

Rutherford Birchard Hayes
19th President
Republican

Term of Office: 1877- 1881

Election Results:

Hayes Popular Votes= 4,036,000
Electoral Votes= 185
Tilden Popular Votes= 4,284,020
Electoral Votes= 184

Although a galaxy of famous Republican speakers, and even Mark Twain, stumped for Hayes, he expected the Democrats to win. But in New York, Republican National Chairman Zachariah Chandler, aware of a loophole, wired leaders to stand firm: "Hayes has 185 votes and is elected." The popular vote was 4,300,000 for Tilden to 4,036,000 for Hayes. In January 1877 the commission, made up of eight Republicans and seven Democrats, determined all the contests in favor of Hayes by eight to seven.

Acts/Ideas: - Hayes pledged protection of the rights of Negroes in the South, but at the same time advocated the restoration of "wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government." This meant the withdrawal of troops.

- Bland-Allison Silver Purchase Act (1878), passed by the U.S. Congress to provide for freer coinage of silver, despite Hayes veto.

- He signed the act that permitted women to plead before the Supreme Court.

- The Compromise of 1877, Desert Land Act, and Timber and Stone Act were also passed.

Problems: - The Great Railroad Strike of 1877: Began July 14 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and ended some 45 days later after it was put down by local and state militias, as well as by federal troops.

- One of the most serious issues facing Hayes was that of inflation. (Solved by Bland-Allison Silver Purchase Act)

Facts: - Of the five presidents who served in the Civil War, Hayes was the only one to be wounded.

- Hayes was the first president to graduate from law school.

- The first White House telephone was installed, by Alexander Graham Bell himself, during the Hayes administration.