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Message from the President of the United States, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 20th ultimo, copies of the correspondence relating to the case of Edward F. Beale

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 20th ultimo, copies of the correspondence relating to the case of Edward F. Beale.

MARCH 3, 1857.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 20th ultimo, in relation to correspondence between the Treasury and Interior Departments and Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, and accounts of remittances, &c., I transmit the accompanying report from the Secretary of the Treasury.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *March 3, 1857.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 3, 1857.

SIR: To aid you in complying with a resolution of the Senate of the 20th ultimo, requesting you to cause to be laid before the Senate copies of all correspondence between the Treasury and Interior Departments and Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, and accounts of remittances, &c., I have the honor to transmit copies of all papers within the purview of the resolution to be found in the Treasury Department.

I am, with great respect,

JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office, October 18, 1854.

SIR: It appears that Thomas J. Henley was appointed, and gave bond, dated July 15, 1854, as superintendent of Indian affairs in California, and it is inferred from this, that he was appointed in the place

of Edward F. Beale, whose official bond is dated April 16, 1852, and is for \$20,000—Truxtun D. Beale and George N. Beale sureties. If this be so, then Edward F. Beale has been out of office since about the 15th of July last, and, as he stands charged, upon the last settlement of his accounts, August 24th, 1853, with a balance of \$351,666 98, you are requested to report his accounts for revision and final settlement without unnecessary delay; and if he has not rendered his accounts to your office for settlement, to report the facts in the case to this office, that such measures may be taken as the circumstances may require to secure the interest of the government.

I am, sir, &c.,

J. M. BRODHEAD, *Comptroller.*

P. CLAYTON, Esq., *Second Auditor.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
November 14, 1853.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from the collector at San Francisco, of the 14th ultimo, with enclosures, in which he states that, upon the authority received from your department, he has honored the draft of Mr. Beale, the superintendent of Indian affairs in California, upon the balance of the appropriation of "incidental expenses of the Indian service in California."

To the end that the said superintendent may be properly charged with the amount drawn, and the collector receive the proper credit for the same, I would respectfully remark that, if your department is in possession of satisfactory evidence of the receipt of \$27,400 as the balance of said appropriation by Mr. Beale, the superintendent, your requisition in favor of the latter for that amount will receive the proper warrant, and at the same time be accompanied by a corresponding treasury counter warrant inuring to the credit of the collector for this advance out of the public funds.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
November 2, 1853.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter, under date of the 30th of September last, from the collector of the customs at San Francisco, informing this department that E. F. Beale, esq., superintendent of Indian affairs, had turned over to him the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand, and had subsequently,

by drafts of twenty thousand dollars each, drawn the sum of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, that sum being so stated by him necessary for immediate use, and indispensable for the objects of his agency.

The enclosures referred to in said letter did not accompany it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Auditor's Office, October 19, 1854.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, concerning the accounts of Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, I have to say that no accounts of his have been received at this office for settlement since the settlement of August 24, 1853, by which there was found due from him a balance of \$351,666 98. On the 13th March last, he was charged with the sum of \$27,400, received from R. P. Hammond, collector of customs at San Francisco; and there is a further debit to him in the account of P. B. Reading, special agent, now in your office for revision.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. CLAYTON,
Second Auditor.

JNO. M. BRODHEAD, Esq.,
Second Comptroller, &c.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office, October 20, 1854.

SIR: I have respectfully to inquire whether Edward F. Beal, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, has any unsettled accounts in your office, and whether he has been instructed to turn over the balance of public money in his hands when he went out of office? The very large balance standing against him on the books of the treasury seems to call for a prompt settlement of his account and collection of any balance which may be found against him.

I am, sir, &c.,

J. M. BRODHEAD,
Comptroller.

GEO. W. MANYPENNY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, October 28, 1854.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 20th instant, making inquiry respecting the accounts of Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, I have to state that his accounts to and including the third quarter of 1854 have been received in this office, and that he claims credit therein for disbursements and transfers to an amount to balance all the charges against him for public moneys drawn from the treasury on Indian account.

