

first saw it, but back of that we could find no trace of it.

This prairie fringed a large creek for several miles, and we went down it, finding a well-beaten track in the rich prairie grass, and the sites of numerous Indian encampments, which had been recently abandoned. Would we come on the Indians this evening, to-morrow, next day, or not at all?

We saw many prairie chickens, but without any gain to our larder, for they were wild as deers, and the nearest I could get to any was about two hundred yards. We required some of them badly, for, sparing as we tried to be, and though we generally rose hungry from table, our provisions were disappearing in an unpleasantly rapid manner.

At the start I could have killed scores of partridges, but as we could not very well carry them, I killed only a few in the evening for supper and breakfast. But now, when we could and would carry them, we could get nothing. Tracks of moose and deer were abundant, but we never caught sight of any, even on the prairies, where we could see for long distances.

At supper we ate sparingly and retired early, intending to make a long tramp on the morrow, for we now expected to have the trail all the way into St. John, it was so well marked, and there were so many signs of recent travel on it. Early in the morning we resumed our journey, but did not go half a mile when the track again disappeared, and we had to continue without it. The course of the creek soon changed too much to the east, so I struck across it to the south, and early in the afternoon ran across the trail in an open pine and spruce wood. In the evening we came out on another prairie and creek, along which we followed until the trail again disappeared. This hide and seek conduct was getting monotonous, and I determined for the future to follow it when it went in our direction, and to lose no time in looking for it. We

continued down the creek, but found, in a few miles, that the prairie ended in a tangled, burned slush which was impassable for us, and the creek valley narrowed to an impassable gorge.

Here we camped. An observation early in the evening made our latitude  $57^{\circ} 03'$ . We were so sparing with our bread that the principal article of our food was now dried meat. This is nearly the color of, about as palatable, and nearly as durable as, India rubber. It was nicknamed by some of the traders in the north, "leather," and well the title befits it. The expression, "Take a slab of leather and go to your work," has often been heard in the land. The only way we could cook it and retain any of its substance was to boil it, but as it took several days to boil it soft, we could not much alter its toughness with the few hours—generally all night—we could afford in boiling it. To make it taste like anything one could eat, large quantities of salt had to be put in the water, but our stock of salt was small at the start, and we could not afford this, so had to eat it in its native purity.

The effect of several days' diet of this kind on me was to render it imperative that I should take some pills.

Soon after dark it clouded up, and rain began to fall, clearing with sleet. As we had no tent nor shelter from this, our beds soon became unpleasantly moist.

In the morning we arose unrefreshed by our rest, as we did not sleep very soundly. I was sick, for the pills had failed to act as I desired. The sleet was falling, rendering it extremely disagreeable to move through the grass or in the woods. The Professor went off after breakfast and found some marks an Indian had made in the woods, and we started. Now, I was seriously indisposed, to put it mildly; had I been at home, I would have been seriously sick, but indisposition does not count in such emergencies, and I had to shoulder my pack and march. But I had not gone more than three