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REPORT NO. 3.

Committee Room, March 18, 1861.

To the Hon. O. M. Roberts,
President of the Convention.

The undersigned is instructed by the committee on Public Safety to report through you to the Convention that, believing it to be among their first duties to secure to the State of Texas all the arms and munitions of war in the hands of the U. S. troops within the State, and having appointed Col. Ben. McCulloch to the command of the post at San Antonio and other posts in that quarter, Col. Henry McCulloch for the Northwest frontier with authority to protect the frontier from hostile invasion, and having also appointed Col. John S. Ford to Brazos Santiago, Brownsville and other posts on the Rio Grande, they found it was absolutely necessary to provide means of transportation and subsistence of the troops, especially for those under the command of Col. John S. Ford, as they had to be transported across the gulf to the mouth of the Rio Grande. The propriety of sending Col. Ford's command by water will be apparent, when it is considered how great the distance is by land, and the great difficulty of procuring provisions through the country. Especially will it be apparent when it is seen by the report of Gen'l E. B. Nichols that, had the command been delayed a few hours later, they would most probably have lost all the valuable arms and munitions at Brazos Santiago. It will be seen that Capt. Hill, U. S. officer, had ordered everything at that point to be destroyed.

The committee, having set on foot the enterprises alluded to, believed that it would be ruinous to the State to fail for the want of anything in their power to furnish. The gallant and brave volunteers had nobly responded to the call of their respective commanders, money alone was now necessary to proceed to accomplish the objects of the mission. The Convention, by an ordinance passed during the first sitting, authorized the President of the Convention to raise \$100,000 and pledge the faith of the State for the payment of the same, and to disburse the same by order of the committee of Public Safety, whenever said President should be notified that the same was necessary for the defense or safety of the State by said committee. The committee accordingly on the 4th day of Feby, 1861, notified the President of the Convention of that fact; to which he promptly responded by appointing Gen. E. B. Nichols commissioner for the purpose of raising funds not to exceed \$95,000. The committee at the same time appointed Gen. E. B. Nichols financial agent in behalf of the State to disburse the money so raised by him under instructions and commission issued to him. All of which proceedings by the Presi-

dent of the Convention and the committee will appear in document No. 1.

To the Hon. O. M. Roberts,

President of the Convention of the People of Texas.

You are hereby notified that by a resolution of the committee of Public Safety the sum of \$100,000 is necessary to be raised for the safety of the State, and to provide for the defence and welfare thereof.

Witness my hand, this 4th day of Feby, A. D. 1861.

Jno. C. Robertson,
Chrm'n Com. Public Safety.

Whereupon the President issued to Gen. Nichols the following authority:

To Gen. E. B. Nichols:

By virtue of the authority in me vested by the Convention of the people of Texas, assembled at Austin on the 28th day of Jany. A. D., 1861, I, O. M. Roberts, President of said Convention, do hereby appoint you commissioner on behalf of the people of Texas to raise and procure for the State of Texas a sum of money not to exceed the sum of \$95,000, and you are hereby authorized, by virtue of the authority aforesaid, to pledge the faith of the State of Texas for the payment thereof, and you are authorized to negotiate for the same on such terms as in your judgment are right and proper.

You are also required to disburse the sum or sums of money you may thus raise or procure, according to the instructions you may receive from the committee on Public Safety.

Done at the city of Austin, this 4th day of Feby, A. D., 1861.

O. M. Roberts
President of the Convention of the people of Texas.

To E. B. Nichols:

Sir:

You are hereby appointed financial agent with powers to disburse such sum or sums of money as you may raise or may come into your possession for the benefit of the State of Texas; and, acting in said capacity of financial and disbursing agent for said State of Texas, you will be governed by the following special instructions:

1. Before entering upon the discharge of your duties, you are hereby required to enter into bond in the sum of \$100,000, payable to the State of Texas and conditioned that you will faithfully perform the duties entrusted to you under this power.

2. You are hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$100,000, and to pledge for the repayment of the same the faith of the State of Texas and such other securities as may be placed in your possession, and for the purpose of accomplishing said loan you are hereby fully authorized to negotiate for the same upon such terms as in your judgment are right and proper.

3. You are further authorized to receive and receipt for in the name of the State of Texas all sums of money, arms and munitions of war, army supplies and every species of property that may be surrendered to you within the limits of said State.

4. You are further authorized to proceed to any point within or out of the State of Texas in order to effect said loan, and as soon as that is accomplished you are required to procure such vessels as may be necessary to transport 300 men from Galveston or such other point as may be designated by Col. John S. Ford to Brazos Santiago or such other point as may be designated by said officer, and you are also required to procure at the same time, or as soon as possible, sixty days supplies of rations for 600 men, and such vessels and supplies you will place at the disposal of Col. John S. Ford, and you are also required to proceed to Point Isabel and the Rio Grande and take into your possession all such money or property as may be tendered to you by any person and hold the same subject to the order of this committee, except so far as you are hereby authorized to dispose of the same.