It appears, by the receipt of Superintendent Henley, of the 15th ultimo, lately filed in this office, that Mr. Beale on that day turned over to him the sum of \$3,723 97, the amount of public money admitted by Mr. Beal to have been remaining then in his hands.

I would remark that the accounts of late Superintendent Beale, in part, are now, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, referred to his successor for report, previous to the final action of this office on them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

JNO. BRODHEAD, Esq.,
Second Comptroller, Treasury Department.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office, October 30, 1854.

SIR: Your letter of the 19th instant, in relation to the accounts of Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, stating "that no accounts of his have been received at this [your] office for settlement since the settlement of 24th August, 1853, by which there was found due from him a balance of \$351,666 98," &c., was duly received, and a letter upon the subject addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on the 20th.

His reply, dated the 28th instant, has just been received, a copy of which is herewith enclosed for your information. I have to request that Mr. Beale's accounts may be reported for settlement as soon as received at your office.

Very respectfully, &c.,
J. M. BRODHEAD, Comptroller.

P. CLAYTON, Esq.,
Second Auditor.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, March 30, 1853 (5.)

SIR: When I sent back the vouchers of Mr. Beale, with a request you would send them to the Second Auditor, and have Mr. Beale's account stated, and a report made upon the same, the intention was that there should be a special report upon the items suspended or re-

jected by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in his preliminary examination, and also upon such of the items as were purchases from persons in the employment of Mr. Beale. The account should be promptly and fairly made up from the vouchers and evidence produced, and upon the fairness and sufficiency thereof, without regard to the opinion of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, unless, in the opinion of the accounting officers, his objections are well founded; but as the account is one of some moment in an administrative sense, it is proper there should be a special report upon those items which the Commissioner objects to, and any others that involved principle.

I had supposed the account had been stated by the Second Auditor, and reviewed by yourself, so that my examination would have been such as to send it to the Secretary of the Interior for any allowances that he has the discretion of making; and I regret that the account was not so far advanced, and request that it be now promptly acted upon.

Very respectfully,
JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

J. M. BRODHEAD, Esq.,
Second Comptroller.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *April 6, 1855.*

SIR: The bearer, Mr. Bradford, is well recommended, and is cognizant, as I learn, of many of the transactions involved in Mr. Beale's account, being just from California. I have to make you acquainted with him, and will thank you to receive from him such statements or explanations as he may choose to make in respect to the said transactions.

I am, very respectfully,
JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. J. M. BRODHEAD, *Second Comptroller.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office, April 9, 1855.

SIR: In compliance with your directions of the 30th ultimo, I transmit a report upon items suspended in the accounts of Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California.

I have myself carefully examined every paper in the case, and I believe that the accompanying statement of the evidence *pro* and *con* is perfectly fair, and that nothing essential has been omitted. Some of the items to which objection was made by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs have been admitted by the accounting officers; but as they are comparatively of small amounts, and the correspondence voluminous, no remarks are submitted in regard to them. If it should be desired, however, a report can readily be made upon these items.

Agreeably to suggestions contained in your letter of introduction of the 6th instant, I received the statements and explanations of Mr. A. C. Bradford, the gentleman introduced, in regard to the transactions of Mr. Beale. His remarks are full and explicit upon the points of which he had any personal knowledge, and his evidence goes to exonerate Mr. Beale, not only from extravagance, but from impropriety in those expenditures. At my request Mr. Bradford has reduced his statements to writing, and made oath to their truth, and they are presented with the report for the inspection and judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury. I learn from various sources that Mr. Bradford is a gentleman of the highest character, and that great confidence may be reposed in his integrity. That he is very intelligent and well informed, his conversation abundantly proves.

