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Letter from the Secretary of War, in relation to the bill (H. R. 1590) to provide for the better protection of the frontier settlements of Texas against Indian and Mexican depredations

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PROTECTION OF TEXAS FRONTIER.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RELATION TO

The bill (H. R. 1590) to provide for the better protection of the frontier settlements of Texas against Indian and Mexican depredations.

APRIL 21, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April 17, 1874.*

The Secretary of War has the honor to reply to letter of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of the 9th instant, inclosing, for the views of the Department, House bill No. 1590, "to provide for the better protection of the frontier settlements of Texas against Indian and Mexican depredations," by reporting to the House of Representatives, for the information of said committee, that it is the desire of the Department that the line should be built. In this connection attention is invited to the views of Generals Sherman, Sheridan, and Schofield, (published in House Executive Document 204, 43d Congress, 1st session,) as to the advantages of military-telegraph lines, and the probability of such lines being self-sustaining, judging from the short experience had with the Arizona line recently constructed. Also to the views of the Chief Signal-Officer, (published in House Executive Document 166, 43d Congress, 1st session,) as to the cost of constructing and maintaining the line under consideration.

In House report No. 61, of this session, are published the various recommendations of this Department and of the military authorities for a telegraph-line in Texas.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

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