

Creek at about 10 o'clock the previous evening that a party of seven had been in pursuit all day and that five of their party were still on their trail, the trail that we had observed came from the direction of Sun City. I asked these two men to return with me that night as far as they knew the trail, 8 or 10 miles which they gladly did and proceeded at once with my party from Camp overtook the five Citizens about 10 o'clock next morning who fled to the ravines at the sight of us taking as for Indians, we managed to catch them after a run of a mile or two off the trail and proceeded again to take up the trail which was followed altogether about 55 miles over an exceedingly difficult country and until about 3 P.M. when we overtook the Indians recovered the stolen stock.

The Indians scattered and took to the Hills, two of them were so closely pursued that they abandoned their ponies and opened fire with a breech loading Rifle and Revolvers from behind rocks in a gulch of a plateau at a distance of 100 or 125 yards I think these 2 Indians were probably shot by some of my men, but whether hit or not they managed to escape, they abandoned pretty much everything.

The stock recovered consisted of sixteen Horses two Mules and fifty two head of Cattle. I enclose a list of the names of the owners being the same party in pursuit and others who joined us upon our wagons.

I am unable to give any good Idea of the Character or nature of the Country where the Indians were overtaken. It is rougher and more difficult for me to form a theory about than any I have ever seen, the point is about 20 or 25 miles below the salt plains of the Cimarron, on the south bank and at the mouth of Bull Bear Creek. I think they call it.

I considered my order of that nature that I should have thought it shameful to return to Ft. Dodge, without at least making an effort to control this party of thieves.

I found Lieut. Abbott with the train Escort moved forward 15 miles