

JOHN C. FREMONT.

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WASHINGTON CITY, *January 23, 1852.*

This will certify that I, John Walker, of the city of Washington, born and raised in the city, and engaged all my life in the cattle and butchering business, and now carrying on the same in this city, and also having carried on the same business in San Francisco, in California, during part of the year 1850 and 1851, as partner with Mr. Steinberger, and therefore well acquainted with the prices of beef cattle in California during that time; and in the summer of 1851 knew, by report, of the contract made by Colonel Frémont to furnish beef cattle to the Indians at the San Joaquin, at the price of fifteen cents a pound, and I consider the price to be low, and such a one as I would not have taken the contract for. It was below the current ready money prices of the country, and less than I was getting cash down from individuals, companies and United States ships at the same time. We sold, at San Francisco, common beef to individuals at about eighteen to twenty-five cents per pound, and choice at twenty-five cents per pound; to Howland & Aspinwall's steamers at fifteen cents per pound, and usually to the amount of \$3,500 per steamer, and always paid down; the beef in all cases taken from us without the expense or loss of deliveries, which was a heavy item of expense to the contractors; to Howard & Son's steamers at the same price, and upon the same terms as to Howland & Aspinwall. I also furnished the city prison with beef for the prisoners, on a contract with the agent, at eighteen cents per pound. This beef consisted of *neck* pieces principally. None but *vaqueros* could drive the California cattle, and we have given three hundred dollars a month to some that we have employed. The loss and expense must have been great to Colonel Frémont on driving cattle to the frontiers on the San Joaquin, and I would not take his contract even if the fifteen cents was to be paid down at the time of delivery.

I make this general statement and am willing to answer any questions before a committee.

JNO. WALKER.

P. S. On looking over my books, now in this city, I see that we furnished the United States frigate "Savannah" with beef in the year 1850-'51; also the United States revenue bark Polk; also the United States brig Lawrence; also the United States brig Dolphin; also the United States revenue schooner Argus; also the United States steamer Massachusetts, at the rates mentioned, and all for ready money.

JNO. WALKER.