

(Translation.)

Official Gazette No. 5,820.

Caracas, Monday, June 12, 1893.

Office of the Chief of the Executive Power,
Joachim Crespo, Chief of the National
Executive,

Decrees:—

ART. 1. From the 10th instant the Commission of Public Credit will examine such claims made on account of supplies furnished to the Revolution, as are referred to by the executive decisions of November 26 and December 1, 1892, and February 6, 1893.

ART. 2. In order to be held to be legitimate, claims must be supported by documents, issued by, and acknowledged by, the Head of the Revolution or by the Military Chiefs under his orders and possessing his authority for the exaction of supplies, whether in arms or ammunition, clothing and food, or money.

§ (sole) When the Commission has any doubt as to the authorization under which any Military Chief acted in obtaining supplies for the Revolution, such authorization shall be submitted to the Head of the Revolution, who will decide upon it.

ART. 3. As regards forces which did not at once come under the orders of the Head of the Revolution, and which operated at a distance from the places in which he himself acted, the Commission shall request the Ministry for War, where are doubtless deposited the archives of the various divisions that co-operated in the plan for overthrowing the usurping governments, to furnish the dates required for judging of the validity of claims for supplies afforded to the Revolution.

ART. 4. The evidence of witnesses will not be received unless it appears certain that the official to whom the supplies were afforded would not or could not give a receipt to the claimant for the supplies received.

ART. 5. The Government will appoint a Counsel who shall, in the name of the nation, give to the Commission of Public Credit a legal opinion on the validity of the documents presented to it, and shall suggest the means proper for testing the validity of such documents.

ART. 6. Both the Counsel and the Commission shall collect all necessary information, and shall address to witnesses brought forward by the claimants the principal and secondary questions which they may think proper for ascertaining the truth concerning the facts alleged. It will also be their duty, when they consider the evidence presented to be insufficient, so to inform the parties, in order that the latter may, if they choose, supplement it by further evidence.

ART. 7. As each case shall have been examined, and after the Counsel has given his opinion, the Commission of Public Credit shall pronounce its decision, and submit it to the National Executive for approval, and, if necessary, for sanction.

ART. 8. As the periods indicated in the decisions of December 1, 1892, and February 6, 1893, for the presentation of claims have now terminated, no fresh claims shall be received, unless the claimants show, by credible evidence, a sufficient cause for their failure to respond to the previous notices issued by the Government.

ART. 10. Besides the claims for supplies furnished to the Revolution the Commission of Public Credit will examine and admit claims put forward on account of the seizures made for the service of the army, where such seizures have been ordered by Civil or Military Authorities, provided there be legal proof that the objects seized belonged to the claimant, legal proof of their real value, and legal proof that they were indeed

seized; but it shall be borne in mind that proofs prepared before, or without the intervention of the other party have no legal value.

ART. 11. Injuries done to private property during the war may also be compensated, but not such as have been caused by acts for which no one is responsible, nor by the licentious conduct of individual soldiers, or by companies of individual soldiers, profiting by moments of confusion to commit improper acts; only such injuries may be compensated as were caused by the voluntary, intentional, and deliberate orders of the superior authorities in order to obtain some advantage for the belligerent operations.

ART. 12. A debt is created called "the Debt of the Revolution;" it will bear interest at a rate which will be fixed as soon as the Government shall know the precise amount of the claims admitted under the provisions of the present Decree, at which time will also be determined the sum to be applied to the extinction of this debt, and the section of the Revenue that will be applied to its service.

ART. 13. The military estates of the chiefs and officers of the National Army liquidated or to be liquidated by the Ministry of War and Marine in accordance with the decision of that Ministry, dated the 15th of November last, shall be paid in notes of the "Debt of the Revolution."

ART. 14. Nothing in Articles 10 and 11 of the present Decree shall be taken to abrogate in the smallest extent the Decree of February 14, 1873, providing means for obtaining compensation for injuries, losses, and seizures, caused by the acts of the Officials of the Nation, or of the several States, for the present Decree meets the peculiar circumstance of the case in which that which was at the beginning a revolution, has become a Government.

ART. 15. The Minister of Finance is charged with the execution of the present Decree.

Given, signed by my hand and sealed with the Seal of the National Executive, and countersigned by the Minister of Finance, in the Federal Palace at Caracas, this 9th day of June, 1893.

(Signed) JOAQUIN CRESPO.

Countersigned the Minister of Finance,
EZEQUIEL GONDELLES AYALA.

War Office, August 25, 1893.

HER Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the Volunteer Officers' Decoration upon the undermentioned Officers of the Volunteer Force, who have been duly recommended for the same under the terms of the Royal Warrant, dated 25th July, 1892:—

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT.

RIFLE.

1st Volunteer Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.
Captain and Honorary Major Charles Leighton.

5th Volunteer Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.
Major and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John
Walter Hook Thorp.

2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Royal Welsh
Fusiliers.
Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant and Honorary
Colonel Bryan G. Davies Cooke.

1st Volunteer Battalion, The South Staffordshire
Regiment.
Major and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel William
George Webb.