

POSTS ON THE RIO GRANDE FRONTIER.

L E T T E R

FROM

T H E S E C R E T A R Y O F W A R ,

TRANSMITTING

Copies of correspondence, &c., relative to the expenditure of the appropriation made by the act of April 16, 1880, "for acquiring sites and the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier," in response to resolution of the House of Representatives of January 12, 1882.

JANUARY 20, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 20, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report of the Adjutant-General of the Army, dated the 17th instant, together with copies of correspondence, indorsements, &c., relating to the expenditure of the appropriation made by act of April 16, 1880, "for acquiring sites and the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier," in response to the resolution of the House of Representatives of January 12, 1882, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to transmit to the House of Representatives, if not incompatible with the public interest, a copy of all correspondence, indorsements, and recommendations in his office relating to the use or expenditure of the appropriation, or any part thereof, made under an act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for acquiring sites and the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier," approved April 16, 1880, together with such suggestions or recommendations in reference thereto, and the use or expenditure of said appropriation, as he may deem to the best interests of the public service, and best adapted to give adequate protection to said frontier.

From the accompanying papers, it will be perceived that since the passage of the act of April 16, 1880, the question relative to the erection of forts in the State of Texas has received due consideration, but that, inasmuch as the terms of the act restricted the purchase of sites and the erection of forts to points "on or near the Rio Grande frontier," it has not been deemed judicious to expend the appropriation, for the reason that points for the location of forts other than "on or near the Rio Grande" are deemed more desirable and better adapted to the purpose contemplated in the act.

It will further be seen that additional land at San Antonio, for the erection of barracks and quarters for troops, is urgently needed, and

that there is a present opportunity to purchase the requisite land at a price (\$18,000) which is deemed very advantageous to the government.

I beg to invite attention to the indorsement of the General of the Army, dated the 19th instant, in which it is recommended that the act of April 16, 1880, be so amended as to authorize the money (\$200,000) appropriated thereby to be expended in Texas, but not necessarily on or near the Rio Grande.

The views therein embodied are in consonance with those entertained by the local military authorities, and, concurring therein, I would recommend that said act be amended by striking out the words "on or near the Rio Grande frontier, as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of War for the adequate protection thereof," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "in the State of Texas, as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of War for the adequate protection of the Rio Grande frontier."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,

Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER

of the House of Representatives.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 17, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the resolution of the United States House of Representatives, dated January 12, 1882, calling for copy of correspondence, indorsements, and recommendations relating to the use or expenditure of the appropriation made by act, approved April 16, 1880, "for acquiring sites and the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier," together with suggestions or recommendations of the Secretary in reference thereto, referred to this office by your indorsement of the 14th instant, and to inclose copies of papers in the case, as follows:

I. Preliminary reports from the commanding generals Department of Texas and the Military Division of the Missouri, in response to instructions from the General of the Army, dated April 30, 1880, and August 9, 1881.

II. Reports and recommendations relative to the proposed purchase out of the appropriation in question, at a cost of \$18,000, of additional land at San Antonio, adjacent to the military reservation, upon which to erect barracks for a regiment, together with map.

III. Recommendations of department and division commanders that Congress be asked to repeal the words "on or near the Rio Grande," contained in the act of April 16, 1880, and also that portion of the act which requires that the State of Texas *shall* relinquish jurisdiction over the sites that may be selected and the right to tax them, in view of the adequate provisions of existing laws of that State.

IV. Recent indorsements of the Lieutenant-General and the General of the Army upon the question of the acceptance of the deed, dated April 15, 1880, from the San Felipe Agricultural and Manufacturing Company, proposing to donate to the United States a tract of 407.93 acres for a site of a military post at San Felipe, in which General Sherman expresses his purpose to visit that vicinity in March next to examine for himself as to the relative merits of the different points in that vicinity, including San Antonio, Forts Clark, Duncan, &c.

The detailed report as to the use proposed to be made of the appropriation in question, which the General of the Army has requested the

Lieutenant-General commanding the Military Division of the Missouri to forward, has not yet been received; and the foregoing copies, in connection with the remarks of the department and division commanders on the subject in their annual reports, of which copies are inclosed, embrace such of the information called for in the House resolution as the records of this office afford.

Attention is respectfully invited to the fact that, while Generals Augur and Sheridan, in their reports, concur as to the desirability of establishing six small posts in sections named by the former, Lieutenant-General Sheridan, in a telegram to the Quartermaster-General, dated December 16, 1881, giving his consent to the proposed use of \$18,000 at San Antonio, says: "After a consultation with General Augur, I am satisfied that we can reduce the number of posts contemplated to be built in Texas, from six to four." * * * (Copy of telegram herewith; see No. II.)

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR,
(Through the General of the Army).

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE, INDORSEMENTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE USE OR EXPENDITURE OF THE APPROPRIATION MADE BY ACT, APPROVED APRIL 16, 1880, "FOR ACQUIRING SITES AND THE ERECTION OF SUITABLE POSTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIO GRANDE FRONTIER," PREPARED UNDER RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF JANUARY 12, 1882.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 17, 1882.

Official.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., January 19, 1881.

This compendium is respectfully forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of War, and its perusal will exhibit the state of facts at this date. I recommend that it be sent the Military Committee that the law may be so amended that the \$200,000 appropriated may be expended in Texas, but not necessarily on or near the Rio Grande.

