

said to be 19 or 20 miles; I call it about 17 miles. General direction nearly west. Heavy rain to-night; rained nearly all day.

Saturday, 16th October.—Fine morning; left camp at 9 a.m.; warm wind. After crossing burnt ground where we had camped we ran into standing timber, with here and there open spaces. Good travelling for nine miles when we came to open space on east side of small creek; good feed but water hard to get at. About a mile farther is splendid camping place with fine water; we made this in three hours. From here there is bad travelling through fallen timber for about five miles, with here and there a better piece of trail; then open country with willow scrub to "place where the horses died." Magnificent feed and water here on east fork of Bear River. This is the same creek that we crossed previously. The trail ran along this creek for some miles, touching it here and there. At half a mile or so from to-night's camp is fine hay meadow; about 400 or 500 loads could be cut. Good place for winter ranche. Distance travelled about twenty miles; general direction W.S.W.; creek runs nearly south-east to north-west. This fork runs into west fork which rises in a lake near Grand Prairie.

Sunday, 17th October.—Five horses strayed last night and we did not leave camp until 10.30 a.m. Fine travelling across open ground, no bush but thick willow brush in most places. After seven miles we came to a deep valley running nearly east and west. Water to the south-east in valley and splendid feed. Trail crosses creek and runs nearly W.S.W.; a mile farther on we again sight the valley with east fork of Bear River (same we camped on last night). A mile farther again touch same; a mile farther across dry coulee running down to above river. Very little bush to-day; fine feed anywhere. To-night we camped on west side of Bear River, in the valley, on fine open ground, fine feed, water and wood; good A 1 camp. Steep incline to bottom of valley (about half a mile long), but not too much for good trail. Distance travelled 18 miles good; course W.S.W. Ranges of high mountains running from Spirit River are visible all the way to the south of trail; they are in a sort of spurs. Bear River is almost always fordable except when snow first melts and is then high for only a week or two. If ford where trail crosses is not good there is another about a quarter of a mile below which is always good. River is about 75 yards across from bank to bank, with stony bed. It is known as Bear River throughout the country, but maps call it Mud River.

Monday, 18th October.—Heavy rain and hard frost last night, and as it is an easy drive to-day I did not pull out until 10.10. Watered at lower ford and got to top of hill at 10.30 a.m. Steep incline but fairly easy grade could be got. All to-day was across "Pus-qui-qua" prairie; splendid country like north of Battleford to Jackfish. About three and a half or four miles west of last night's camp we crossed coulee with small creek. To-night we camped at lake at west side of prairie; good water and feed. Distance about 12 miles and course nearly west as a rule, although we ran south of west for a time. Fine warm day. No other camping place for fully 10 miles west.

Tuesday, 19th October.—Breakfast at 5.15 a.m. and left at 9 a.m. First mile or so open to west, then ran north-west to escape heavy timber for about two hours. Then south-west for another two hours through fairly good country for travel. Then struck heavy fallen and burnt timber, and had to thread our way through the best way we could; very slow travelling. Course almost west. At 4 p.m. completely blocked by heavy fallen timber on all sides, a regular trap. Turned in a "V" and travelled south-east, then edged into tamarack bush, and after travelling about a mile west, again struck down timber, and night coming on (5.30 p.m.) made a dry camp. Travelled to-day, including time lost in looking for trail out of down timber, eight and a half hours, actual time of travel about seven hours. A hard day on horses, travelling very bad and slow; average made barely two miles an hour. Distance about 13 miles; general direction west. A good trail could be got north of our route to avoid all this down timber.

Wednesday, 20th October.—Pepin and Wilson out this a.m. to find trail. Got good water and fair feed for horses within 200 yards of camp. Decide to stay here to-day and give horses a show and let men go out again to look for trail, as it only uses up