5. By requisition from Col. Ford, you are authorized to deliver to him such arms and munitions of war and army supplies as he may demand, and you are further authorized to keep the remainder of such property of every kind as may come into your possession at such place or places as will insure its safe keeping, at your discretion, unless otherwise ordered by this committee.

6. You are required to confer with Col. Ford touching the matters connected with your powers, and to afford him such assistance as you may be able to do by furnishing to him such supplies as he may require, and in order more effectually to aid Col. Ford in his mission you are authorized and required to confer with him as to the extent of your powers to aid him.

7. You will report as often as is convenient to this committee all things transacted by you touching the powers herein granted.

8. You are required to keep a correct account of all your proceedings in a well bound book, and to do so you are authorized to employ a secretary at such salary and upon such terms as you may think proper.

9. You are also required to organize quartermaster's, commissary's, ordnance and medical departments, in conjunction with Col. Ford,

and in organizing the same you will be governed by the regulations of the army of the United States of America.

10. You are also authorized to select such persons as you may think proper to aid you in accomplishing the successful result of your mission.

Jno. C. Robertson,
Chr'm of Com. of Public Safety.

Attest:

R. T. Brownrigg,
Sec'y to committee.

Gen. E. B. Nichols was also furnished with attested copies of the following documents, viz:

The joint resolution of the State legislature, giving its assent to and approving of the Convention of the people of Texas.

The ordinance to dissolve the union heretofore existing between the State of Texas and the other States, united under the compact styled the "Constitution of the United States of America."

Gen. Houston's letter to the committee of the Convention.

Resolution conferring authority on the committee of Public Safety.

Resolution giving power to committee to sit during recess.

Resolution authorizing the President to raise funds, etc.

On the 8th day of Feby, A. D., 1861, the following additional document was issued by the committee to Gen. Nichols:

To Gen. E. B. Nichols:

By virtue of the authority in me vested by the Convention of the people of Texas, assembled at Austin on the 28th day of Jany, A. D., 1861, I, O. M. Roberts, President of said Convention, do hereby appoint you commissioner on behalf of the people of Texas to raise and procure for the State of Texas \$5,000 in addition to that you are already authorized to raise, making in the whole the sum of \$100,000, and you are hereby authorized to pledge the faith of the State of Texas for the payment thereof.

And you are authorized to negotiate for the same on such terms as in your judgment are right and proper.

You are also required to disburse the sum or sums of money you may thus receive and procure, according to the instructions you may receive from the committee of Public Safety.

Done at the city of Austin, this 8th day of Feby, A. D., 1861.

O. M. Roberts.

President of the Convention of the people of Texas.

By the instructions given to Gen. Nichols, and the appointment of Col. Ford hereinafter shown, it will be seen that the committee used every possible precaution to prevent the useless expenditure of money, and also to avoid if possible a conflict with the Federal troops. Whilst, however, they were exceedingly cautious in their instructions and solicitous to avoid collision, yet it was not intended that the troops should leave with their arms and the munitions of war, only so much, as by the usages of war, they would not be dishonored if they departed peaceably. The committee, however, determined if they could not get the Federal property by stipulation on honorable terms to both parties, to have it at *all hazards*, and they so provided in their military appointments. Gen. E. B. Nichols, immediately after his appointment, left Austin for New Orleans to obtain the means, while Col. Ford was marching and concentrating his forces at Galveston. Gen. Nichols had a Herculean task to perform; he had to provide means for sustaining a force of 500 men, and to procure transportation for them and purchase the provisions for them, and transport these from New Orleans to Galveston. Gen. Nichols reached New Orleans about the 12th of Feby, and in an incredibly short time he procured vessels for transportation, he purchased provisions for sustaining the troops, and returned to Galveston, embarked the troops and set sail for Brazos Santiago on the 20th day of Feby, 1861. Gen. Nichols, when in the city of New Orleans, negotiated a loan to the State from the Citizens Bank, of \$10,000, and on his individual responsibility he effected a loan to the State of Texas of \$10,000. He purchased quartermaster's stores of W. H. Leitchford & Co. to the amount of \$1570, of James Connelly & Co., \$2500. These two firms generously rely upon the faith of the State for their pay, and also the Citizens Bank of Louisiana looks to the State for refunding the sum advanced. The remaining \$10,000 Gen'l Nichols obtained upon his own credit.

It will be thus seen that Gen. Nichols pledged the faith of the State for the sum of \$24,070; an account current made by Gen. Nichols, of date the 18th of Feby, 1861, is herewith submitted, marked No. 2, by which it will be seen that at that date Gen'l Nichols had in his hands \$6,639.40, having paid to the committee the sum of \$10,000; the whole amount in the hands of Gen. Nichols, including the amounts expended for stores, etc., was \$17,430.60; the amount received by the committee will be shown how disbursed hereafter.