W. T. SHERMAN, *General.*

I.—Preliminary reports from the Commanding Generals Department of Texas and the Military Division of the Missouri, in response to instructions from the General of the Army, together with orders from Department Headquarters.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 27, 1880.

[GENERAL ORDERS No. 27.]

The following act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

AN ACT making appropriations for acquiring sites and the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of two hundred thousand dollars be, and the same

is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of acquiring sites and erecting thereon such military posts on or near the Rio Grande frontier as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of War for the adequate protection thereof: *Provided*, That none of said appropriation shall be used for the purpose aforesaid until a valid title to said sites be vested in the United States: *And provided further*, That the State of Texas shall duly release and relinquish to the United States the right to assess or tax said sites, or any of them, or any improvements placed thereon for military purposes, so long as the United States shall remain the owner thereof.

Approved April 16, 1880.

By command of General Sherman:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

[Indorsement on copy of the above order.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., April 30, 1880.

Respectfully referred to General P. H. Sheridan, commanding Military Division of the Missouri, who will cause this subject to be thoroughly examined, and cause a report to be made as to the best possible use of this appropriation, with the estimated cost of the ground and new buildings at each of the proposed sites.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Texas, May 21, 1880.

SIR: Referring to the indorsement, the 30th ultimo, of the General of the Army on General Orders No. 27, Adjutant-General's Office, current series, promulgating the act of Congress making appropriation of posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier, I have the honor to state that I have ordered a preliminary survey, which can be made before the legislature of Texas can meet and pass an act relieving the sites that may be selected from taxation, &c.

Until the survey shall have been made, I cannot suggest the location of any of the contemplated posts.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

(Through Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.)

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, May 26, 1880.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, May 31, 1880.

For file.
(Signed)

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Texas, June 17, 1880.

[SPECIAL ORDERS No. 118.]

* * * * *

XI. An expedition, to survey and explore the country west of the Pecos River, in Texas, with the view to the location of a portion of the permanent posts provided for by the act of Congress approved April 16, 1880, will leave San Antonio, Tex., and proceed, via Fort Clark and San Felipe, Tex., as soon as the proper arrangements shall have been completed. Particular attention will be given to the country south of the

new military road, and to the vicinity of the Chenati, Viego, and Guadalupe Mountains.

Capt. W. R. Livermore, chief engineer officer of this department, will, under the special order of the President, assigning him to duty, command the expedition, inclusive of the escort; the latter—Company K, Eighth Cavalry, under the command of First Lieut. J. W. Pullman, Eighth Cavalry—will be reported to Captain Livermore on his arrival at Fort Clark.

Reports of the results, inclusive of sub-reports from time to time, as circumstances permit, will be made direct to these headquarters. In case of encounter with hostile Indians, Captain Livermore will immediately make report, in detail, to the commanding officer of the nearest post or camp, who will use all available means to reduce them.

Post and camp commanders will, on proper requisition, supply the expedition with subsistence, forage, and medical supplies, as far as resources at command will afford. As soon as practicable Captain Livermore will ascertain how far such resources will meet his requisitions. If there be not a sufficiency, requisitions in advance, so that at least two months' supplies may be within reach, will be made on these headquarters.

Whilst the expedition is in the region south of the new road as far as Pena Colorado, supplies will be drawn, mainly, from Forts Clark and Stockton; west of Pena Colorado, and in the mountains above indicated, they will be drawn from Pena Colorado and Fort Davis; in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, permission will be asked to draw from that post.

Acting Assistant Surgeon J. S. McLain, U. S. A., will, at Fort Clark, report for duty as medical officer.

The Quartermaster's Department will, under special instructions already communicated, provide the necessary transportation, inclusive of a pack train and camp equipage.

By command of Brigadier-General Ord.

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., August 1, 1881.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the special attention of the War Department to the appropriation of April 16, 1880, of \$200,000 "for acquiring sites and erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier." See General Orders 27 of 1880, Adjutant-General's Office, herewith.

Twelve months' time has elapsed since Congress granted this appropriation, and none of it has yet been used for the purpose for which it was granted.

Congress acted upon information furnished by the Army, and it appears to me that some steps should be taken to improve the condition of the frontier with the means thus liberally granted on the faith of the representations made by authority.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General, Bvt. Maj. Gen., U. S. A.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington, D. C.

[Indorsements.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 5, 1881.*

Respectfully referred to the General of the Army for his consideration.

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., August 9, 1881.

Respectfully referred to the commanding general of the Military Division of the Missouri, to report what action, if any, has been taken in regard to the selection of sites and the building of posts for the better security of the Rio Grande frontier. To be returned with report.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, August 12, 1881.

Respectfully referred to the commanding general Department of Texas for the required report.

By command of Lieutenant-General Sheridan.

WILLIAM D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., August 24, 1881.

Respectfully returned to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.

The question of location of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier has been a good deal changed since the passage of this act by the construction of great lines of railroads in Texas, affecting that frontier and its protection very materially, and not until those lines of railroads are definitely located can it be determined where the new posts should be located. The engineer officer of this department is now out with a party examining the country north of the Texas Pacific Railroad, towards Fort Elliott and towards El Paso. It is expected that by the time the lieutenant-general returns, or soon after, the location of the lines of railroad will have been so determined as to enable him to fix upon the sites of the new posts, and when this is done their construction will be at once commenced.

C. C. AUGUR,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, September 10, 1881.

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

The whole subject of the location of these posts was arranged by me with General Ord, but the conditions having become altered by the advance of the railroads, I have preferred to hold the matter for the definite location of these lines and the recommendations of General Augur.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, September 15, 1881.

