

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 26, 1884.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. VEST, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1565.]

*The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1565) to authorize the appointment of a commission by the President of the United States to run and mark the boundary lines between a portion of the Indian Territory and the State of Texas, in connection with a similar commission to be appointed by the State of Texas, having considered the same, respectfully report :*

That by the provisions of the treaty between the United States and Spain, executed February 22, 1819, the boundary line between the two countries west of the Mississippi River was fixed as follows:

Beginning on the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Sabine River, in the sea, and continuing north along the western bank of that river to the thirty-second degree of latitude; thence by a line due north to the degree of latitude where it strikes the Rio Roxo of Nachitoches or Red River; thence following the course of the Rio Roxo westward to the one hundredth degree of longitude west from London and the twenty-third from Washington; thence crossing the said Red River and running thence by a line due north to the river Arkansas; thence following the course of the southern bank of the Arkansas to its source, in latitude forty-two degrees north; and thence by that parallel of latitude to the South Sea; the whole being as laid down in Melish's map of the United States published at Philadelphia, improved to the first of January, eighteen hundred and eighteen.

Article 2 of the treaty between the United States and Mexico of date January 12, 1828, fixed the same boundary line between the two Republics, and the boundary line of Texas when admitted into the Union, December 27, 1845, was the same as above indicated.

For more than a quarter of a century it has been contended by the State of Texas that the boundary line between a portion of the Indian Territory and that State is what is now known as the North Fork of Red River up to the degrees of longitude 100 west from London and 23 west from Washington. It is claimed by the United States that what is now known as the South Fork of Red River is the boundary. The territory lying between these two streams is that in dispute. It is known in Texas as Greer County, and so designated on the maps of that State. If the North Fork be the boundary, this tract of country is a part of Texas; if the South Fork be the boundary, it is a part of the Indian Territory. In extent it is approximately 2,400 square miles.

The necessity for legislation on this subject grows out of the different constructions placed upon the treaties between the United States and Spain and the United States and Mexico, above referred to.

It seems to the committee that the bill which we report meets the necessities of the case fairly, and we recommend its adoption as a substitute for the bill H. R. 1565.