

boys were smart enough to smell danger and to take the general at his word. They fell into line and went out upon the dismal, unprofitable, inglorious hunt after "scalp lifters."

Before leaving Laramie, about the 25th of July, I was relieved as adjutant general by Capt. C. J. Laurant, a regular assistant adjutant general, who had been sent by the secretary of war to report to Gen. Conner. The general refused to let me join my company and issued an order announcing me as his acting assistant quartermaster, and instructed me to provide transportation, forage, etc., for the expedition.

I found that there were only about seventy government wagons at Fort Laramie; that the commissary stores and forage required for the expedition, and required by the command under Col. Cole, would require in the neighborhood of 200 wagons to transport the same. I was compelled to press citizens' outfits into the service.

I pressed into the service forty wagons belonging to Ed. Creighton, which were under charge of Thomas Ashlop; captured Tom Pollock's train of thirty wagons, and other trains too numerous to mention, until I had a train of 185 wagons.

Our command left Fort Laramie on the 30th day of July, 1865, enroute for the Powder river. Our column was known as the "Powder river Indian expedition," and was composed of sixty-eight men belonging to Company E, Seventh Iowa cavalry, under command of Capt. N. J. O'Brien, with First Lieut. John S. Brewer, Second Lieut. Eugene F. Ware; sixty men of Company E, Eleventh Ohio volunteer cavalry, under Capt. Marshall; seventy men of Company K, Eleventh Ohio volunteer cavalry, Capt. J. L. Humphreyville; fifty-seven men of Company E, Eleventh Ohio volunteer cavalry; sixty-one men of Company M, Second California cavalry, commanded by Capt. Geo. Conrad; fourteen men, a detachment of the Second Missouri artillery; fifteen men, a detachment of the signal corps of the United States army, under command of Lieut. J. Willard Brown, assisted by Second Lieut. A. V. Richards; fifteen men on detachment service from the Eleventh Ohio cavalry serving in the quartermaster's department; seventy-five Pawnee scouts under command of Capt. Frank North, and seventy Winnebago and Omaha Indians under command of Capt. E. W. Nash; together with six companies of the Sixth Michigan cavalry, numbering about 250 men, under command of Col. Kidd. The Michigan troops were intended as a garrison for the first military post established, to be located at Powder river, and were not properly a part of the left column on the Powder river Indian expedition. Not including the Michigan troops, we had, all told, 404 soldiers and 145 Indians, together with about 195 teamsters and wagonmasters in the train, which was in the direct charge of Robert Wheeling, chief train master. The general's staff was limited to five officers: Capt. J. C. Laurant, A. A. G., Capt. Sam Robbins, First Colorado cavalry, chief engineer; myself as quartermaster; Capt. W. H. Tubbs, A. C. S., and Oscar Jewett, A. D. C.

We arrived at the south bank of the Platte August 1, expecting to cross at the LaBonta crossing. The general and his guides and advance guards had arrived the night before, expecting from information furnished by his guides that he would find a good crossing here. Our guides, chief among whom were Maj. James Bridger, Nick Janisse, Jim Daugherty, Mich. Bouyer, John Resha, Antoine LaDue, and Bordeaux, were supposed to be thoroughly posted on this country, especially the region so near Fort Laramie, wherethey had been hundreds of times; but the treacherous Platte was too much for them. The spring flood that had just passed had washed away the crossing, and after ten hours' diligent searching not one of the cavalry escort could find a place to cross the river without swimming his horse and endangering his life. Coming up with the train, which had been delayed and did not reach camp until afternoon, I found the general thoroughly