For file and future reference.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, TEX., June 6, 1881.

[Special Orders No. 80.]

* * * * *
V. An expedition, to survey and explore the country west of Fort Concho, Texas, between the line of the Texas and Pacific Railroad and head of Red River, also the country, in Texas, north and west of Fort Davis, towards Fort Bliss, including the Guadalupe Mountains, with reference to sites for military posts, and to obtain general knowledge of the region referred to, will be organized, and proceed *via* Forts Clark and Concho, Texas, so soon as proper arrangements shall have been completed.

Captain W. R. Livermore, chief engineer officer of the department, will command. Second Lieutenants M. C. Martin, Twenty-second Infantry, T. H. Barry, First Infantry, and S. W. Dunning, Sixteenth Infantry, will report to Captain Livermore, at such points as he may designate, for duty with the expedition.

The commanding officer Fort Clark will detail thirty enlisted men of cavalry, with a due proportion of non-commissioned officers, all fully mounted and equipped, and the commanding officer Fort Concho, thirty enlisted men of infantry, to be reported to Captain Livermore, on his arrival at the respective posts.

Reports of the results, inclusive of sub-reports, from time to time, as circumstances permit, will be made direct to these headquarters; in addition, Captain Livermore will, every two weeks, report his whereabouts, and his probable whereabouts for the following two weeks. In case of encounter with hostile Indians, immediate report, in detail, will be made to the commanding officer of the nearest post, or camp, who will use all available means to reduce them.

Post and camp commanders will, on proper requisition, supply the expedition with

subsistence, forage, and medical supplies, as far as resources at command will afford. If in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, permission will be asked to draw from that post. As soon as practicable, Captain Livermore will ascertain how far such resources will meet his requisitions. If there be not a sufficiency, requisitions in advance, so that at least two months' supplies may be within reach, will be made on these headquarters.

Supplies for the expedition will be sent to any desired point on the railroad.

The Quartermaster's Department will, under special instructions already communicated, provide the necessary transportation, inclusive of a pack train embracing twenty well-broken pack mules, and six saddle horses; also the requisite camp equipage.

By command of Brigadier-General Augur.

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Adjutant-General.

II. *Correspondence respecting the proposed purchase of additional land at San Antonio, Tex., adjacent to the military-reservation, upon which to erect barracks for a regiment; together with a topographical sketch of the reservation and adjacent property.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 5, 1880.

SIR: Referring to the communication from the commanding general, Department of Texas, relative to the erection of quarters for officers at department headquarters, pursuant to act approved June 16, 1880, and the necessity for the purchase of additional land adjoining the military reservation at San Antonio to properly accommodate said buildings, forwarded by you September 11, 1880, recommending the purchase of two lots, the funds to come out of the \$200,000 appropriated by act of April 16, 1880; I have the honor to inform you that your recommendation has been disapproved by the Secretary of War, "for the reason that no authority of law exists for the purchase of more ground for the military reserve at San Antonio," it being further decided by the Secretary that "the appropriation 'for the purpose of acquiring sites and erecting thereon such military posts on or near the Rio Grande frontier as may be deemed necessary,' &c., is not available for the purchase of property at San Antonio."

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The COMMANDING GENERAL,
Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., October 20, 1880.

(Through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.)

SIR: I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 5th instant to the Lieutenant-General, covering one from the Quartermaster-General of the Army, dated the 25th ultimo, relative to the purchase of certain additional land adjoining the military reservation at San Antonio, Tex. Renewing my request for a favorable consideration of the purchase as recommended by me, and approved and recommended by the Lieutenant-General, I beg to add, in reply to certain portions of the Quartermaster-General's letter, as follows:

1. The portion of the reserve occupied by the stables, sheds, mess-rooms for teamsters—in other words, the corral—has been selected with care, and is a suitable place for them. The buildings were not erected for temporary use, but for permanent purposes. They are covered with tin roofs, have cost not less than \$10,000, and could not be removed without much loss. The latter would approximate the value of the lots which it has been proposed to purchase.

2. The present reserve will suffice for the depot, headquarters' offices, and quarters for officers on duty at headquarters; but a permanent post is needed at San Antonio, and General Sherman, when a light battery was asked for, in order to the protection and defense of the frontier, stated that San Antonio was the proper place for it, as it could from there most readily reach points where it might be needed, and at the same time be foraged and stabled economically. The buildings authorized to be erected by the act of June 16, 1880, should be located with reference to said post.

3. To secure title and cession of jurisdiction no further action by the legislature of the State will be necessary, for the State laws have already given the assent of the

legislature, and transferred jurisdiction over such purchases. When evidence of purchase has been submitted to the governor of the State, he, if satisfied, has, under the law, the power to cede jurisdiction. See Arts. 2069 and 2072, Oldham and White's Digest, Laws of Texas.

4. In my conversation with three or four members of the Texas Congressional delegation all of them united in stating that the act appropriating the \$200,000 was worded to cover all the country adjacent to the Rio Grande frontier, as far as troops can be conveniently stationed; also, that all the troops in Texas are for the protection of that frontier. I therefore hold that it would be strictly legal to purchase the additional land under consideration out of the \$200,000 appropriated by the act approved April 16, 1880.

