

be considered an act of hostility. The Indians took positions instantly for a fight, and an engagement followed, the Indians being driven from every part of the field, through their camp ground, down Bad Route Creek, and pursued forty-two miles to the south side of the Yellowstone. In their retreat they abandoned tons of dried meat, quantities of lodge poles, camp equipage, ponies, and broken down cavalry horses. Five dead warriors were left on the field, besides those they were seen to carry away. Their force was estimated at upwards of one thousand warriors.

On October 27, over four hundred lodges of Indians, numbering about two thousand men, women, and children, surrendered to Colonel Miles; five chiefs giving themselves up as hostages for the delivery of men, women, children, ponies, arms, and ammunition at the agencies; Sitting Bull himself escaped northward with his own small band, and was joined later by "Gall" and other chiefs with their followers. Having returned to Tongue River Cantonment, Colonel Miles organized a force numbering four hundred and thirty-four rifles and moved north in pursuit of Sitting Bull, but the trail was obliterated by the snow in the vicinity of the Big Dry River. A band of one hundred and nineteen lodges under "Iron Dog" crossed the Missouri in advance of the command and dissolved itself in the Yanktonais camp, Sitting Bull continuing to hover about the neighborhood of the Missouri River and its branches for some time afterwards.

October 14, a detachment of Troop K, Second Cavalry, was reported as having a fight on Richard Creek, Wyoming, one soldier being killed.

General Crook, having learned that there was danger of a considerable number of Indians at Red Cloud Agency again attempting to join  
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the hostiles, directed a strong force from his column to proceed to that agency, under command of Colonel Merritt, Fifth Cavalry, for the