In regard to the cattle purchased of A. Godey, to which transaction reference is made on page three, and objections raised by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the allowance of the voucher, on the ground that they might have been public property, and the same that had been purchased by Barbour and others of Colonel Fremont, Mr. Beale stated to me verbally that, in addition to the known infamous character of Brooks, the witness, the circumstances would make it most improbable that the cattle were part of the same, as cattle in 1851 were double the price they were at the time Beale made the purchase, two years afterwards; and that, even if it were so, he had no possible means of tracing the cattle or establishing their identity. I have made inquiries in regard to the character of Godey, and learn that he is a well known citizen, of wealth, standing, and remarkable intrepidity of character. As to Joel H. Brooks, the evidence shows him to be a worthless vagabond, whose testimony ought not to taint for a moment the character of any man having pretensions to a decent position before the world.

In regard to the alleged deviation from the prescribed route in going to California, Mr. Beale avers that his intention of crossing the plains was not only known to the President before he left, but that it was in point of fact altogether the best and most direct for the objects he was instructed by the Interior Department to accomplish. He was directed to examine the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, as well as California, for a suitable reservation, before making a selection; and if he had proceeded by way of the isthmus to San Francisco, he says that he would then have been under the necessity of going back to Utah and New Mexico, instead of taking them, as he did, in his actual route.

The duties undertaken by Mr. Beale were mainly of a new and untried character, requiring peculiar energy, sagacity, and caution. His largest expenditures were incurred in testing the feasibility of a great experiment; and he affirms that the best evidence of his success of his judgment and his integrity in the conduct of that experiment, is found in the fact that he has left public property, as the result of his expenditures, exceeding in value twice, or probably three-fold, the amount of his public disbursements.

I have appended the report of the Second Auditor to the statement of the objections, evidence, &c. The Auditor does not concur with

the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in regard to the propriety of a rejection or suspension of the vouchers, but, as much has been said on the subject, and the amounts are large, he desired "that the matter should undergo an investigation before the Secretary of the Treasury." My own views of the case coincide, to a great extent, with those expressed by the Auditor. No disposition has been shown by Mr. Beale to evade scrutiny; on the contrary, the commendable promptness and candor with which he has proffered explanation, his ready and unembarrassed replies, and his urgent request that you, as head of the department, will thoroughly examine him upon the points in dispute, have tended to confirm the confidence in his honesty and uprightness that an acquaintance with him from his boyhood has justified me in entertaining. Mr. Bradford is also remaining in the city, in the hope, as he says, that you will call upon him for ample explanation upon all the matters in dispute of which he has any information, or with which he is in any way connected.

I am, &c.,

J. M. BRODHEAD,
Second Comptroller.

Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office, April 17, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Edward F. Beale, late superintendent of Indian affairs in California, in regard to the disallowance of his compensation as superintendent, &c., and that of his clerk, from July 26, the day that Mr. Henley says that he relieved him, and assumed the duties of superintendent, to the 14th of September, 1853, the day Mr. H. receipted to Mr. B. for the public money and property remaining in his hands, and, at the request of Mr. Beale, make the following statement of facts: Mr. Holeman charged and was allowed his salary as Indian agent to the 17th of October, 1853, the day he turned over the public property to Mr. Bedell, his successor. Mr. Bedell receipted to Holeman for public property, October 17, 1853, charged and was allowed his salary from July 1, 1853. It therefore appears that both Holeman and Bedell received pay as Indian agent for the same agency from July 1 to October 17, 1853, a period of three months and seventeen days.

Mr. Mitchell received pay as superintendent to May 31, and Mr. Cumming, his successor, from June 1. Cumming receipts to Mitchell for money and property the 31st of May.

Mr. Henley, Mr. Beale's successor, receipts for public property at the Tejon farm, August 7th, 1854, for money and office furniture, &c., at San Francisco, September 14, 1854.

I have the honor, &c.,

J. M. BRODHEAD,
Comptroller.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.