In my former communication I did not, as I had contemplated, refer to this as necessary land for a *post*. Now, however, I ask that the purchase may be made with reference to a post. The present garrison at San Antonio is now temporarily quartered on the west end of the reserve, whereon a barrack, occupied by two companies, a hospital, a bake house, and guard house have been constructed, temporarily, and the officers with the troops are quartered in temporary huts of wood and canvas. They will now be crowded in the ravine, and the brow of the hill, immediately fronting them, will drain on them. The additional land will, if purchased, avoid this crowding the post buildings, and they will not be pushed into or too near the ravine. The quarters for officers on duty at department headquarters will come next, in an easterly direction, and the extreme east end of the reserve will be exclusively for the depot and its dependencies.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

P. S.—Please refer to plan of the ground asked for, and observe the drainage of same to the north.

E. O. C. ORD.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, October 27, 1880.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, concurring in General Ord's opinion that the land referred to can be purchased out of the fund appropriated by act approved April 16, 1880.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General,
In absence of the Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, November 9, 1880.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, together with the previous papers herein referred to recommending the purchase, if the law permit, and the money is available.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 19, 1880.

SIR: Referring to indorsement of the 27th ultimo, from your headquarters, forwarding communication from Brigadier General E. O. C. Ord, commanding Department of Texas, who requests reconsideration of the subject of purchase of land adjoining the military reservation at San Antonio, Tex., and that said purchase be made with reference to a permanent post at that point;

I have the honor, by direction of the General of the Army, to inform you that all the papers in the case having been laid before the Secretary of War, he adheres to the decision communicated in letter of the 5th ultimo, from this office, that "the appropriation for the purpose of acquiring sites and erecting thereon such military posts on or near the Rio Grande frontier as may be deemed necessary," is not available for the purchase of property at San Antonio.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

Lieut. General P. H. SHERIDAN,
Commanding Military Division, Mo.

SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL BANK,
San Antonio, Tex., August 18, 1881.

General AUGUR:

SIR: I propose to sell to the United States Government a tract of land lying north and adjoining the United States reservation, running west from Austin avenue, 1,010²³/₁₀₀ varas, north from government reservation 500 varas, containing ninety acres of land, for the sum of eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000), provided that they will extend the street lying west of government headquarters building, and running north to intersect a street running north and south, and passing east of the place I am now constructing a residence upon. Also leaving open a street on north boundary of tract No. 8. Said street to run east and west and intersect the above described street that runs north and south through the property I propose to sell. I will give a full warranty title to this property.

Respectfully,

E. H. CUNNINGHAM.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., October 3, 1881.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose you a topographical sketch of the government reservation in this city and of the property adjacent thereto. The government reservation is included within the black line shaded in red.

It will be observed from a brief examination of its features that there is no suitable place left upon it for building additional barracks and quarters. The location of the present barrack and hospital is not at all satisfactory.

If, as I am informed, an effort is to be made to have barracks and quarters built at this place for a regiment, with a view to its being kept in readiness for transportation by rail in case of emergency to any threatened point on either frontier of the department, and to take the place of Fort Clark, for which excessive rent has to be paid, then additional ground must be obtained.

Mr. E. H. Cunningham, who owns the property just north of the reservation, proposes to sell a portion of it to the government for that purpose. His proposition is inclosed. The tract is the one on the accompanying sketch inclosed with the black line shaded with green. It is convenient and suitable in every way, and is of sufficient extent, in connection with existing reservation, for barracks and quarters for a regiment, either of infantry or cavalry.

The price asked is considered very reasonable, and if it is desirable for the government to have an addition to its present reservation here, I am sure there will never again be so favorable an opportunity to obtain it at so reasonable price.

The roadways to be granted as a condition of the purchase are the ones from A' to B' and from B' to C'. The latter goes through the present reservation, and at a place which will render it very convenient for the government's use, and will in no way be inconvenient, and I see no objections to their being granted.

It is claimed that the completion of two lines of railroad to the Rio Grande makes the keeping a regiment here in readiness for service a part of the system for "adequate protection" of that frontier, contemplated in act approved April 16, 1880, and consequently the purchase money for this land can be taken from the \$200,000 already appropriated by the act for that purpose, and still unexpended.

Mr. Cunningham's proposal holds good until the government has had a reasonable time to determine if it desires to purchase.

The estimated difference of expense per year in supplying a regiment at Fort Clark and this place, is, including rent at Fort Clark, not less than twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars in favor of this place.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. C. AUGUR,

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[General Orders No. 27.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 27, 1880.

The following act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

AN ACT making appropriations for acquiring sites and the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of two hundred thousand dollars be, and the

same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of acquiring sites and erecting thereon such military posts on or near the Rio Grande frontier as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of War for the *adequate protection* thereof: *Provided*, That none of said appropriation shall be used for the purposes aforesaid until a valid title to said sites be vested in the United States: *And provided further*, That the State of Texas shall duly release and relinquish to the United States the right to assess or tax said sites, or any of them, or any improvements placed thereon for military purposes, so long as the United States shall remain the owner thereof.

Approved April 16, 1880.

By command of GENERAL SHERMAN :

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION, MISSOURI,
Chicago, Ill., October 15, 1881.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, recommending the purchase of the land, the plat of which is herewith submitted, providing Congress appropriates the necessary funds. According to the annual report of General Augur, six small posts will be required in Texas, and I doubt if any of the funds now on hand for this work can be spared, even if it were proper to divert it for the purchase of the land.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General Commanding.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 18, 1881.

Respectfully referred to the Quartermaster-General.

