

crippled condition the train attempted to reach Clear Creek, eight miles farther on, being constantly harassed by the hostiles in large force, but finding it impossible to continue, returned to Glendive Creek for re-enforcements.

The teamsters having become too demoralized to proceed, forty-one of them were discharged and soldiers were detailed to drive. The escort, now consisting of five companies of infantry, numbering eleven officers and one hundred and eighty-five men, under command of Lieut. Col. W. S. Utis, Twenty-second Infantry, again attempted to carry these much-needed supplies to the garrison at Tongue River.

October 15, on Spring Creek the Indians, increased to an estimated strength of from seven to eight hundred warriors, again attacked the train, which, however, formed in compact lines, pressed on, the infantry escort charging the Indians repeatedly and driving them back, while the wagons slowly advanced. Three or four scouts from Colonel Miles' command were met here, having been attacked by Indians and one of their party killed. The train proceeded, with the escort skirmishing, until Clear Creek was reached, the point from which Captain Miner had previously been obliged to return. Here the Indians made the <sup>60</sup> most determined attack, firing the prairie, and the wagons being obliged to advance through the flames. Compactly arranged in four lines, the wagons proceeded, the entire escort being engaged in alternately charging the Indians, driving them back, and then regaining the moving teams; three or four of the escort were wounded and a considerable number of Indian saddles emptied.

On October 16, whilst advancing, an Indian runner approached and left upon a hill the following communication: