

continued

and crosses the heads of numerous little Creeks which empty into Bad River, and which afford company places along the road every ten or fifteen miles, where good grazing, and, in most instances, good water is found, but which are almost destitute of fuel, even for cooking purposes.

Besides, the ease with which troops can move along this road in dry weather, they would be in almost constant communication with freight trains, mail carriers, and others, passing over it, by which the news of approaching hostiles would be easily communicated.

To get into position on the road as early as practicable, I made arrangements to leave this post, with the command, on the 6 instant, but failed to do so as the company and medical officer, ordered to join from Fort Tully, were unable to cross the Missouri River until near sundown of that day in consequence of a strong wind rendering it impossible to manage the flat boat in which the company and its transportation had to be ferried over.

On the morning of the 7th however, everything being ready, the command, consisting of nine officers, one hundred and seventy one enlisted men, five Indian scouts and five Indians who volunteered their services as scouts, moved out in light marching order, with rations for twenty-five days, half forage for the animals for the same period, and one hundred and fifty rounds of ammunition per man, in addition to the fifty rounds carried in the belts.

Late in the evening of that day, after getting into camp at the head of Chautier Creek, a courier from Cheyenne Agency brought me two letters from Captain Vroon, 3d Cavalry, Commanding Red Cloud Agency, dated respectively September 28th and October 6th, and a copy of a telegram to him, from the Department Commander, dated Oct. 6th. In the letter of the 28th he informed me that the Red Cloud Indians had left their old camp at the forks of White River, without authority, and were moving up the main stream, taking with them thirty days rations, and their cattle seven hundred and twenty five head, which would supply them with beef for about forty days, but that no trouble with them was anticipated as they seemed to be actuated solely by a desire to reach their new agency before winter set in, and to avoid a repetition of the sufferings, and hardships of last winter. In the one of the 6th