The military district of country in which Col. John S. Ford was commissioned was defined by beginning at a point on the Rio Grande, half way between Forts Duncan and McIntosh and include all forts on the Rio Grande below said point, and the entire district of country between the Nueces and Rio Grande, and at right angles with the

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general course of said river to the point of beginning. Within this district assigned to Col. Ford there were, of the U. S. army, three companies of cavalry, five companies of infantry and two companies of artillery, in all ten companies of well disciplined regulars; all of whom were along the line of the Rio Grande, and were known to be well supplied with means for prompt transportation and could be concentrated at or near Brownsville. A list of posts in the department of Texas is herewith submitted, marked document No. 3. The committee being satisfied that at least 600 volunteers were necessary for the expedition authorized Col. Ford to call out that number, with discretionary powers to call for more should he deem it necessary. Besides the securing the public property on this line, Col. Ford was authorized and required to protect that line against hostile invasion and so garrison the military posts as to safely preserve the public property. The committee executed to Col. John S. Ford the following instructions and commission :

Colonel Ford's Commission.

Committee Room, Feby 5th, 1861.

To. Col. John S. Ford:

Sir:

You are hereby appointed military commander to proceed at once to the Rio Grande for the purpose and objects hereinafter explained, and you will be governed strictly by the following instructions:

The object of your mission is a twofold one. 1st. To use such means as will secure to the State of Texas all arms and munitions of war, together with all property of every kind now retained by and in the possession of the U. S. of America, at Point Isabel and at all points along the line of the Rio Grande; and 2nd. To use such means as will protect the Rio Grande frontier against hostile invasions.

In pursuance of these objects you are hereby authorized and instructed to call into service 600 men, or less if in your judgment a less number be sufficient. You will organize such men into companies of not more than one hundred, rank and file, and you will also at your discretion select such number of companies as you think best and organize the same as a cavalry corps at such time and place as you may deem best.

At the earliest practicable time you will proceed to Brazos Santiago, Point Isabel, or such other point as in your discretion is best, and there demand from parties in possession all public property now claimed by the United State of America, and consisting of arms and munitions of war, public buildings and army stores, for the State of Texas. It is of the first importance that this should be accomplished

without hostile collision with the United States authorities, and you are instructed to use every practicable means to accomplish it in a peaceable manner if it be possible so to do, without jeopardizing the services of your mission.

For every species of property so procured, you will give a receipt as the duly authorized agent of the State of Texas, provided E. B. Nichols is not present to perform that duty; if, however, he is there, it will be his duty to receipt for the same, by virtue of his authority; and, in such event, after the surrender of such property, you will instantly report the same to him and afford him every facility in your power to enable him to take charge of such property and to preserve the same.

If E. B. Nichols should not be present when such property is surrendered, you will hold the same subject to his order, or of this committee. In any event, you will exert yourself to protect such property from injury or destruction.

In securing to the State of Texas property claimed by the United States of America, at all points you will be strictly governed by the following instructions, given in relation to property claimed by the United States of America at Brazos Santiago and Point Isabel.

In order to protect the Rio Grande frontier from hostile invasions, you will at all times enforce in your command the strictest military discipline, and to effect this you will be governed by the regulations of the army of the U. S. A., and articles of war of the same, as far as it is possible to apply the same to your command, not only in regard to discipline but to the mode and manner of the organization of your command in every department.

You will strictly avoid injury or depreciation by your command to or upon the property of private persons, and you are enjoined not to permit injury to the citizens of the State of Texas.

You will endeavor to the extent of your power to secure the good feeling of all the U. S. officers and men to our cause, and you are authorized to assure them that the State of Texas will use her influence to secure for them such rank in the army of the Southern Confederacy, or of the State of Texas, as they now hold.

The military district of country in which you will operate will begin at a point on the Rio Grande half way between Forts Duncan and McIntosh and include all forts on the Rio Grande below said point, and the entire district of country between the Nueces and Rio Grande, and at right angles with the general course of said river at the point of beginning.

At military posts garrisoned by United States troops, (other than Point Isabel and Brazos Santiago,) you will first confer with the chief

officers and obtain from them, if possible, assurances that no effort will be made by them to defeat the object of your mission, and if said assurance is given you may stipulate with them that no attempt will be made by you for the surrender of such property until the 2nd day of March, at which time you will demand it and secure it into your possession at all hazards. If, however, such assurance is not given to you, you will observe the strictest guard over such points and the officers and men of the same, and upon any indication on their part to defeat the object of your mission you will pursue such course as in your discretion will render your success certain.

To repel hostile invasion of the Rio Grande frontier, you will be governed by instructions hereinbefore given and the exercise of your discretion.

You will endeavor to hold friendly intercourse with the neighboring Mexican authorities, and assure them of our desire to cultivate with them the kindest feelings of amity.

For all necessary transportation, supplies of arms, munitions of war, and the support and maintenance of your army, you will draft upon E. B. Nichols, who has been authorized to supply the same, and is instructed to confer with you as to the extent to which supplies will be rendered.

