

"That is what we want," remarked the General.

I said, "I will start out at 12 o'clock, and want the best horses there are in the command, or as good."

"All right, you shall have them," said he, and he asked how many men I wanted.

I said I would go by myself.

"All right," he said, "I will give the orders. Do you know of any horses with the command you would like to have."

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* "I said there were two good animals in the command. I would like one or the other of them. He told me to name them and he would have them fed for me. One was his lead horse -- French-Canadian horse. I told him, and he said:

"All right; I will have him fed."

I told him to follow my trail, The snow was very deep, so the command could follow my tracks, but, said I, "I want you to keep these scouts all with the command, and don't let them go away from you."

He said he would do as requested. Of course, there were several instructions that I gave him: To keep as close on my trail as he could, and I told him also that I should probably, when I struck Otter Creek, follow up the creek; that he wanted to watch my trail very close from there on. There were only three trails going to Powder river, and I didn't know which I would take. They were all Indian trails. They were the only ones we could travel on very well. I left the command at about 12 o'clock that night, and traveled until about 7 o'clock the next morning, when I reached Otter creek.

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Just as I came on to the hills leading to Otter creek, or just before, I got off my horse and crept up to the hills to loop up and down the creek with my glass. Up the creek about five miles from where I was I saw two Indians trailing a buffalo, or some animal track. They were tracking down the creek towards where I was. I watched them very close, all their movements, and was sure just as quick as I watched them aghile that they were out hunting and that they had come from their * village. It was quite a ride to the command, and I didn't suppose it would come to where I was until between 1 and 2 o'clock. I thought the Indians would have plenty of time to get out of sight of the command before it reached there. Well, I must have been watching them for about three hours. I did not dare to move or show myself, but I was looking at the Indians through my glass at this time, watching every move. When they had got almost opposite me, they stopped their horses all of a sudden and looked towards me. I was not over a mile and a half from the, and could almost see their features through the glass. All of a sudden they commenced whipping their horses. There were some pines right ahead of them, and they ran in behind them and got off their horses, crept up on to the brow of the hill and looked towards me. I could just see the top of their heads. I thought to myself, "What if they should see me?"

Well, I soon found out what it was that attracted their attention. Pretty soon here comes all those scouts funning their horses across the hills. They were scattered for two miles along the hill in plain view of the Indians, who stopped, and pretty soon started for the timber; but instead of going back the way they came they went in a northeasterly direction towards Powder river, and I knew they were going on to the main trail to Powder river. In fact, when I saw that the scoutshad scared the Indians, I waited until they had got up to