C. McKEEVER,
Acting Adjutant-General.

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of War. The part shaded in green on the map is stated thereon to contain 86 acres. Mr. Cunningham requires the government: 1st, to open a street nearly north and south across the present government lands, to which General Augur finds no objection; 2d, to leave open a street east and west, on northern boundary of tract No. 8. What is tract eight does not appear certainly from these papers, but I am advised that it is the tract offered. General Augur thinks that as this places a regiment at San Antonio, looking out upon the Rio Grande, it is such a part of a system of "adequate protection" for that frontier, as to bring the purchase within the conditions of the appropriation of April 16, 1880. The Secretary of War on the 22d September, 1879, decided in the case of L. Garza, who offered to sell certain land adjoining the San Antonio Depot, as follows: "No action can be taken without authority of Congress." General Sheridan doubts the propriety of using this appropriation, but recommends purchase, provided Congress will grant the money. I believe it will be economical, as General Augur argues to suppress Fort Clark, and provide quarters for a regiment at San Antonio, and that the regiment will be benefited by being concentrated. Whether the appropriation of April, 1880, can be applied to purchasing this site, and constructing the post is purely a question of expediency. I believe that this project will be so effective in improving the means of protecting the frontier, that it is legally within the scope of that appropriation. A dispatch received from Lieutenant-General Sheridan is inclosed. He now recommends that this land be acquired at cost of this appropriation.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General, Brevet Major-General.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, ILL., *November 16, 1881.*

After a consultation with General Augur, I am satisfied that we can reduce the number of posts contemplated to be built in Texas from six to four, and cheerfully give my consent to the use of eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) from the fund appropriated for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier of Texas, for the purchase of the land at San Antonio.

P. H. SHERIDAN
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

General M. C. MEIGS,
Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 30, 1881.

SIR: Referring to your indorsement of the 15th ultimo, forwarding, with remarks, papers relating to the proposed purchase of additional land at San Antonio, Tex., adjacent to the government reservation in that city; also, to letters of October 5 and November 19, 1880, from this office upon the subject, I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of report of the Quartermaster-General in the matter, dated the 17th instant, and, by the direction of the General of the Army, to communicate for your information the following decision of the Secretary of War: "It having been twice decided by the Secretary of War that the appropriation 'for the purpose of acquiring sites to erect thereon such military posts on or near the Rio Grande frontier as may be deemed necessary,' is not available for the purchase of property at San Antonio, the present consideration of the purchase of grounds for barracks at San Antonio, for the accommodation of a regiment of troops, will be deferred until Congress shall so amend the act in question as to authorize the purchase of land at San Antonio."

The papers have been sent to the Quartermaster-General.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.

III.—*Recommendation of the department commander, approved by the Commanding General Military Division of the Missouri, that Congress be asked to repeal the words "on or near the Rio Grande," in the act of April 16, 1880, and also that portion of the act which requires that the State of Texas shall relinquish the right to tax the sites selected, &c., in view of the provisions of existing State laws.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., November 11, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to call the attention of the Secretary of War to the fact that a strict construction of the law, copy herewith, prohibits the erection of posts on the Texas frontier at places where such may be needed, unless the sites are on or near the Rio Grande frontier.

"On or near the Rio Grande," above the mouth of Devil's River to the Presidio del Norte, there are few places where important settlements can form, as the river runs through very craggy mountains, cutting, in places, very deep cañons along this part of the river, and as far up as New Mexico its tributaries, as they approach the river, cut similar cañons through a similar country, and north of the latitude of El Paso, extending from the river eastward across the staked plains, the country is subject to droughts which prevent large settlement, and furnishes scarcely any fit site for a large post. The western frontier of that part of Texas, as far as concerns the settlements, until artesian or other wells furnish a better supply of water, will necessarily be the eastern border of the staked plains, and this frontier needs at least one large military post, though it is 300 miles from the Rio Grande River.

To enable me to recommend proper sites for the most necessary military posts, I should not be restricted by the words of the law, "on or near the Rio Grande," and I recommend that Congress be asked to repeal these words of the law.

I also ask that that part of the law which requires that this State shall relinquish jurisdiction over the sites which may be selected for military posts, and the right to assess or tax them be repealed, as a law now exists which only requires the action of the governor (see my letter of October 20, 1880, on the subject) to become operative in each case. Much time would be lost, if, as is now supposed to be the case, the government should have to wait for the legislature to pass a law relinquishing title, &c., to the required sites.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

(Through Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.)

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, November 16, 1880.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army. Approved.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 22, 1880.

Respectfully submitted to the General of the Army, together with General Ord's letter of October 20, 1880, herein referred to. In connection with so much of the within as relates to relinquishment of State jurisdiction, attention is invited to the accompanying transcript, embodying extracts from certain laws of Texas on the subject, and an opinion of the Judge-Advocate-General, as to the effect thereof.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, November 22, 1880.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

Respectfully returned to the General of the Army for his views, it being the opinion of the Secretary of War that the better policy would be to not erect so many posts upon the frontier; but, as lines of railroad are rapidly traversing the country, to concentrate into fewer posts of larger capacity.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 2, 1880.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 6, 1880.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

Not having been consulted as to the new sites selected in Texas, I am unable to express an opinion.

The new railroad contemplated in Texas will surely change the whole problem of defense on the Texas border.

W. T. SHERMAN, General.

Inclosure to the Adjutant-General's indorsement of November 22, 1880.

