

On October 29th Colonel Rodgers succeeded in establishing communications with Major Grierson's column, and the junction of these two commands on Powder river was effected on October 31st. On this day, also, Captain Johnson, 10th Cavalry, made arrangements through interpreters for a conference with the Utes on the following day, to be held between the camps. The conditions on the morning of November 1st did not appear favorable to a peaceable solution, as the Utes, divided in opinion, were wrangling among themselves. Colonel Rodgers insisted on a meeting, as had been agreed the day before, and the Utes finally yielded, bringing one hundred or more Indians to the conference. There was much talk regarding grievances and wishes, and the Utes finally asked to send Chiefs to Washington to obtain permission to settle on some Sioux Reservation. They were asked if they would return to their homes on the Uintah Reservation, to which they answered that they would not. It was evident that this was the final decision, as they would not even discuss the question. Captain Johnson, through Sioux Indians and interpreters, who had been sent to him, had found that it was practically certain the Utes would fight and break up into small bands, burning and murdering, rather than go back. Colonel Rodgers, concurring in this opinion, refrained from pressing this question. While expressing himself sympathetically in favor of the Indians, he then told them that under his orders the entire force of the Indians must go with the troops to Fort Meade. Though there was considerable difference of opinions in the following Ute debate, the Indians finally promised to go. Arranging that Major Grierson should scout the whole country between Powder and Little Powder rivers to their junction to arrest any Ute stragglers, Colonel Rodgers started with his command for Fort Meade on November 4th. He placed Captain Johnson in charge of the Ute band. The country was rough and the trail bad, owing to recent snow and rain, so that the march was slow and difficult. On November 25th the troops and Indians reached Fort Meade.

The Division Commander, from whose report the above data has been taken, mentions the promptness and efficiency of Colonel Augur, the judgment, tact and ability of Major Grierson, and refers to Colonel Rodgers and Captain Johnson as follows:

"In his field operations in the diplomatic treatment of the Indians and in his administrative handling of the entire campaign, Colonel Alexander Rodgers, 6th Cavalry, displayed qualities of a high character and his services deserve the highest commendation."

and quoting Colonel Rodger's report of Captain Johnson's services, concurred in the following:

"I wish to call attention to the excellent manner in which Captain Carter P. Johnson, 10th Cavalry, has performed the difficult duty to which he was assigned. Through his good work it has been possible for me to immediately engage the Indians in conference and carry out the instructions of the Department Commander and the authorities at Washington. Throughout all his work has been tactful, energetic and resourceful, and since my arrival he has been loyal and invaluable in assisting and supporting me."