
Memorandum of conversation with agent O. M. Wozencraft, San Francisco, September 14, 1852.

Question 1. With whom were your contracts for beef made?

Answer. The first with Mr. S. Norris.

Question 2. By whom were they issued to the Indians?

Answer. By the traders appointed by myself.

Question 3. What proof had you that they were issued to the Indians?

Answer. No other proof than the word of the traders themselves.

Question 4. How were the weights estimated?

Answer. By asking any person who might be on the ground to say what they thought the average weight of the drove to be.

Question 5. Have you any further proof than the mere word of the traders that the Indians ever received the beef without paying for it?

Answer. None; I have not any. I generally saw the beef which was issued during the negotiation of the treaties. It was not weighed.

Question 6. Have you not given drafts on the government for cattle which are not yet delivered?

Answer. Yes.

Question 7. Have you not ordered beef to the amount of fifteen hundred head, to be delivered between the Fresno and Four Creeks, without ever having been in the Four Creek region?

Answer. I have never been in the Four Creek region, but have ordered the beef.

Question 8. How many Indians do you suppose the Four Creek country to contain?

Answer. I do not know.

Question 9. If you did not know, how could you determine the amount of cattle necessary for their subsistence?

Answer. From what was promised them by the treaties.

Question 10. How do you know that the Indians of the Four Creeks ever received any of that beef?

Answer. Nothing further than that I was told so by the traders at the Fresno. I have no proof of it.

Question 11. How far is the Fresno from the Four Creeks?

Answer. Eighty miles.

Question 12. Do you not know that in some instances the traders who issued and the contractors for the supply of the beef were the same?

Answer. I do.

Question 13. Were the contracts made by you verbal, or written?

Answer. With Mr. Norris my contract was simply a verbal one. With Messrs. Savage and Haler it was on my part the acceptance from them of a proposition, which I understand was the same as a contract.

S. Doc. 4.

369

I have sometimes, when on a visit to the reservations, seen the traders killing beef for the Indians, but do not know whether it was the beef furnished by me or not. It was the impression on my mind, however, that it was the beef of the government. I was told it was so.

I acknowledge the above answers as those made to E. F. Beale, in reply to questions put by him in his official capacity as superintendent of Indian affairs for California.

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,
U. S. Indian Agent.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the original in my possession.

E. F. BEALE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.
