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Finding our small party of scouts could not get the Indians, and that it was not worth while trying to dislodge them, we went back to the command, which had gone into camp. All the supplies had been used--all the rations. It was just about one hundred miles to Fort Lincoln and the same distance to Deadwood and the Black Hills. At Lincoln there were government supplies, and at Deadwood we would have to purchase them, or run our chances of buying enough to do us. Then, again, if we went to Lincoln, we would lose the object of our summer's march and the opportunity of overtaking the Indians. On the other hand, if we went to the Hills we had the chance of jumping the Indians and not having had all our summer's work for nothing. The rain--it had been raining then just about a week--was falling in a steady drizzle and there was not a dry article of any kind in the whole command.

301 Between us and the Hills the entire country had this sticky, gumbo soil. In either case it would be a hard trip for the command, and would entail a good deal of suffering, whichever way we went. I thought it would be best to go towards the Hills; that we would be sure to jump the Indians before they got into the agency. The General said there was no possibility of our starving, as we had plenty of horses and mules. He called his field officers together, and gave orders to march to the Black Hills, telling them that we would have to live on horse and mule meat until rations could be procured.

The next morning we started towards the Hills. It was a pretty hard struggle from there on. The horses commenced to play out. As fast as the poor brutes fell the quartermaster had them killed and issued as rations, so the soldiers had nothing but played-out horses to eat from there on into the hills. It looked funny to see a soldier ride his horse until it dropped exhausted, and then get off and shoot it and cut its carcass up and issue the meat to the soldiers of the different companies. The command was out of everything. I suppose, from what I saw and what they told me, that it was a pretty hard struggle for the troops. I didn't get much of the hard part of it, as I was killing game; besides, we had a mess of our own and our own pack mules, so we had plenty of provisions all through the whole trip. Myself, Tom Moore, the packer, Dave Meers, his assistant, and Big Bat, were all together. My being out so much, I killed game and brought it in to the mess. Gen. Crook fared just the same as the soldiers. Once and awhile the staff would steal down to our mess and get a square meal or beans, but the General had prohibited them from going to our mess. That was one distinctive characteristic of Gen. Crook's--he would not take any advantage of his command. If they starved, he starved with them.

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On the fourth night from Heart river it was thought best to send part of the command on to the Black Hills for supplies, and knowing the Indians to be between us and the Black Hills, the General thought I had better go with them, and said he would send sufficient force to jump any village we would come across. Picking out one hundred and fifty men, with six pack trains (Tom Moore in charge of pack trains), we left camp at 9 o'clock in the evening, with Captain Mills in command, and Lieut. Crawford, Lieut. Schwatka and Lieut. Von Leutwitz accompanying us. Crawford was killed by the Mexicans afterwards. Schwatka became famous as an Arctic explorer, and is now dead; Von Leutwitz was shot in the Slim Butte fight, had his leg amputated, was pensioned off, and is now living in Washington. I took Captain Jack Crawford with me. We traveled all night, striking Big Plum the next morning, and making our breakfast off of plums. After resting up awhile we started again about 8 o'clock. We could not travel fast. It had stopped raining, but the fog had settled so that we could not see but a short distance ahead. Keeping the command about three hundred yards behind so they would watch all our movements, we traveled until about one o'clock. Once in a while the fog would rise so that I could see a