

expedition north of the Missouri was suspended the entire section south that river was tranquil and safe. As indicated this I may relate that on return from the Dominion, in the summer of 1878, accompanying only by one out, I journeyed across country from Fort Peck to Fort Keogh without seeing Indian, and was assured of their absence by the quiet grazing of tens of thousands of buffalo among which we rode by day and camped at night.

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it might be said of SB on our border that "He sat therlike a poultice, it ~~ught night~~ drawing all the bad humors to a head." The recalling of the expedition of Feb., 1878, was practically an abandonment to the hostiles of the valleys of Milk River and other northern affluents of the Missouri in Mont., and they became SB's domain, with friendly territory to the north, and there were assembled not only the United States Indians who were hostile, but also Indians and half-breeds from north of the line, making a total of some five thousand, with thousands of ponies. The half-breeds became a supply train on ammunition. It was evident at last, even at the seat of government thousands of miles away, that some stop must be put to the progress of affairs in that direction, and in June, 1879, the order came. In the spring the Indian's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of war. The buffaloes, in that olden time, roamed in great herds, "beef on the hoof" without limit, and the grass made the ponies fat, while the broad rivers were booming with the melting

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snows of the mountains, delaying the movements of troops and trains, whereas in the winter the frozen streams afforded smooth and easy roadway to troops and supplies, and the improvident enemy and their starved ponies were least prepared for activity. General Miles's force when assembled at Fort Peck consisted of seven companies of the 5th Infantry mounted on the ponies captured in earlier expeditions, seven troops of the 2nd Cavalry, two companies of the 6th Infantry and an artillery detachment, besides surrendered Indian and white scouts, a total of about eight hundred, much the largest command that he ever led against the Indians.

On July 17 the advance guard, two companies and Indian scouts, commanded by 1st Lt. W P Clark ("Philo") 2d Cavalry, attacked a band of more than three hundred Indians near Frenchman's creek, and after a sharp fight drove them back for twelve miles upon their main body which, issuing out, surrounded the advance. It is doubtful whether "Philo" ever felt a qualm of fear; he could not have been blamed if he had on this occasion experienced it, for the immense host was encircling him, and, but for the rapid advance of Miles and the main command he would probably not have survived to give this graphic account of the charge that came thundering to his rescue.

The charge was a splendid spectacle and a most efficient one; the hostilities abandoning their property fled precipitately from the field.

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These Indians numbering some fifteen hundred, also a considerable part of those who had surrendered earlier, were sent in 1881 by a fleet of steamboats to their agencies on the Missouri in Dakota. General Miles had exhibited towards them in battle those qualities which secured their loyalty and confidence. He had conquered them in battle, kept inviolate faith with them in council, treated them justly, trusted and protected them as captives, and during the months of '79 and '80, while keeping every trail hot with detachments in pursuit of the hostiles, had inaugurated a regime of peace and goodwill among those who