

Sacramento. In the mining region the price varied according to the distance from the valley, ranging from thirty to fifty cents per pound.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. W. McCORKLE.

HON. THOMAS H. BENTON,
Washington City.

This will certify that I, Henry B. Edwards, of Chester, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, went to California in May 1850, and returned from there in October 1851, and the principal part of that time was on the Mariposas doing business on my account, part of the time, and assisting Col. Frémont in his delivery of cattle under the contract with Mr. Barbour, the Indian commissioner. That I bought much beef for myself and also bought parcels for Col. Frémont, and never paid less than 25 cents a pound ready money for the beef all around, and more if choice parts only were taken. That I was in charge of Col. Frémont's rancho when he went to the south to buy the cattle; and hearing that the Indians were troublesome on his route, I and Lieut. Beale, of the navy, with six others, went down to meet him, and did meet him high up on the San Joaquin; and as Mr. Savage, who was in the employment of Mr. Barbour, was there, and urged Col. Frémont to hasten on cattle to satisfy the Indians on the Fresno and King's river, on the San Joaquin above the big bend, I took charge of the drove, being 2,000 head, and hastened them on and made the deliveries. They were delivered at different points as we came to the Indians, or rather as they came and met us. They were all bought in the old settlements in the south, and was consider the fairest drove of cattle ever brought up. At the delivery the commissioner himself was present, also Mr. Johnson, an Indian agent, also two gentlemen of the army, (medical men,) besides Col. Frémont, Lieut. Beale, Alexander Godey. They were averaged at 500 pounds apiece, the average being taken by an estimate on a view of the whole in *rodear*—that is to say, by forming them in a circle and making the whole walk round, which is the Spanish mode of counting and inspecting, and to which the cattle are trained, and will begin to form as soon as the *vaquero* calls out *rodear*. I assisted to deliver nineteen hundred to the agent or to the Indians with him, also 551 before that to Indians at the Tahon pass on the Coahilla, on King's river, on the Tulare, on the Fresno, on the San Joaquin. Before the arrival of the cattle at the place of delivery, the Indians being impatient, Col. Frémont had between 70 and 80 head purchased from the American settlements, at the high rate of \$50 a head, which had to be driven about 60 or 70 miles in the wild country, and suffered a loss of about ten head, (five in one night.) The loss on driving the whole band from the south was about four hundred head, and the expenses enormous, some of the *vaqueros* having ten dollars a day, and about ninety horses, being about one half of them destroyed, and nearly all the rest worn down and useless. This great loss and expense was owing to the urgent demand of the agent to get the cattle brought on to keep the Indians quiet, and the extreme

heat of the weather and scarcity of water, it being the middle of the dry season and the distance driven about five hundred miles, and all through a wild country.

H. B. EDWARDS.

WASHINGTON, *January 24, 1852.*

This will certify that I, Lieutenant E. F. Beale, of the United States navy, was in California mostly since 1845, and especially in 1850 and 1851, and was part of that time engaged in business for Commodore Stockton and Mr. Aspinwall, at the Mariposas mines, and bought beef for their establishment, and usually paid from twenty to thirty cents a pound for it, and never less than twenty cents, and that for beef all round, and for ready money always. I also certify that I have read the statement in this case made by Mr. Henry Edwards, and am acquainted with almost every fact mentioned by him, and know it to be true. I also know that Mr. Barbour, the commissioner, was importunate with Colonel Frémont for a prompt delivery of cattle early in June, to keep the Indians friendly and peaceable, and that Colonel Frémont made the greatest exertions, and at great loss and expense, to comply punctually; and when he found he could not get the whole drove to the appointed place on the appointed day, had a lot of about seventy-five head bought from the nearest settlement, at a great price, fifty dollars a head, and delivered in advance, and so satisfied the Indians, who were becoming very restless and suspicious. I also believe that the Indians thus supplied by the contract with Colonel Frémont are the only ones now peaceably disposed towards the United States.

I also saw Colonel Barbour, the commissioner, and Colonel Frémont often together during the time of the existing of this contract, and know that he, the commissioner, constantly promised to have the treaties at Washington early, and that he would bring them on, and gave that as a reason why he would not wait to hold treaties with the Indians to the south, though Colonel Frémont urged him to do so, as the only means of keeping the southern Indians peaceable and quiet.

But he persisted in his determination and came off in the steamer of October 4, and has not yet arrived, to my knowledge. I also know that Colonel Frémont negotiated a part of the drafts he gave him to pay for the cattle he had bought, making the negotiation on the exorbitant terms usual in California, and in the full confidence that the treaties would be here by the meeting of Congress, and they are not yet here.

EDWARD F. BEALE.
United States Navy.

WASHINGTON CITY, *January 24, 1852.*

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