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Exclusion of reservation Indians from Texas

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EXCLUSION OF RESERVATION INDIANS FROM TEXAS.

MARCH 9, 1880.—Referred to the House calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WELLBORN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5040.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having under consideration the bill H. R. 3161, submit, with accompanying substitute, the following report:

For many years Indians on the reservations have been in the habit of going into the State of Texas, for hunting and other purposes, at times under permits from the authorities having them in immediate charge, and at other times without permits.

While on these expeditions they have not unfrequently fired upon unoffending citizens, stolen and driven away their horses, killed their cattle, and forced from them supplies of food. In consequence of these injuries and depredations a feeling of uneasiness pervades the minds of all settlers in the localities visited by these roving bands. These settlers are in constant dread, as they know not at what hour they may become victims to the cruelty of these unfriendly marauders, their homes be burned, and their wives and children outraged and murdered.

To protect her citizens against these dangers, not merely threatened but always imminent, the State of Texas, at large expense, has kept for years and now keeps a military force in active service. While this force gives partial security, it is not large enough to afford full protection to the exposed localities, nor can it be made adequate to complete protection so long as these Indians are allowed to go or are not prevented from going into the State.

To remedy the evils above indicated, we believe,

1st. That all officers and agents of the Army and Indian Bureau should be prohibited, under severe penalties, from granting written or verbal permission to Indians to go into the State of Texas; and

2d. That the Secretary of the Interior should be directed and required to adopt at once such other reasonable measures as will, in connection with this prohibition, prevent said Indians from entering the State.

The accompanying substitute for bill H. R. 3161, which embodies these provisions, is herewith submitted, and its passage recommended.