INV 10577

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Austin 22 Sept 1855.

Hon Exy. Gov. Pease,

In accordance with your request made while I was here in July, I now attempt to give you a statement of such depredations as have been committed on that portion of the frontier in which I reside, all of which I think may be relied on as substantially true.

On the 30 August a party of Indians were trailed by a party of Capt. Callahan's Company up the Guadalupe River & overtaken about thirty miles above the San Antonio & Fredericksburg Road - Two Indians were wounded & all their horses six in number taken - Among other articles taken from this party was a Shirt, apparently suited to a boy 12 or 14 years of age, with holes through as if made by a lance, or arrow. -

On 4th Sept another party of Callahan's Company following a trail between the Guadalupe & Medina overtook a party of Indians - One was killed on the spot & one severely wounded & four horses taken -- Both of the above statements were received from persons present & acting in each affair - I think that perhaps both have already been noticed in the newspapers -

On 31st August, near Smithson valley, 16 miles from New Braunfels, four Indians were discovered coming into that Settlement - Mr Smithson with two or three others pursued on the trail & found the Indians in a ravine roasting a beef they had killed - They made their Escape, leaving

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not get shots on account of the Indians being concealed in by the brush - The Indians immediately fled leaving twelve horses, which they had stolen the previous night about six miles from Mr H's residence - They rode off all Mr H's horses - The Indians crossed the river in full view of a German family, unprotected, the husband being absent & who but for Mr H's pursuit might possibly have been attacked. -

On last Monday Sept 17th - a single Indian made an attempt to steal a staked horse, in open day, from the same prairie in front of Mr Hodge's house & almost from the same spot, from which the horses had been driven on the 31 Aug.-t. - the horse became frightened, broke his rope & ran to the house - the Indian was then seen running into the brush, by several members of the family - In the morning about dusk he made his appearance again at the same place, when Mr H. shot at him, but failed to kill him - No doubt others were in company with him -

These acts manifest great boldness in the part of the Indians -

About Sept 6th a German belonging to the Settlement of Sistindale in passing, unarmed, from Fredericksburg to Sistindale was chased by an armed Indian for a considerable distance - & about the same time Mr Dressell of the same place, in passing home from New Braunfels chased an Indian, on the road for some distance -

Between the last of August & the 5th September a number of horses were stolen from the Settlement on the Cibolo about fifteen miles above the road from New Braunfels to San Antonio - but how many I could not

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known, & the names of the owners I do not now recollect.

For several nights in succession attempts were made to steal the horses of Mr Rucke on the Guadalupe 25 miles N.W. from New Braunfels. - between the 30th August & 8th Septr -

About the latter date an attempt was made, I am well satisfied, to take horses from my place on Curry's creek but being securely locked up they failed -

From all the information I have been able to obtain from reliable ~~informers~~ sources from various quarters of the frontier I think it pretty safe to conclude that at various points between the Nueces & Colorado, about 100 Indians must have visited the frontier - between the 22nd ~~23rd~~ August & 10th Septr. - & that some small parties which have been unsuccessful in stealing, are still hovering about in the mountain districts. -

I regret to add that ~~- generally~~ on that part of the frontier in which I reside, a great deal of uneasiness is manifested by the people - property is not considered safe, & there is danger that persons in passing about ~~will certainly liable~~ to be attacked ~~by~~ small bands of Indians - and when they can no longer find horses to steal they may & probably will attack families whose situations are isolated & where there is a probability of getting plunder - Some families have already broken up & left the frontier - Some other persons have removed ~~to~~

their horses, bows, arrows & butcher knives - Some of this party were afterwards seen in the mountains two or three times by persons in the neighborhood. -

On the same day, 31st August, two Indians rode up in front of the residence of Mr John S. Hodges on Curry's Creek, about 8 O'clock in the morning & drove off four head of horses - not more than 150 yards from the house & in open view of the whole family who were in the galley of the house - Mr Hodges & Mr Newton accompanied by a negro man immediately gave chase on foot - after following about two miles ~~they~~ through a rough & brushy country they came in sight of the Indians, seven in number, with about 20 head of horses herded in a prairie - they were engaged in catching the horses just driven from Hodges' house & putting their saddles on them, all of them being good horses - The Indians were not aware of the pursuit by Hodges & party. As the prairie was too large to justify an attack, they quietly waited till the Indians had saddled all the horses, ~~[illegible]~~ & started in the direction of the Guadalupe river, then about one mile distant - Mr H. & party now again followed on foot, & through a rough country - keeping themselves always out of sight of the Indians & intending to overtake & fire upon them while they were in the act of crossing the river - they reached the river just as the Indians had reached the opposite side & were still in a small bottom - one shot was fired at them by the boy, wounding the Indian - Mr H. & Mr N. could

their families temporarily & others have removed their stock of horses to more secure points below the mountains - It is reasonable to expect that the Indians will again return the latter part of this month or during the next. - It is believed that they are Lipans & Camanches & possibly some of Wild Cats Seminoles are engaged in the business with them - It is known that some of the horses stolen are carried across the Rio Grande & it is generally believed that most or all of them go to the same place. I think it reasonable to believe that there are two or three hundred Indians engaged in depredating upon the frontier - those who are familiar with localities on the frontier do the stealing; while others receive the stolen property beyond the settlements & conduct it to some point of security on one side or other of the Rio Grande -

The Indians generally come in on foot & their presence is not known until they have perpetrated their outrages and are on the ~~return~~ In this way they have penetrated in some places forty miles within the settlements, stolen horses & made their escape. - I conceive that the only remedy is the organization of a sufficient mounted force to traverse the whole exposed frontier almost daily, across the direction in which the Indians enter & leave the settlements & at the same time a strong party to be sent out to search for the rendezvous of the Indians - Wherever there is a mounted force in the neighborhood of the frontier, the settlers can & will always render efficient aid in assisting the military - but where no such force is near, the head of each family

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considers it a paramount duty to protect his own place & property & concert of action among the settlers is prevented -

About two weeks ago I saw Capt Callahan, who not having the opportunity then of communicating with your Excy. requested me to inform you that his command had been actively engaged in scouting & following trails in the district of country assigned for him to protect. - One half his company being stationed 16 miles N.E. from Fredricksburg & the other on the Guadalupe above the road from Fredricksburg to San Antonio - That no party of Indians had penetrated through his line of operations upon the settlements, so far as he then knew, altho' Indian signs were abundant on that part of the frontier when his command was organized. - Every party of Indians known to have committed depredations, approached the settlements above or below his line of operations - even those that ~~[illegible]~~ took Mr Hodge's horses on Curry's creek came from the direction of San Antonio & retreated in the same way -

He particularly requested me to say that in his judgment the exigencies of the frontier ~~[illegible]~~ required a much larger force - three or four additional companies - and that quiet & safety could never be obtained until this was done -

Capt. C. at the time I saw him was preparing to make an excursion Westward with the principal part of his company & such volunteer assistance as he could get, in hopes of finding the rendezvous of the Indians & attacking & breaking them up. ~~[illegible]~~ I learn that he has left with a considerable force - It is to be hoped that he will be successful -

I am respectfully &c

William E. Jones

Wm Edens
Austin
22 Sept 1857

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His Excy. Gov. Pease

Present