

California July 6 1863
L. R. Smart
Washⁿ. Aug. 31. '54

Calls attention to cer-
tain acct^s of Pearson
B. Reading, connected
with his Special Agency
was a charge of \$500 for
superintending the trans-
portation of goods purcha-
sed in New York to Cali-
fornia

Rec^d Sept. 1. '54
acc^t referred
Sept. 29. '54.

J. Finance

Washington City, D. C.
August 21, 1854.

Charles E. Mix, Esq.,
Acting Comr. of Ind. Affs.
Sir,

Permit me to call your attention to certain accounts connected with the Special Agency of Pearson B. Reading, Esq., of California - by virtue of his appointment as such in September, 1852.

These accounts were transmitted to your office in October 1853, by E. D. Beale, Esq., Surgt. of Ind. Affs. for California, and were received at the office sometime in the month of November same year. Major Reading was instructed to expend the amount placed in his hands, after receiving a sufficient sum to cover the expenses of their transportation over the mountains, in suitable articles for the Indians in California - the selection and purchase being confided to his judgment - The accounts indicate the fact that he did not expend the entire sum applicable - he has turned over to Mr. Beale the sum of \$5000 or thereabouts in money. For his trouble

and with the view to reimburse to himself
the expenses incurred in the full dis-
charge of this duty, having conducted person-
ally this transit from New York to San-
Francisco, he has charged a compensa-
tion of 50% on the invoice of articles
purchased in New York - This account
or charge Mr Beale regarded as
reasonable and by virtue of his in-
structions has allowed the same
and referred it together with his ac-
counts for settlement - With this ex-
ception Mr Reading has accounted satis-
factorily for every dollar of the an-
ount originally placed in his hands
viz \$25,000. - having filed the receipt
of Mr Beale for the money & goods turned
over - the invoice of Messrs Grant & Bartlett
for the goods purchased in New York and
account, under oath, exhibiting the expenses
of transporting them to California - When
it is considered that Mr Reading superinten-
ded personally the transportation of these ar-
ticles over the Isthmus of Panama, requiring at
that time the greatest care and attention

I cannot regard the compensation claimed as unreasonable. Certain it is that Mr. Beech did not consider it such and accordingly allowed it.

My object in addressing you is mainly to acquaint you with the fact that the ^{non} settlement of these accounts are, at the present time, interfering successfully with the settlement of his account as Paymaster in the Army during the War with Mexico and that the necessities of the case are such as to fall upon you to act at once upon the accounts in question.

I trust that you may find it convenient to give the subject your attention at an early day.

I am very respectfully

L. P. Smoot