You are hereby required to report to the chairman of this committee as often as opportunity offers, and to obey such instructions as may hereafter be given you by this committee, and should any emergency arise not provided for in your instructions you are authorized to act at your discretion in such manner as will not be incompatible with such instructions as you have received.

If any officer, noncommissioned officer or private should be guilty of disorderly conduct or intemperance so as to render him or them, in your opinion, unfit or inefficient for the service, you are authorized and required to discharge such officer, noncommissioned officer or private from the service.

You are authorized to receive into the service, under your command, all officers and soldiers now in the United States service, with assurances that all laudable efforts will be made by the people of Texas to retain them in the State service or the service of the Southern Confederacy when formed.

If you find 600 men insufficient to accomplish the object of your mission, you are authorized to call out enough for the purpose, and report the same to the committee at once, and you are required to report by a courier or express to this committee.

Should you deem it advisable to retain any portion or all of the Federal troops in your district in the temporary service of the State,

you can do so; and in case any or all of them should express a desire to depart the country peaceably, then you will permit them to do so upon such terms as will not dishonor them and as will insure the public safety, and in such way as will insure safety to their persons and private property.

Col. John S. Ford was also commissioned as colonel of cavalry, under the resolution adopted by the committee on the 3rd day of Feby, 1861, commission dated accordingly, and furnished with duly authenticated copies of the following documents, viz:

The joint resolution of the State legislature approving of and giving its assent to the Convention of the people of Texas.

The ordinance to dissolve the union between the State of Texas and the other States united under the compact styled the constitution of the United States of America.

The letter of Governor Houston to the committee of the Convention.

The resolution of the Convention conferring power on the committee to make such appointments, and

The resolution authorizing the committee to sit during the recess of the Convention.

The committee also received from Col. John S. Ford the following communications which are also herewith submitted:

Brownsville, Feby 22, 1861.

Colonel:

I have the honor to report that a portion of the Rio Grande regiment, consisting of the companies of Capt. Edwards, Odlem, Redwood, Conner, Van Buren and Davis, in all near 500 men, sailed from Galveston on the 19th inst. On the 21st we came to, off the bar of Brazos Santiago, and boarded by a pilot. He informed us that Lieut. Thompson was at the Brazos in command of a detachment of U. S. soldiers, that he had two large pieces shotted and pointed so as to command the roadstead, and that his intention was to fire upon us in the event we endeavored to enter the harbor.

According to orders, dispositions were made to place the Texas force in readiness to repel an attack. Myself and Gen. E. B. Nichols, commissioner of the State of Texas, went on shore and had an interview with Lieut. Thompson. He, after some hesitation, agreed to remove his command and allow us to take possession of the U. S. property on the island without resistance. The Texas troops were landed in good order and promptness and were drawn up on the beach in order of battle.

A salute of 33 guns was fired and the Stars and Stripes were lowered in respectful silence. The Lone Star Flag was hoisted and cheered with enthusiasm and was saluted by 22 guns.

Lieut. Thompson withdrew his command. I am happy to state that no unpleasant remark dropped from either party during the affair, and a high-toned courtesy seemed to prevail throughout.

The number and character of the pieces taken can not now be given in detail; yet it may be safely asserted that the State of Texas has in her possession a supply of siege guns and mortars amply sufficient to protect all her harbors.

After landing and storing the supplies from steamer *Gen. Rusk* and the schooner *Shark*, I started for this point accompanied by Gen. Nichols and Gen. McLeod. We arrived to-day about noon. From all we can learn it is probable we shall have no great trouble. We hope the affair can be adjusted satisfactorily by negotiation. If hostilities commence, it shall be the act of the United States officers.

Mr. Fenn, the P. M. here, received a letter recently from a Black Republican, expressing a determination on their part to get possession of Pensacola, and to secure the free navigation of the Mississippi. We will investigate and report further on this matter.

By the *Gen. Rusk* I shall report more fully.

I have the honor to be your obd't serv't.

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. District.

Hon. J. C. Robertson,
Chairman of Com. on Public Safety.

Brownsville, March 6, 1861.

Colonel:

I am in receipt of no communications from you, nor from any quarter, apprising me of the events transpiring at other points in the State.

The command at Brazos Santiago and the mounted troops reported amount to a few more than 1000 men. Other companies are *en route* to this place, and the force will be adequate to the service required, and I hope soon to be able to dispense with a portion of it. Meantime I would suggest the propriety of raising companies to serve for a stated period in this district. The length of the line to be protected, the danger of forays from the Mexican side, the fact that 17 or 20 companies of U. S. troops will leave Texas by way of the mouth of the Rio Grande, indicate in a most unmistakable manner the necessity of a respectable and well organized force on the lower Rio Grande. In the event Mr. Lincoln should adopt a coercive policy, Brazos San-

tiago and the mouth of the river would be points of attack. They are keys to the valley of the Rio Grande and they should be permanently fortified.

