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South Side of the river many well wooded ravines extend far out into the country.

The recent heavy rains had filled all the streams, ponds and low places on the prairie, so that water could be found everywhere.

The grazing is poor on account of prairie fires. Good grass was found at the head of Man Arroya around a Spring where I encamped and on Crooked Creek where I camped after leaving the Cimmaron. There is plenty of grass in the valley of the Cimmaron but it of very inferior quality.

The weather was wet, misty and rainy during the greater part of the Scout. On the night from the 20th to the 21st while encamped on Crooked Creek it rained heavy.

The trail of the Indians was very difficult to follow the hard soil of the prairie in many places preventing the feet of the ponies from making distinct marks. Besides the party seldom kept together but marched scattered over a large extent of prairie. Keeping in a body only where a steep ravine or break had to be crossed. No sign of any camp or resting place was found and I believe the party went down to Beaver Creek without ever resting for any considerable time. Two buffaloes killed by the Indians while marching along were found near the trail. Small portions of the meat had been cut out the marrow bones broken and the rest left. The exhausted condition of my horses prevented me from following the trail any faster than I did.

I was obliged to abandon three horses, which were entirely exhausted and broken down and unable to walk, one was left 3 miles north of the Mouth of Man Arroya, while the other two were left near Dodge City.

My horses have been in the field since the 11th of July last and have since that time travelled a distance of one thousand one hundred and twenty (1120) miles. During that time they have had no rest exceeding two days at a time amounting in all to seven days, except at Grinnell Station, Kansas, where I was encamped for a little over two weeks during which time they were only used on a four days Scout and in sending couriers to Buffalo Station 17 miles distant. They are