

on the following morning, all the Chiefs were present with 116 armed Utes. The remainder of the Indians were packed ready to march. At this council they refused to return to the Uintah Reservation, to send any Chiefs to Gillette for further conference, or to remain in camp for another talk. They were going to Cherry Creek on the Sioux Reservation or to the Big Horn Mountains. Captain Johnson reported this conference, and the probable movements of the Indians, to these headquarters.

Major Grierson's command consisted of Troops A and D, 10th Cavalry, total 113 men, with five wagons and a pack train. The remainder of his squadron was ordered to join him, leaving Fort Robinson October 25th. He was directed not to move his command from Gillette, as it was not desired to press the Indians nor cause them to continue their movement northward. With a view of intercepting them in case they should start northward or eastward, Colonel Alexander Rodgers, 6th Cavalry, at Fort Meade, was directed to have six troops of his regiment ready to move at short notice in a north-westerly direction as rapidly as possible to a point north of the Black Hills, and from there as circumstances demanded, closing on the Indians, wherever they might be. The order for this movement was given on October 24th, and the next morning Colonel Rodgers moved from Fort Meade with six troops accompanied with pack and wagon trains carrying rations for 15 days, forage, etc. Although the storm had left the roads, where there were any, in execrable condition, yet Colonel Rodgers marched his command no less than 140 miles in four days, October 25th to 28th, a remarkable performance, the character of the country and roads being considered.

From information obtained from Captain Johnson on October 26th, it seemed probable the Indians would go northwest to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation instead of continuing down the Powder River, or turning eastward to the Black Hills. Taking action on this information, the remaining portion of the garrison at Fort Robinson was put in the field under command of Colonel Jacob A. Augur, 10th Cavalry, his instructions being to proceed by rail to Sheridan and march thence down the Tongue River to Ashland, Montana. In addition, a detachment of the Signal Corps was sent under command of Captain Leonard D. Wildman from Fort Omaha to Sheridan to maintain communication between these Headquarters and Colonel Augur's command, and as far as practicable between columns of troops in field, and a detachment of the 4th Infantry was sent from Fort Mackenzie to Arvada on the Burlington Railroad to have charge of a supply depot at that place.

On Captain Johnson's recommendation Major Grierson's command was at the same time ordered by rail from Gillette, westward to Arvada, and from there northward down the Powder river. In connection with these movements, the Commanding General, Northern Division, directed the Commanding General, Department of Dakota, to send from Fort Keogh all available rations under escort of two troops, 6th Cavalry, belonging at that post, the instructions for this command being to move up the Tongue river to Ashland, with a view of providing rations and grain to Colonel Rodger's command, if the latter arrived in that vicinity. The Indians, did not, however, move west of Powder river, and the rations were delivered to him there.