TRANSCRIPT OF INDORSEMENTS (with inclosures) ON 1851, A. G. O., 1880.

March 9, 1880, governor of Texas cedes the jurisdiction of the State of Texas over certain parcels of land near El Paso, Texas, said land to be occupied by the United States for military uses.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, March 15, 1880.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, through Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, with request to be informed if this cession is such an one as was desired by the War Department.

JNO. POPE,
Bvt. Major-General Commanding.

[Fifth indorsement.]

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 27, 1880.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, to whom the title papers to Fort Bliss were returned on the 5th instant.

The instructions under which the department commander in February last made application to the governor of Texas for cession of jurisdiction over the site of Fort Bliss, were based upon Article 5449 [1] Paschal's Annual Digest, Laws of Texas, memorandum inclosed.

Subsequently in case of Fort McIntosh, Texas, site deeded to the United States, the Judge-Advocate-General, in an opinion, dated March 6, 1880, and concurred in by the Secretary of War, held that under article 7810, one of the laws of Texas—copy herewith—"there is clearly vested in the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the land * * * described, without the need of a resort to a special act of cession."

In connection with the inquiry of General Pope, in his indorsement hereon, attention is invited to the decisions cited in Johnson's Digest of the Law of Military Reservations, page 27, and to note on pages 318 and 319, Scott's Digest of the Military Laws of the United States; see also section 4662, Revised Statutes.

E. W. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

[Sixth indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to the Judge-Advocate-General for report.
By order of the Secretary of War:

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 31, 1880.*

[Seventh indorsement.]

BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE,
April 3, 1880.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

If the within described land was purchased by the United States since 1871, exclusive jurisdiction over the same was vested in the United States by the mere application and operation, without any specific deed or act, of the act of which a copy is inclosed of the legislature of Texas of 1871 (forming article 7810—1, of the laws of Texas, Paschal's Digest, vol. 2, p. 1616). If the land was purchased *before* the passage of this act, it came as to the matter of cession of jurisdiction within the operation of the act of 1849 (forming article 5449—1, as within copied from the laws of Texas, Paschal's Digest, vol. 1), which required a deed of cession from the governor of the State.

From the fact that such a deed has been applied for and given in this case, it may perhaps be inferred that the land was purchased between 1849 and 1871.

But, however this may be, I am of opinion that the jurisdiction of the State has in fact been sufficiently ceded in this instance.

If the act of 1871 was applicable, the jurisdiction became ceded *ex vi*, upon the purchase. If the act of 1849 was applicable, the jurisdiction has in my view been fully ceded by the governor's deed; the proviso in the same amounting, I think, to no more than a reservation of the right to continue to serve the lawful process of the State within the ceded limits; the case being thus assimilated to that described by Attorney-General Cushing in VIII Opinions, 387—8, in regard to which he says that the qualification in the act of cession "is a usual condition of all such cessions, and has no effect but to prevent the ceded place from becoming an asylum for fugitives from civil or criminal justice of the State."

W. M. DUNN,
Judge-Advocate-General.

[Eighth indorsement.]

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant-General.

As the property was purchased since the passage of the act of the legislature of the State of Texas in 1871, the title is now complete and the jurisdiction is in the United States.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April 8, 1880.*

[Inclosures referred to in fifth and seventh indorsements.]

Article 5449, 1, Paschal's Ann. Digest, Laws of Texas, reads as follows (see 4 Art., December 19, 1849):

"Whenever the United States shall contract for, purchase, or acquire any land or lands within the limits of this State, for the purposes aforesaid in either of the modes above mentioned and provided, and shall desire to acquire constitutional jurisdiction over such land or lands for said purposes, it shall and may be lawful for the governor of this State, upon application made to him in writing on behalf of the United States for that purpose, accompanied by the proper evidence of said purchase, contract, or acquisition of record, describing the land or lands sought to be ceded, by convenient metes and bounds, in the name and behalf of this State to cede to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the land or lands so purchased or acquired and sought to be ceded to the United States, to hold, use, occupy, own, and possess and exercise said jurisdiction over the same for the purposes aforesaid.

"Provided always, &c."

NOTE.—The proviso is to the effect that the State shall retain concurrent jurisdiction in and over said land or lands for the execution of process issuing under the authority of the State, or any of the courts or judicial officers thereof, saving to the United States security to their property within said limits and extent, an exemption from taxation of said land or lands under authority of this State while held, &c., by the United States for the purposes specified.

N. B.—The "proper evidence, &c." must remain filed in the papers of the executive department.

(Laws of Texas, Fourth Edition, 1874. Vol. 2, p. 1616.)

ART. 7810 (1). The consent of the legislature of the State of Texas is hereby given to the purchase by the Government of the United States, or under authority of the same, of any tract, piece or parcel of land, from any individual or individuals, bodies politic or corporate, within the boundaries or limits of the State, for the purpose of erecting therein light-houses and other needful public buildings whatever; and all deeds, conveyances of title papers for the same, shall be recorded, as in other cases, upon the land records of the county in which the land so conveyed may lie; and in like manner may be recorded a sufficient description, by metes and bounds, courses and distances, of any tract or tracts, legal divisions of any public land belonging to the United States which may be set apart by the general government for any or either of the purposes before mentioned by an order, patent, or other official document, or papers so describing such land; the consent herein and hereby given being in accordance with the seventeenth clause of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, and with the acts of Congress in such cases made and provided.

