

poured through them like a sieve, and we could obtain no footing on the dry parts of the prairie with them, moreover, being thin in the soles, walking over a rough surface hurt the feet, and I must say that they were not at all comfortable. I had a pair of regimental boots in my valise, but as my feet had become swollen, the boots soon became too small for me. Some absurd order was in effect which prohibited us from wearing ankle boots, to which I must plead guilty in disobeying, for I had to take mine into wear. I may state as an excuse for my disobedience, I had tried to put my "beefs" on that morning by hammering them with a tent mallet, and failing in that attempt, had to get them on by thawing them out at Jack Cassey's fire.

This camping place (Wise) was about 21 miles from Humboldt, here Matt Coyne met one of his old friends, and while speaking of Matt, I think he was the best known man in the North West. Lots of his old Red River friends turning up all along the line of march. About 8 o'clock on the morning of the 8th April we started off again for Humboldt, and reached it that evening about 5 o'clock, camping for the night, and made a raid upon the only store in the place, capturing the stores of preserves and biscuits, which cost us, I suppose, exactly cent per cent more than their original value. I have never been in New York but I think it must be a larger town than Humboldt—Humboldt contains a store and a police station, that is the town. We saw in camp to-night two mounted messengers who had ridden from Battleford with despatches, they report the place as being closely invested with Indians, the white women and children in the police barracks for safety, and all on short rations. Next day, 14th April, we enjoyed a day's rest straightening up our things, washing socks and shirts, with Kit Inspection for the commanding officers. In the afternoon all the men of the battery paraded in "fighting order," viz., rifle, side-arms, and three pouches; had company drill and manual exercise, and as a lot of spectators from other corps were looking on we put on our best style. The mail coming in this afternoon brought us lots of newspapers and the war news was read with interest. One of my tent chums Bombadier Miller went out rabbit shooting to-day and talked us all to sleep with his exploits. Striking off across the prairie in the morning we reduced the length of our convoy by travelling two teams abreast. We were now striking for Clark's Crossing on the South Saskatchewan 91 miles from Humboldt, and 198 miles from Troy, going this route we intended to reach Prince Albert about the 25th of the present month, when we did get there time will show. Reaching our next camping place, Vermillion Lake, the Winnipeg Field Battery and "A" Battery both mounted picquet. On the picquet being paraded Col. Montezambert addressed us, saying, in effect, that as we were near the enemy, extra precautions were to be used, so as to prevent a surprise, and for that reason double sentries were