On the 3rd inst. the *Daniel Webster* arrived off the bar at Brazos Santiago. She was boarded by Gen. Nichols and her peaceable intentions ascertained. Maj. Porter, of the U. S. A., was on board of her, and has been sent to superintend the withdrawal of the Federal troops from the Rio Grande frontier, and probably other portions of Texas. I accompanied him to this place. He expresses himself decidedly favorable to a peaceful solution of the present difficulties between the slave-holding States and the general government. Under his present orders, he says, collision cannot occur, unless by the acts of the State troops. I understand him to be willing to observe the agreement made by Gen. Twiggs with the Texas commissioners. He has directed Capt. Stoneman to remain at Fort Brown, receive the public property from U. S. officers when they shall arrive, notify the commands of this district of his readiness to turn over the same to an authorized agent of the State of Texas, and, when he shall have accomplished these objects, he is instructed to embark for the United States. Unless Mr. Lincoln shall countermand the order under which Maj. Porter is acting, all will be effected without disturbing the relations of peace which should exist between the Confederate and United States. Should he attempt coercion the U. S. troops concentrated on the Rio Grande would give great trouble. Under the agreement made at San Antonio, there is no way to prevent the Federal troops forming a junction at Fort Brown or the mouth of the Rio Grande. They are moving out of the country, and will be awaiting transportation, as they will aver, and as they now honestly intend, but what would be the result should they be ordered to hold their positions upon the ground that the present Federal president does not approve the agreement made with Gen. Twiggs? It is for the Convention to judge whether this contingency is within the range of probability, and if so to prepare to meet it.

I have strong hopes that all will go well and without bloodshed. I have used every effort to avert civil war, and shall feel to have done the country a service if, in the slightest degree, I have been instrumental in preserving peace.

Lt. Col. McLeod is still in command at Brazos Santiago. He has been very actively and assiduously employed in drilling the men and rendering the command efficient. He has erected temporary earthworks and placed heavy pieces at serviceable points to protect our position on Brazos Island and to defend the harbor and the roadstead. These works are not of a character to withstand an attack from

a besieging force properly supplied with siege guns and making their approaches scientifically. As a strategic point, Brazos Island possesses importance and should be made defensible by the erection of permanent works.

Considerable alarm exists among the Mexican population on this side of the Rio Grande. It has been created by designing, unpatriotic men. I shall issue an address to them stating the object of our mission and hope to quiet their apprehensions.

I have the honor to be, your obd't servant,

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Hon. J. C. Robertson,

Chm'n Com. Public Safety, Austin, Texas.

Brownsville, March 7th, 1861.

Colonel:

I have the honor to report operations since yesterday. I was today informed by Capt. Stoneman that Ringgold Barracks and Fort McIntosh have been evacuated by the United States troops. I have given orders to Capt. Nolan of the mounted volunteers to proceed immediately to those points and occupy them by detachments from his command, to see that the public property is not squandered and to take care of the same.

Fort Duncan has also been evacuated, and the force which occupied it is *en route* for this place, and is expected to arrive to-morrow or the next day.

Yesterday evening I addressed a note to Capt. Stoneman, and received his reply to-day. Copies are herewith forwarded.

I hope there will be no difficulty in adjusting the remaining matters with the U. S. officers. It is anticipated that the last of the U. S. troops will embark by the 20th of this month.

I shall dispose of the Texas troops at such points as may be conducive to health, and in a manner to admit of concentration at an early period.

I think the people of Texas can congratulate themselves upon the flattering prospect that their separation from the government of the former United States will be made final without war. If it is a revolution, it is thus far a bloodless one, and challenges the world for a parallel.

I have the honor to be, your obd't servant,

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Hon. J. C. Robertson,

Cham'n Com. Public Safety.

(Copy.)

Brownsville, March 6, 1861.

Captain:

In our different conversations regarding the withdrawal of the U. S. troops from the territory of Texas, I understood you to say that you were to remain at Fort Brown, receive such public property as should be left in accordance with the agreement between Gen Twiggs and the Texas commissioners, and turn over the same to the authorized agent of the State of Texas. Texas has a considerable force in the field; volunteers are naturally restless; and every day a large body of them remains within striking distance of the Federal troops, the danger of collision by some mere meeting of the detachments is great. In order to obviate this I request you to state whether my understanding of your intentions is well founded, and whether it is intended to withdraw the U. S. troops from Texas as soon as practicable, and without attempting to hold any position upon the territory of Texas against her consent.

My object in asking an answer in writing is to lay the same before the Convention of the people of Texas, and to quiet the apprehensions of the public mind which has been excited by rumors of an impending civil war in this quarter.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dept.

Capt. Geo. Stoneman
2nd Cavalry, U. S. A.

(Copy.)

Fort Brown, Texas, March 7, 1861.

Col. J. S. Ford.
Comd'g Rio Grande District.