NOTE.—In Senate Report No. 204, Forty-sixth Congress, second session, case of Fort Stockton, Texas, submitted by Mr. Maxey, from Committee on Military Affairs, the following occurs:

“It is, in the judgment of the committee, always wise to secure to the United States the exclusive jurisdiction contemplated by the Constitution (Art. 1, sec. 8, cl. 17) over its forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings.

“The general laws of Texas make ample provision to meet the case.”

IV.—*Indorsements showing the views of the Lieutenant-General and the General of the Army upon the question of the acceptance of deed dated April 15, 1880, from the San Felipe Agricultural and Manufacturing Company, proposing to donate to the United States 407.93 acres of land for a site of a military post at San Felipe, Tex., and General Sherman's intention to make a personal examination of points for military sites in that vicinity.*

INDORSEMENTS ON LETTER, DATED JUNE 9, 1880, FROM THE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS TO THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THAT DEPARTMENT, SUBMITTING DEED, DATED APRIL 15, 1880, FROM THE SAN FELIPE AGRICULTURAL, MANUFACTURING AND IRRIGATION COMPANY, DONATING TO THE UNITED STATES A TRACT OF LAND, EMBRACING 407.93 ACRES, FOR A SITE OF A MILITARY POST AT SAN FELIPE, TEX., TOGETHER WITH ABSTRACT OF TITLE, ETC., WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PAPERS IN QUESTION BE FORWARDED FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, June 14, 1880.

Respectfully forwarded to the adjutant-general Military Division of the Missouri, for the information and action of the proper authorities.

There is now a one-company post at San Felipe. It is the last place, going northwest into the desert, where there is a large tract of good land, capable of furnishing supplies, under cultivation, and it is the nearest place of the kind to where the Indians and other raiders are in the habit of crossing the river from Mexico. General Angur had a camp there. I broke it up, but after visiting the place re-established it; and the post will probably have to be kept up for a number of years.

For the foregoing reasons I recommend the prompt acceptance of the land, which adjoins the biggest spring in West Texas. The troops there are healthy. Supplies (cheap and abundant) are largely cultivated for supply of Fort Clark.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
OFFICE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER,
Chicago, June 22, 1880.

Respectfully returned to the assistant adjutant-general of the division, concurring in the indorsement of General Ord.

RUFUS INGALLS,
Colonel and Assistant Quartermaster-General, Brevet Major-General, U. S. A.,
Chief Quartermaster.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
Chicago, June 24, 1880.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army. I have heretofore stated my objections to the construction of a military post at San Felipe in Texas. It is only a short distance from the large post of Fort Clark, and requires, in my opinion, nothing more than a small force for outpost duty, and I do not wish to sanction the acceptance of ground from an agricultural company. I have as yet seen no important public interest to be served by any further expenditure of public money at San Felipe.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 30, 1880.

Respectfully referred to the Quartermaster-General, with return of papers bearing his indorsement of July 19, 1879, in accordance with which this report was called for.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 6, 1880.

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant-General United States Army.

The department commander recommends prompt acceptance, the Lieutenant-General objects to sanction the acceptance. I recommend that the papers be laid before the General of the Army and Secretary of War for decision. If they decide that it would be for the interest of the United States to accept the ground, reference of papers to Department of Justice for opinion as to title is necessary.

The records of this office show only an expenditure of about \$1,000 thus far for shelter at this post.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General, Brvt. Maj. Gen., U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, July 15, 1880.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

In connection with indorsement of the Quartermaster-General of July 6, 1880, on these papers, attention is invited to Senate report (No. 145, Forty-fifth Congress, second session) publishing War Department letter of December 6, 1877, relative to the restrictive provisions of section 3736, Revised Statutes. So far as known here no definite action was taken by Congress in the matter.

In view of this restriction, it would appear that the department is without authority to accept the donation of the site of San Felipe in the absence of specific authority from Congress, unless it should be taken as one of the posts authorized by act approved April 16, 1880 (General Orders 27 of 1880, herewith). April 30, 1880, General Sherman referred General Orders No. 27 of 1880, to General Sheridan for thorough examination and report as to the best use of the appropriation of \$200,000 for new posts in Texas; his report has not yet been received.

General Sherman has heretofore agreed with Lieutenant-General Sheridan in opposing the construction of a post at this point as being too near Fort Clark.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
July 17, 1880.

Respectfully returned to the honorable Secretary of War, recommending that no further action be taken in this case until the report of Lieutenant-General Sheridan, called for by the General of the Army on the 30th of April last, is received.

R. B. MARCY,
Brig. and Inspector General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
July 19, 1880.

The Secretary of War concurs in the views of the Inspector-General.
By order of the Secretary of War.

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

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ENDORSEMENTS ON COMMUNICATION OF DECEMBER 1, 1881, FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL C. C. AUGUR, COMMANDING DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, WHO INVITES ATTENTION TO GENERAL ORD'S INDORSEMENT OF JUNE 14, 1880, REFERRING TO THE DONATION OF A TRACT OF LAND NEAR SAN FELIPE. REQUESTS TO BE INFORMED WHAT ACTION THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO TAKE, AS IT MAY BECOME A QUESTION OF TRANSFERRING TO THIS POINT THE MILITARY POST OF FORT DUNCAN, SITUATED ON LEASED GROUND.

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 10, 1881.

Respectfully referred to the commanding general Military Division of the Missouri, through whose headquarters the within communication is addressed, having evidently reached this office *direct* through inadvertence.

