

From the top of River Butte there is a fine view of the sand hills near the mouth of Miry Creek, on a bearing of  $315^{\circ}$  by the prismatic compass.

From River Butte Creek to Miry Creek Crossing, eight miles and three-quarters, over a level plain of clay loam soil.

There is a tract of country north-west of here, on the Saskatchewan, which I think will eventually be one of the most thickly populated districts in the North-West Territories. It is a fine level country, with a navigable river flowing through it, with low banks and some timber, and soil equal to southern Manitoba.

After crossing Miry Creek, another small creek is crossed, with a few small maples on its banks and good water, and the road ascends the steep escarpment which forms the northern boundary of the plateau to the south.

From the top of this escarpment the waters and wooded bottoms of the South Saskatchewan are in view, although they are many miles off. The trail follows the edge of this lofty escarpment for several miles, passing several shallow, rushy lakes to the left.

At noon we halted in a patch of *têtes des femmes*, where we found a little water; at night we camped at some ponds, north of the Great Sand Hills, sixty-six and three quarter miles from the Strong Current Creek.

From this point I struck north of west over a dry open undulating plain to the Forks of the Red Deer River, where I arrived on the 21st June. Water was very scarce for the last fifty miles.

I crossed the South Saskatchewan two miles east of the  $110^{\circ}$  meridian. This crossing was reached by a detour of sixteen miles, which was necessary to avoid the big coulees. I did not have a portable boat, so I employed Mr. Wells, who lives at the Forks and runs the mail from Fort Walsh to Battleford, to ferry us across.

From the Red Deer Forks I struck for the Blackfoot Crossing as straight as circumstances would permit.

The route lay along the level sandy plain south of the Red Deer River, keeping the Middle Sand Hills to the left.

The Middle Sand Hills are a continuous ridge of sandy waste extending along the north side of the Saskatchewan River for nearly thirty miles above the Red Deer Forks.

On the route we saw some clay flats; the grass was short, and cactus and sage bush flourished.

In latitude  $50^{\circ} 49'$ , twenty-three miles west of the Forks of Red Deer, I camped in a cactus valley, with many fresh water springs and alkaline lakes. This valley separates the Middle Sand Hills from a high rolling plain which lies to the north-west of them.

I crossed the valley and ascended to the plain, where I found good pasture and plenty of water.

For the next thirty-nine miles the country is very rough. It becomes rougher, with steep, rocky, conical hills and deep lakes of good water, as we go west. The end of this last stretch brings us to another valley, several miles in width, which separates the hilly country from the Rainy Hills.

The Rainy Hills are about seventy-three miles from the Red Deer Forks, and immediately south of that river. They cover an area of probably thirty or forty square miles.

The two prominent features of this group are the two hills, which rise to an elevation of about eight hundred feet above Red Deer River. These are named by the Blackfeet, the Inner Rainy Hill and the Outer Rainy Hill.

I crossed the summit of the most north-western of the two, from which there is a good view of the Great Cairn, or Oh-ma-kee-ya-kotop, the long, beautiful lake, Ah-wy-kee-miskan, or the "Lake that runs up and down," Masto-wy-okan, or the Crows' Stones, and the deep canon, Ak-kao-kee-nee-man, or Dead Lodge Canon, which is a sight not likely to be forgotten.

From the Rainy Hills to the hills called the Crows' Stones, thirty-eight miles, the plains are dry, gravelly and water worn, and hardly good even for pasture. The small branches of Sand Hill Creek, and Wood, or One Tree Creek, are crossed.