

officer and three men on Sheridan Buttes near mouth of Powder River, and after going into camp on Yellowstone near mouth of O'Fallon Creek, I kept the country actively scouted near head of this creek and also over towards Cabin Creek. I arranged with ranchers and drivers on line of Bismarck and Keogh mail route to give me promptly any information they might learn. On February 27th, the Yellowstone River suddenly rose some six feet and carried out the ice though the thermometer had for a day or two previous indicated 33 degrees below zero. This sudden flood compelled me to move to high ground on banks of O'Fallon Creek. On March 4th, moved back to Powder River for the purpose of crossing rations and forage, the ice having broken in this stream on March 3rd leaving however a wide gorge of ice on the banks.

On March 7th two Sioux scouts with interpreter Fleury who had been sent out on Bismarck mail line from Fort Keogh reported at my camp and I detained them with me.

On March 8th I sent two Sioux Scouts out to make an extended scout up Powder River to crossing of Black Hills and Keogh road, thence over to the Little Missouri on this road then to go down this stream and if not finding trail before to scout well towards "Slim Buttes." On the 11th they returned to camp at 8 a.m. and reported as having seen some Indians hunting on foot about fifty miles up Powder River. I at once started out three scouts including one of those who had brought in the report, to go and locate the village and indicated a point at about where I would meet them. Leaving tents standing with a small guard taking ten days rations on packs and as much forage as possible I left camp at 12 m. and marched out on Bismarck stage line some twenty-two miles, which point I reached just at dark; from here I struck off for the pine bluffs, and ridges near Powder River thus crossing a high plateau of rolling prairie where my command could have been seen at a long distance if I had not crossed at night, and went into camp in a well concealed position at 11 p.m.

The night was intensely dark and for a time rained heavily, making our progress slow and extremely difficult, and but for the Indian scouts we certainly could have done nothing. The next day we advanced cautiously keeping concealed well by winding amongst the bluffs, following ravines etc., and at 4 p.m. met scouts I had sent out to locate village and they reported no signs and I went into camp. During the night it turned suddenly quite cold and snowed some four inches. Believing no large body of Indians could have escaped observation from the second scouting party and that some mistake had been made by the first, the next morning I ordered the command to move slowly back on our trail. I took six of the scouts giving three of them an extra animal and rations, and thoroughly scoured the country adjacent to the point where the hostiles had been reported as having been seen; finding nothing which justified any further retention of the command, I sent interpreter Fleury and the two Indians "I had prepared for the trip," forward to complete the scout first ordered to the Little Missouri, etc. and rejoined my command and reached my tents at Powder River on March 14th. During the trip some of the men were slightly frosted, but none seriously injured.