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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in response to Senate resolution of February 1, 1886, an account of the transactions of A. B. Meacham

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Additional information relative to the accounts of A. B. Meacham.

FEBRUARY 17, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Accounts and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 16, 1886.

SIR: Referring to Senate resolution of the 1st instant, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish certain information relative to the accounts of Alfred B. Meacham, late superintendent of Indian affairs for the State of Oregon, which was transmitted to the Senate on the 8th instant, I have the honor to submit herewith additional information upon the subject in the letter of the Acting Second Comptroller of the 15th instant.

Respectfully, yours,

D. MANNING,
Secretary.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
President pro tempore United States Senate.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
SECOND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., February 15, 1886.

SIR: Senator John H. Mitchell has called my attention to what is claimed as a misunderstanding on the part of this office of the meaning of a portion of the Senate resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information relative to the settlement of the accounts of Alfred B. Meacham, superintendent of Indian affairs for the State of Oregon.

The resolution asks whether Superintendent Meacham "was at any time, and if so, on what date, declared by the Treasury Department or its accounting officers, or any of them, to be in default." * * *

The construction placed on this portion of the inquiry in office reply of the 6th instant was, that said inquiry related to the date of the declaration of the default, and not to the date the default occurred.

Taking the other view of the case, that the inquiry related to the

date the default occurred, it seems necessary to make an addition to the report forwarded to you on the 6th instant.

The records of this office show that the services of A. B. Meacham, as superintendent of Indian affairs for the State of Oregon, terminated March 31, 1872, and when his accounts as said superintendent were settled, April 28, 1879, it was then found and officially declared that he was in default and in arrears to the United States on said accounts in the sum of \$7,676.96, for moneys advanced to him under his bond of April 1, 1869.

This office has no information as to the date the default occurred, beyond what is above stated.

On the 5th of February, 1873, the Secretary of the Interior appointed Mr. Meacham a member of the Modoc Commission, and to meet the expenses of the same the following sums were advanced to him:

February 6, 1873	\$1,000 00
April 5, 1873	1,000 00
June 21, 1873	600 00
January 29, 1874	2,528 53
Total	5,128 53

Mr. Meacham filed vouchers to account for this money, as follows:

Services as commissioner, 334 days, at \$10	\$3,340 00
Traveling and incidental expenses	1,568 53
Total	4,908 53

The difference of \$220 between the sum advanced and that to which he was entitled and credited in his accounts has been since recovered.

On or about September 25, 1878, the Secretary of the Interior appointed Mr. Meacham as special agent of the Interior Department to make certain payments to Indians, and Mr. Meacham gave an official bond as security for the faithful disbursement of the money placed in his hands. Among other disbursements made by Mr. Meacham under this bond is found one dated November 1, 1879, as follows:

Salary as special agent for 107 days, at \$8	\$856 00
Traveling expenses	607 30
Total	1,463 30

Under the authority of the act of June 15, 1880 (21 Stat., 199), Mr. Meacham was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate as a member of the Ute Commission, on or about June 20, 1880, and he appears to have been paid by the disbursing officer of said Commission for compensation and expenses, as follows:

June 22, 1880, salary	\$100 00
July 2, 1880, expenses	25 00
February 16, 1881, expenses	722 27
February 17, 1881, salary	1,860 00
April 5, 1881, expenses	46 00
April 5, 1881, salary	140 00
January 24, 1882, salary	1,880 00
January 24, 1882, expenses	280 23
Total	5,053 50

Mr. Meacham became entitled, as a member of the Ute Commission, to salary and traveling expenses to the sum of \$5,373.34, and the unpaid balance of \$319.84 due him has been applied, in part, to extinguish his indebtedness to the United States of \$220, as disbursing officer of the Modoc Commission of 1873 and 1874.

RECAPITULATION.

Default as superintendent of Indian Affairs, bond of April 1, 1869	\$7,676 96
Salary and expenses as Modoc commissioner	\$4,908 53
Salary and expenses as special agent, retained	1,463 30
Salary and expenses as Ute commissioner, paid	5,023 50

Total, retained and paid

11,425 33

This amount retained by and paid to Mr. Meacham has been credited in the settlement of the proper accounts.

Very respectfully,

RICH'D R. McMAHON,
Acting Comptroller.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury.

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