

continued

trail crossed the river and led up a timbered ravine in which is a large spring about two miles from the Mouth I expected to find the Indians encamped here as I had seen no sign of a resting place or camp along the entire trail up to this time. I broke Camp at 4 A. M. on the 20th and went up to this ravine and arrived at 5 A. M. at a large pocket which contained a large Spring and the mouth of which is concealed by dense brush wood and which is a favorite Camping place of the Indians at day break I surrounded the pocket but no Indians were found they had gone through the place but had not remained there for any length of time but had gone on towards the Beaver.

My horses by this time were so weary and tired that I could not have followed the Indians any longer without losing the greater part of them and I determined to give up the chase and return to Fort Dodge. Accordingly after resting a couple of hours I returned to the Cimmaron. Crossed it and marched back to Crooked Creek and along its eastern bank to Fort Dodge where I arrived after a March of 218 miles on the 23rd inst.

The country marched over is level or slightly rolling prairie cut with breaks and ravines running towards the different creeks. These ravines are especially deep and rough on the west side of Crooked Creek where the country is very much cut up. The prairie has been burned on the West Side of Crooked Creek to within a few Miles of the Cimmaron. The breaks and bluffs of the Cimmaron are rough, but not very high: they extend to a considerable distance from the river.

Wood is found along Crooked Creek from the the head down to the point, where the Creek bends to the South and for 4 Miles below the bend in small groves containing good sized Cottonwood, Ash, Elm, and hackberry trees. In many places a dense growth of willows and plum bushes cover the banks of the Creek. In the ravines and breaks on the West Side of the Creek a few Cottonwood trees are scattered at long intervals. No timber was seen on the north bank of the Cimmaron except a few trees on the Side of the bluffs, but on the