

purpose. Having an hour and a half to spare I walked to St. Frith's place a half mile distant & found them (another, sister Gurgin & himself) glad to see me. - Returning to J. Dennis, L. Newry & his assistant T. Allan, my assistant & I had dinner together & then we were off for good. In changing our horse at the halfbreeds' camp we were soon on the luxuriant sea of grass. Our pony was stupid & lazy, so that tiring by proceeding I handed the reins to my assistant. By 4 PM. we caught up to the train which had an hours start of us. a "spell" as the halfbreeds term a rest or halt was made, I started with another horse or pony and was glad of the change. - The halfbreed saws the spring weapon containing instruments & chronometer, while an indian rides along the 4 carts beating any pony that lags behind or starts eating grass as they are very much inclined to do. For night we camped at Dixon's 20 miles from Calgary. For food I am relying upon the various huts scattered along the trail, & for sleeping pitch one of my small tents. -

Sunday 24
cloudy

rain at night

Strayed horses delayed us starting till 7 a.m. - at 10-30 we were at Chamberlains 14 miles where we rested and took a hearty dinner of bacon & eggs. From the heavy rains the trail is not very good, being so often obliged to leave it & drive in the prairie which is at best rough in account of badger holes. - We next crossed the north branch of the Redwood at Scarlett's & at 5-30 reached Collins' where a spell was made, continuing then 5 miles farther when it began to rain & we camped. There being no stopping place here, there was no supper for us, altho I had bought a loaf of bread in the morning. -

Monday 25
rain
eve clear

A drizzling rain fell till after noon preventing our starting; I occupied my time in the cool damp tent writing while my assistant killed time sleeping, and the two halfbreeds smoking alter-

nately as the one was unfortunate in locating the stem of his pipe. It clearing a start was made by 3 P.M. and the tedious jolting over the wet road or rather prairie continued. As the trail is so muddy especially where the soil is heavy the driving is done along the side which is not beaten, full of badger holes and anything but pleasant to drive over especially at a faster gait than a walk. At Lone Pine - 60 miles out from Calgary we meet the first wood in this distance. The footpath of this place is now blown down but bluffs of aspen are seen.

Belanger D.L. who is re-running the 5th initial meridian I met at the small trading shop here. Rather picturesque country was next passed over - slightly rolling poplar thickets, shrubs & prairie and excellent grass. By evening 15 miles were covered and camp was pitched at Content's, a French-Canadian. He is a bachelor as most of the settlers and something of a case, having been in Montana for a number of years. He cooked a supper for us in his dirty kitchen, but being hungry as bears we enjoyed the meal. - When I asked him whether he knew my freighter - Pitras - he said no, later on he told me that Pitras was well to do - do you know him I said - Yes was the reply, - a short time ago you said you didn't know him - did I say that - Yes - well I lied - which struck me as being a very straightforward acknowledgment. Gordon - Inspector of Land Agencies Camped beside us, he has a good conveyance & good horses but starts too late in the morning to cover much ground. - Tonight towards sunset was the first time that we have been able to distinguish, since last Tuesday, what part of the heavens the sun is in during the day.

Tuesday 26
hot

By quarter after six we were on the road again passing over rich soil and an excellent stock country; in seven miles journeying we passed Ross' an English settler, here we saw the first spruce. At 81 miles from Calgary