

This fight alarmed the whole country, the scattering Cheyennes going in every direction and it was evident that a surprise of Crazy Horse would be impossible at least by a direct movement. I then moved over to and down the Belle Fourche and halted near the forks of that stream, having in the meantime sent to Red Cloud Agency to get accurate information of the direction taken by Crazy Horse's Band, and also for additional scouts with fresh ~~xxx~~ horses. This being the easiest method of locating their camp as the Agency Indians are constantly advised of the whereabouts of the hostiles and generally of their purposes.

At this time the condition of my transportation was exceedingly bad, the intense cold weather, with a short allowance of forage, the grass being mostly covered with snow and what little there was of inferior quality, it was growing weaker every moment.

I may mention here that the want of proper transportation on account of meagre appropriation allowed me for ~~this~~ purpose has been and now is the cause of the most serious embarrassment, ~~it is~~ it being almost utterly impossible to accumulate with it sufficient forage to enable expeditions to remain for any great length of time in winter.

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This together with the fact of which I became convinced before the return of my Scouts, that the hostiles had fled beyond the reach of the endurance of my transportation decided me to return to the cantonment which judgement was confirmed by the return of my scouts who stated that the hostiles had fled in the direction of what is called the "Bad Lands" of the Little Missouri.

The troops of the expedition have been disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Lieutenant General; the Battalions of the 4th Artillery and 23rd Infantry leaving this point today for the Departments of California and the Missouri respectively.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very Respectfully

your obedient servant

George Crook,

- Brigadier General U. S. A.

Commanding

Hedqrs. Mil. Div. of the Missouri.

Chicago, January 27, 1877.

The troops on the Powder River expedition staid out as long as could be expected at this season of the year. The complaint of want of transportation was unnecessary, and if any one is at fault it is the Department Commander, who did not make proper arrangements before he started. When he made his wants known to these Headqrs's, additional transportation ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~department~~ was ordered to his Department. There was no limit made in money allowance for transportation in the Department of the Platte until 2 after or about the time the Expedition came in.

P. H. Sheridan

Lieutenant Gen'l. Commanding.