Sir:

In reply to your communication of yesterday, I beg leave to state as follows:

It is the intention as well as the desire of the Federal troops on the Rio Grande to leave the soil of Texas at the earliest period, and as soon as transportation by sea can be furnished by the Federal authorities for that purpose. While they will be ready and prompt to remove any obstacles which may be placed in their way to retard or prevent the execution of all proper and legal orders, it is the desire of the officers and men to prevent any collision with the State forces of Texas or any other persons, organized or unorganized. It is the intention to evacuate all points now in the possession of the Federal forces as soon as circumstances will allow, after which they will be

under your control to be occupied or not as you may see fit. Such public property as is not taken away by the troops, under the agreement made between the commissioners of Texas and the department commander, will be turned over to yourself, or such other persons as may be properly designated, and this property will doubtless be delivered as soon as consistent.

Measures have been taken by the staff officer now here, acting under the instruction from the headquarters of the U. S. army, to hasten the concentration of the troops at this point for the purpose of embarkation as soon as transportation can be furnished for that purpose.

I am very respectfully, your obd't serv't,

Geo. Stoneman,
Capt 2nd Cavalry, U. S. A

Headquarters, Rio Grande Mil. Dist.
Brazos Santiago, March 13, 1861.

Colonel:

I have the honor to report that the U. S. troops are embarking in obedience to the order of Gen. Twiggs. The public property is being turned over to the State commissioner.

I have discharged a part of the troops under my command, and for the present have in service from 700 to 800 men. We must not embroil ourselves with Mexico. To prevent that it is necessary to make a demonstration of force upon the Rio Grande. Accounts of Indian depredations are reaching me. It will be necessary to send mounted troops to defend exposed points and chastise marauders. I shall do all I can to protect this frontier and at the least possible expense.

I have the honor to be, your obd't serv't,

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

To the People of the Valley of the Rio Grande:

The government of the United States was formed for certain purposes specified in the constitution, and as the agent of the sovereign States which are parties to the compact. This agent has failed to discharge the duties and exercise properly the powers thus delegated, and certain States have violated the constitution by refusing to observe its stipulations and guarantees and by nullifying a law of the general government. A president has been elected in accordance with the forms of the constitution and upon principles violative of its plain intent and spirit, and he and his party propose to administer the government upon those principles of centralism which are subversive of the rights of the people of fifteen of the States formerly composing

a part of the Federal union, and destructive to their equality as co-equals and co-sovereigns in the confederacy. For these and many other reasons the State of Texas separated herself from the States styling themselves the United States of America, and resumed to herself the sovereignty, or the portion thereof, the exercise of which she delegated to the government of the United States by the ordinance of annexation, on the 4th day of July, 1845. This act of secession or separation was made complete on the 2nd day of March 1861, and Texas is now a free, sovereign and independent power. She will, however, unite her destinies with the other seceding States and become a party to the contemplated government they will organize, and is no doubt by this time a party to the federal provisional government under the control of President Jefferson Davis. Under existing circumstances the Convention of the people of Texas, which assembled at Austin, Jan'y 28, 1861, made provisions for the change of government, and provided for calling troops into the field to take the place of those of the U. S. army, which it was presumed would be withdrawn from her territory and which are now being withdrawn.

Texas is desirous of maintaining peaceable relations with her former confederate sisters. She is willing to make any honorable sacrifice to avert the horrors of a civil and fratricidal war. She designs to inaugurate a policy peaceful and unaggressive in its character, and to give no just cause of offence to any other State or government as long as she remains in control of her own affairs and external relations. She is determined to give ample protection to all her citizens without distinction and regardless of nationality.

In accordance with these resolves and to carry into successful operation measures so essential to the well being of society and good government, the undersigned has been placed in temporary command of the military district of the Rio Grande. He is determined to give protection to person and property, to punish all offences against the same, if committed by any one under his control, and to repel invasion, come from what quarter it may, if in his power so to do. All good citizens are requested to remain at home in pursuit of their peaceful vocations. Their rights, civil and religious, will be respected, their persons and property secured against molestation and danger. Order will be preserved and everything possible will be done to restore tranquility and confidence to this frontier. The persons who have endeavored to sow the seeds of alarm and disquietude broadcast among you, to persuade you that the objects of the Texas troops are different from those above indicated, can not point to a single declaration or act to establish the truth of their assertions. They may be sincere, yet if their claims to patriotism and a desire to promote public good are to be established

upon their actions in this connection they would be badly sustained. If your rights should be jeopardized and your lives endangered by the presence of a foe, few of these busybodies will be found in the ranks of your defenders.

Listen not to their insidious slanders. Texas has noble ends in view. She is endeavoring to preserve her freedom inviolate and not to oppress her sons, to protect and not to destroy, in short to do all that a just and generous State should do to secure prosperity, happiness, and the blessings of peace to her citizens.

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Brownsville, March 6th, 1861.

Brownsville, Texas, Feby 25th, 1861.

Colonel:

I have the honor to report operations since the date of a previous communication.

