

continued

with the country would ever think of going. Not having any one with me acquainted with the country, we crossed the Middle River, and got into the trap the indians laid for us. They occupied all the hills and were dismounted. The wagon train, which we had to keep with us on account of the broken country, and vigorous attack of the indians, could not proceed; however, by dismounting my men, I drove the indians through the heavy sands from hill to hill, and withdrew the train from this ambushade with very little loss, and camped for the night on the Canadian, near its junction with Middle River.

Being satisfied that their families had the start of me, and that, the present style of driving indians with a wagon train, through a broken country of sand hills, where the indians had every advantage of attacking, or retreating at their option, would only result in wearing out my stock, and pushing the indians further south (though they were already far below the northern border of Texas) I concluded it best to halt, send for supplies and more troops to take care of my supply train, and furnish another column to act in concert.

Early on the morning of the 14th, we crossed the Canadian river, and marched north for 15 miles, where we reached Buffalo Creek, and camped for the night. At daylight on the morning of the 15th, we marched north, crossing the Cimarron at the head of the Salt Plains, and after marching a distance of 32 miles, reached this place called Bluff Creek, said to be 60 miles from "Ft. Dodge."

I sent to "Fort Dodge" my sick and wounded, broken down amoulanes, and the empty wagons for supplies.

We are only about 50 miles, from the trail we left, and can again take it up after we are properly fitted out.

There is no doubt that, all the the Cheyennes and nearly all of the Arapahoes are engaged in this war, and probably some of the young men of the Kiowas. If the war continues, the Kiowas and Comanches will be drawn into it. It is therefore important that, we operate as soon as possible with force enough, not only to oppose the hostile indians, but to crush them.