimientos patrióticos de los buenos mexicanos, es llegado el caso de presentarse con las armas en la mano, para sostener un deber que les imponen las leyes, el bien general de la república y nuestra justa libertad.

Veracruz, 31 de julio de 1827.

José Rincón

Context:

By 1827 there were two factions contending for power in Mexico, both of which were organised around Masonic lodges. Although it is difficult to generalise, in broad terms it can be said that the Scottish Rite Masons, the Escoceses, represented the more traditionalist sectors of Mexican society, whilst the Rite of York Masons, the Yorkinos, stood for the more overtly progressive liberals. In general terms the Escoceses could be seen to have had centralist tendencies, and European sympathies (which could be construed as pro-Spanish affiliations). Their members were perceived, as well, as representing the interests of the more affluent sectors of society. The Yorkinos, in contrast, albeit made up of many former Escoceses, were characterised by their pronounced federalism, their pro-U.S. agenda, and their Hispanophobia. Ever since the 1826 congressional elections it had become obvious that the Yorkinos were the dominant party. Although President Guadalupe Victoria strove to pursue a so-called amalgamationist middle-road course in an attempt to please both factions, the Yorkinos gained

important posts in his cabinet and became increasingly aggressive in their pursuit of power. By 1827, echoing events in the capital and at a national level, most state governments were also dominated by the Yorkinos. One notable exception was Veracruz where the state governor, Miguel Barragán, was an Escocés. On 29 May 1827, Barragán and the Escocés-dominated state legislature of Veracruz succeeded in preventing minister of finance and grand master of the Rite of York, José Ignacio Esteva, from taking up the post of treasurer general of the port. Esteva's forced departure from the province angered the Veracruzano Yorkino lodges and led to them mounting a counter-offensive against Barragán and Santa Anna, accusing them publicly of plotting to bring down the government. As tensions mounted, Veracruzano Yorkino leader José Antonio Rincón was accused of sacking the offices of the Escocés newspaper *El Veracruzano Libre* on the night of 25 July 1827. Barragán used this incident to demand that Rincón was replaced as commander general of the port whilst his involvement in the assault on *El Veracruzano Libre* was investigated. Rincón's response was the pronunciamiento included here.

Rincón eventually faced a court-martial for his participation in this pronunciamiento, which lasted until April 1828. Although he was ultimately exonerated he lost his influence over the port as a result.

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<https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/pronunciamientos/database/index.php?id=757>