The temper of the officer in command here indicated a disposition to resist the surrender of the public property. He viewed the occupation of the Brazos as a hostile act, asserted his ability to dislodge our troops, and seriously entertained the idea of attempting its accomplishment. Everything was verging towards the initiation of war on his part. I am of opinion that the prudence and the influence of Capt. Stoneman and a few other army officers prevented collision. The receipt of orders to-day from San Antonio has done much to shun the danger of civil war, yet the chances of such a thing are not entirely removed and I have abated no endeavor to place our troops in a posture to defend their position, which is, in fact, the key to the lower Rio Grande.

Lieut. Col. McLeod has been ordered to establish batteries to defend the harbor of Brazos Santiago, to bear upon the roadstead; and, in short, to repel attack from any quarter. A battery will be placed near the mouth of the Rio Grande to command that point and the approaches to it.

The communications of the military with the coast are interrupted, and the points of embarkation are in our possession. They cannot leave the country without our consent, unless they drive us from our positions.

The *Daniel Webster* is reported to have orders to communicate with the Gulf Squadron, and it is said a vessel of war will accompany her in. The corvette *St. Louis* is mentioned as the probable one. If this be so the object may be to defend the embarkation of U. S. troops, or to shell us out of Brazos Santiago.

I learned to-day from one of our spies that tents and other public property were being ostensibly sold to a merchant of this place. The sale is fictitious and the intention is to smuggle the articles out as private property. I have taken steps to prevent the consummation of the scheme and shall not respect the pretended sale.

An officer of the army tells me there is no doubt of a desire on the part of Mr. Lincoln to form a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive with Mexico, and to check the expansion of the South in that direction.

To-day I called upon Gen. Guadalupe Garcia, commandante of the line of the Bravo, and assured him of the pacific intentions of the Southern Confederacy, of her ardent wish to cultivate peaceful relations with Mexico, and to avoid giving just cause of complaint for the nonobservance of the usual courtesies which comity demands between sovereign powers. His answers were satisfactory and gave assurances that trouble may not be apprehended from the authorities of the coterminous States of Mexico.

There are three or four of the U. S. army officers at this place who contemplate resigning and taking service in the army of the Southern Confederacy. A great many of them will not fight against the South, and I should not be surprised should a great many of them determine to enlist in the service of the State of Texas at an early period.

Everything possible is being done to organize the regular departments, to drill the troops and make them efficient. The character of the men who have volunteered is excellent, and Texas may well feel proud of such a corps.

I have, under the circumstances of uncertainty by which I am surrounded, thought it necessary to send for more men. When the object of my mission shall have been accomplished, I shall disband the companies desiring to return home, and retain a sufficient number of men to guard the public property and defend the line of frontier in my charge.

I must not omit to mention the kindly treatment I have received from the officers of the U. S. army here, and the entire absence of all feeling which would render our intercourse unpleasant. Many of them have joined me most cordially in the effort to avert civil war.

I am under many obligations to Capt. Smith, of the steamer *Gen. Rusk*, for efficient service promptly rendered during our passage. Col. Latham and other citizens of Cameron county have extended all the aid in their power to facilitate every requisite measure to ensure success.

act of mine shall be instrumental in warding off the horrors of a civil war. If such a calamity should be visited upon us, I am determined to let the responsibility of its inauguration rest upon others.

I have the honor to be, your obd't servant,

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. District.

Hon. J. C. Robertson,
Chairman of Com. on Public Safety.

Galveston, Feby 28th, 1861.

Hon. J. C. Robertson,
Chrm'n Com. Public Safety.

Dear Sir:

I sail for Brazos Santiago with 325 men in an hour—now 10 o'clock P. M. I have only time to say I am tired and do not expect we will have much trouble with Capt. Hill.

Cols. Rainey and Armstrong have my report of events on the Rio Grande. Please present me to Judge Roberts, and friends generally.

Yours, etc.

E. B. Nichols.

From these [communications] it will be seen that the 500 men first sent out were deemed insufficient for the emergency, and Gen. Nichols returned to Galveston for an additional force, and took back with him 325 men. The committee are gratified to report that although Capt. Hill appeared obstinate and determined not to yield up his post with the arms and munitions, the whole matter has been finally adjusted without a conflict, on the basis agreed upon which Gen. Twiggs by the commissioners to San Antonio.

The committee are not yet informed in detail of the amount of property obtained by Col. Ford's expedition: an inventory of the property obtained at Brazos Santiago is herewith submitted in Gen. Nichol's report, supposed to be worth the sum of from \$100,000 to \$250,000. It is believed that the amount at Brownsville and other posts on the Rio Grande will not fall short of \$1,000,000. The committee are constantly looking for the arrival of Gen. Nichols, who will be able to furnish a full report of that department. The committee take occasion to say that in all their movements, especially at the inception of them, they endeavored to observe the most profound secrecy, not on account of any apprehension of obstacles being thrown in the way by the true and loyal citizens of Texas, but they were not unmindful of the fact that there were enemies to Texas and the South with whom it would be indiscreet to entrust a knowledge of their

movements. Secrecy was therefore only intended to protect the country against enemies, not friends. If the enemies are dissatisfied on account of the secrecy, it shows the wisdom and prudence of the committee in the observance of it.

