

powered by



A Freely Accessible Repository
of Digitized California
Newspapers from 1846 to the
Present

Los Angeles Star, Number 52, 7 May 1853 — THE INDIAN SWINDLE. [ARTICLE]

THE INDIAN SWINDLE.

Following letter from Mr. Brooks:

The following letter from Mr Brooks shows up the whole matter of the Beef Contracts most beautifully. Read it, ye Californians! and perhaps you will not think it so strange that our credit is so much below par at Washington:

Official Statement of Joel H. Brooks to Superintendent Beale, dated San Francisco, Sept. 21, 1852.

On or about the 29th of August, 1851, I was appointed by Major James Savage, the Indian trader on the Fresno, to take charge of nineteen hundred head of cattle that were delivered to the Indian Agents, Barbour and Johnson, by Col. J. C. Fremont, on the river San Joaquin.

My instructions from Savage were, that when I delivered cattle on San Joaquin and King's rivers, and to other more southern Indians, I was to take receipts for double the number actually delivered, and to make no second delivery in case any should return to the band: and when to Indians on the Fresno, to deliver one third less than were receipted for. I also had orders to sell all beef I could to miners, which I did to the amount of 120 or \$130, and to deliver cattle to his clerks, to be sold to Indians on the San Joaquin, at twenty five cts. per pound; and I know that such sales were made to those Indians.

In October I received a written order from Savage to deliver to Alexander Godey seventy eight head of cattle, to be driven to the mines, and there sold to miners and others. I was also requested, in the same communication to destroy the order as soon as read—which was done after I had read it aloud in the presence of Godey, P. Rainbolt, Jose de Soto, and Theodore McNabb. In November I received a similar order to deliver to Godey four hundred and fifty head, which was done. The best of these were to be sold as soon as possible, and the remainder to be herded by Godey elsewhere.—About the last of November or first of December, I moved the cattle in my possession on to the river Fresno, and delivered to P. Rainbolt, a per on appointed by Savage to receive them, eight hundred head. I also gave to Savage receipts to the number of seventeen hundred head, which I had taken from the Indians.—After the cattle went on the Fresno, none were ever delivered to the more Southern Indians, although I know that Tom Kit, the chief of the tribe on the San Joaquin, frequently sent after them. Some were sent to the Indians working for Savage on the Coarse Gold Gulch, and others to stock his rancho on the San Joaquin.

Utiah had charge of that rancho, and was a partner of Savage's, and I have seen some of the cattle I had charge of in their corral.

I give the above account as an official statement.

JOEL H. BROOKS.

Recalling of the Japan Expedition.

The following is extracted from the Washington correspondence of the N. York Herald, under date of March 27:

There is a report that the Japan expedition is at once to be countermanded, as useless and inexpedient at the present time. Useless, be-

inexpedient at the present time. Useless, because wholly inefficient to compel Japan to open her ports, and there is no reason to suppose that she will listen to more polite argu-

ments than force; and inexpedient at the present time, when the state of Europe may at any moment require all our small navy for the protection of our commerce.

~~~~~  
**Indian Depredations.**