By command of General Sherman.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, December 20, 1881.

Respectfully returned, reiterating all the views formerly expressed by me in reference to the establishment of a permanent post at San Felipe. The largest post we have in Texas (Fort Clark) is only about thirty-eight miles from San Felipe, and it seems to me entirely unnecessary to build a new post at the latter place, which point should be covered by a company from Fort Clark.

Fort Duncan is forty-five miles from Fort Clark, and is on the Rio Grande below San Felipe; it could also be covered by Fort Clark in the same way. Both San Felipe and Fort Duncan are merely commercial points; they have now no military bearing, and it has always appeared to me as though the effort to secure the building of a military post at San Felipe had no other object than to increase the advantages of a private corporation.

I am therefore opposed to the acceptance by the government of any land for such a purpose.

People do not generally give land to the government without having some private interest to advance.

In examining locations for the new posts to be built from the appropriation of \$200,000, the site at San Felipe has not been considered.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
Washington, December 31, 1881.

Respectfully submitted to the General of the Army, together with the previous papers referred to by General Augur, including deed to the tract in question, tendered to the United States April 15, 1880, attention being invited to the action of the Secretary of War indorsed thereon July 19, 1880.

In connection with the indorsement of Lieutenant-General Sheridan, it is remarked General Augur has reported that in the event of authority being given for the purchase of additional land at San Antonio, Texas, and the erection there of quarters for a regiment, Fort Clark might be suppressed, which suggestion the Quartermaster-General has approved as an economical measure, the papers being now before the Secretary of War, with a view to action by Congress.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., January 3, 1882.

By the package of inclosures herewith, the honorable Secretary of War will see that this reopens a very old and much contested question, going back twenty years. San Antonio, Fort Clark, Fort Duncan (Eagle Pass), and San Felipe, are all points occupied by troops at various periods ever since the acquisition of Texas, in 1846.

At this instant of time a railroad is under construction from San Antonio, via Fort Clark, to San Felipe, and on westward to connect with the California road now complete.

This railroad once finished will quickly settle this and all questions heretofore in doubt. At present my opinion is that San Antonio should be strongly garrisoned, and

the places named Clark, Duncan, and San Felipe merely occupied from time to time as picket stations; but I purpose going down in person in March to see for myself the relative merits of these points, now become rivals for speculative uses. I think there is no hurry, for some other point up the Rio Grande, say near the mouth of the Pecos, may prove more eligible than either of those now in question.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

Extract from the Annual Report of General C. C. Augur, dated September 27, 1881.

* * * * *

The near completion to and along the Rio Grande and the Northern frontier of several lines of railroads will change, very materially, the conditions of the problem of protection and defense of those frontiers.

The track of the Texas and Pacific road is laid as far as San Martin Spring, in longitude of Fort Davis, and about fifty miles north. The Southern Pacific is extending its track from El Paso, via Carrizo Pass, Eagle Springs, Pena Colorado, Mayer's Spring, and mouth of Pecos. It is to meet the "Sunset route," now running fifty miles west of this place to Sabinal, thence to be extended, via Uvalde, a point eight miles south of Fort Clark, Del Rio, and mouth of Pecos. The International and Great Northern is completed, and now running to Los Raicos, beyond the Nueces, and will soon be completed to Laredo. The road from Corpus Christi to Laredo is completed, and cars are running over it. It is expected that the Texas and Pacific and Southern Pacific will be in operation to El Paso by January, 1882.

It is not believed that any military posts will be longer needed south of the line of the Texas and Pacific Railway, except such as bear upon the defense or protection of the Rio Grande line. Forts Concho, McKavett, and Stockton are thus rendered unnecessary; Fort Griffin, no longer necessary, was abandoned as a military post in May last. If barracks are to be built at San Antonio for a regiment, to be kept in readiness at that post for an emergency at any point on either frontier, then Fort Clark also can be given up. It is not probable that Indian depredations will ever again be made from any point in Mexico south of the mouth of Pecos. From that point to Quitman, at least, they may be expected at any time, and the line of the Southern Pacific must be protected in its entire length, from mouth of Pecos to El Paso. Two small posts, one troop of cavalry and one company of infantry each, will be necessary in the country between the Southern Pacific and the Rio Grande, from mouth of Pecos to the Presidio del Norte. Should the Mexican Government determine to establish a small military post in the vicinity of the Sierra Carmen, or near San Vincente, or even at San Carlos, it is believed that, between the troops thus established on either side, the Indians would soon be obliged to leave that country. A post, of the character of those referred to above, will also probably be necessary at or near the Presidio del Norte.

On the northern frontier one post will be needed in or near the Gaudalupe Mountains, and probably two north of the Texas and Pacific Railroad, in the direction of Fort Elliott, on the western flank of the Indian Territory.

The engineer officer of the department is now out with a party examining this country, with a view of determining the points best suited for the location of these posts.

Fort Davis is well located, as it is, and its resources are available for either frontier.

Extract from the Annual Report of Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan, dated October 22, 1881.

* * * * *

Military field operations in Texas, during the year, have been confined to the pursuit of small raiding parties from Mexico. The one which did most damage was severely chastised by First Lieutenant John L. Bullis, Twenty-fourth Infantry.

I coincide with the department commander, General Augur, as to the desirability of establishing the six small posts in the sections of country named by him in his accompanying report, and as soon as the exact locations are decided upon the work of building can go on, as the money for construction has already been appropriated by Congress, and is now available.