The committee can not close this report without expressing their gratification at the prompt manner with which all the officers they have appointed have performed the duties assigned them. Having heretofore alluded to the conduct and management of others, they take this occasion to bear testimony to the invaluable services of Col. John S. Ford and Lieut. Col. Hugh McLeod in the great cause of secession and in obtaining the Federal property on the Rio Grande.

The committee are unable, for the absence of a final report from Col. Ford and Gen. E. B. Nichols, to close up this branch of business, but they will submit an ordinance by which the same may be done after the adjournment of this Convention.

I have the honor to be very respectfully.

J. C. Robertson,
Chrm'n Com. Public Safety.

(Document No. 2)

The State of Texas, in account with E. B. Nichols, Agent.

1861.

Debits.

Feb'y 15th, To paid Fiquet & Boswet, Bill, Capt. 1,.....	\$ 83.50
" 13th, To paid J. H. and I. N. Marks, Bill Capt. 2,.....	1,248.70
" 13th, To paid Jas. Connelly & Co., Bill Capt. 3,.....	4,478.40
" 13th, To paid for 50 M percussion caps, La. State, 4,.....	50.00
" 15th, To paid W. H. Letchford & Co., Bill Capt. 5,.....	1,570.00
" 18th, Cash to J. C. Robertson, Chrm'n of Com.,.....	10,000.00
Balance down,.....	6,639.40
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	\$24,070.00

1861.

Credits.

Feb'y 13th, By cash from Citizens Bank, New Orleans.....	\$10,000.00
" 13th, By cash from Q. W. Pierce & E. B. Nichols,.....	10,000.00
" 13th, By cash from W. H. Letchford & Co.,.....	1,570.00
" 13th, By cash from Jas. Connelly & Co.,.....	2,500.00
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	\$24,070.00

1861.

Feb'y 18th, By balance down on hand.....	\$ 6,639.40
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E. & O. E.—

Galveston, Feb'y 18th, 1861.

E. B. Nichols, Agent,
By R. O. Brown.

(Document No. 3)

List of Posts in the Department of Texas, and number and designation of Companies at each Post.

Fort Bliss, Texas, 3 Companies of 8th Infantry.

Camp Cooper, Texas, 2 Companies of 2nd Cavalry and 1 Company of 1st Infantry.

Fort Quitman, Texas, 1 Company of 8th Infantry.

Fort Chadbourne, Texas, Head Quarters and 2 Companies of 1st Infantry⁵

Camp Colorado, Texas, 1 Company of 2nd Cavalry.

Fort Davis, Texas, 3 Companies of 8th Infantry.

Fort Lancaster, Texas, 1 Company of 1st Infantry.

Fort Stockton, Texas, 1 Company of 8th Infantry.

Fort Mason, Texas, Head Quarters and 2 Companies of 2nd Cavalry.

Camp Hudson, Texas, 1 Company of 8th Infantry.

Camp Verde, Texas, Head Quarters and 1 Company of 1st Infantry.

Camp Ives, Texas, 1 Company of 2nd Cavalry.⁶

Fort Clark, Texas, 5 Companies of 3rd Infantry.

San Antonio Bks., Texas, 1 Company of 8th Infantry.

Fort Inge, Texas, 1 Company of 2nd Cavalry.

Fort Duncan, Texas, 3 Companies of 1st Artillery, (one a mounted battery, company K, 1st Artillery.)

Camp Wood, Texas, 1 Company of 2nd Cavalry.

Fort McIntosh, Texas, 2 Companies of 3rd Infantry.

Ringgold Barracks, Texas, 3 Companies of 3rd Infantry.

Camp on Rio Grande, Texas, 2 Companies of 2nd Cavalry.

Fort Brown, Texas, 1 Company of 1st and 1 Company of 2nd Artillery, (one a mounted battery, company M, 2nd Artillery.)

APPENDIX TO REPORT NO. 3.

Committee Room, March 23rd, 1861.

To Hon. O. M. Roberts,

President of the Convention.

The committee on Public Safety beg leave to submit herewith the report of Gen. E. B. Nichols to the Convention, which had not been received when they made their report heretofore on this subject. By this report and the accompanying documents thereto it will be seen that Gen. Nichols, as commissioner of the State of Texas and as financial agent, has raised on the faith of the State, and disbursed by order of the committee, the sum of \$58,255, so far as he can at this time ascertain. Gen. Nichols is unable to report the whole amount at this time, as the business of his mission has not yet been finally disposed of.

⁵The manuscript report erroneously credits these two companies to 8th Infantry.

⁶This line is omitted from the manuscript report.