

nearly 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 fast
 or 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
 and I met at the small trading shop here. Rather pic-
 turesque country was next passed over - slight 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 acknowl-
 edgment. 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

The banks of the Red Deer are aschus and the soil becomes sandier and covered with considerable brush. Quite a number of settler houses are seen and judging from the number of cattle and fenced fields with oats + potatoes are thriving. - The crossing of the Red Deer is at 88 miles, the river is about 600 ft. wide and at present the water is very high, and has a strong current. A ferry running along a wire rope suspended above the water carries our 6 Comanches across in three trips. On the next 7 to 8 miles to the Blind Man river nothing faster than a walk could be attempted. This last stream of about 100 ft width is crossed on a puntoon bridge, which fortunately was just finished, the bridge having been swept away by the high water. - Shipping is said to be the wettest for many years in this north western country. A "spell" was made here. While waiting I wandered to the house on the hill and inquired for bread, after I had entered the house I immediately saw that it denuded half tree ^(whiteford) and was certain that none would be obtained which was the case too, and I cannot say that I was particularly sorry thereat. - Hearing a sewing machine I walked into the adjoining & only other room in the house and found there two women, one at a sewing machine - a Domestic - the other sitting aimlessly on the lean and hungry but, gazing blankly into space. The walls of the room were papered with colored and other illustrations of the Young Ladies' Journal - a fashion paper, so that this dusky sister had at least the satisfaction of looking at the "bustle" of her fairer sister even if she could not have one herself; another mark of civilization in the room was an arfanette whereby the hum of the omnipresent mosquito could be accompanied by yards of music. - After our spell we again "hooked" up + continued for another 30 to 40 miles when a heavy thunderstorm overtook us + we hurriedly pitched camp.

rain at night