

Tree - Muskimoot - Bag
 - Muskimootack - (Little bags literally) = beans

September

night in camp, relating adventures in the plains, myself saying little preferring to listen to Charles & Sam. Ballendine. - Charles is undoubtedly a character and very amusing; a certain zest being given to his stories by his French-Canadian accent & imperfect English. - I shot a badger today in his hole but as we had no spade we failed to dig him out altho' we made an effort with the axe but when we found that his hole extended six feet along & under ground we gave it up.

heavy frost at night

Sunday 23
 fine

The journey is continued through rolling prairie with good grass although somewhat thin. We pass the burnt ground of a long prairie fire drifting eastward by the wind. An antelope or caribou is startled by us and scampers nimbly off. I halt and slowly wave my handkerchief knowing that this would attract its curiosity. It stopped - would gaze intently - give a peculiar utterance similar to that of the night-hawk we call white-pole, advance towards us, run off again, showing the peculiar white patch on its rump like a white patch in the seat of a pair of trousers. Thus it moved about in an arc of 90 degrees and within about 150 yards from us for nearly half an hour till the caribou came along for which I waited as the Indian had a rifle. But their approach was also a signal to it for its fleet & graceful departure. I would not wait for the Indian to pursue it. -

At noon we arrived at Swift Current on the C.P. Railway, and I felt the realization that home is now apparently near. - I dispose of the greater part of my camp outfit as it was not worth the transport, storage & use for another season. - Charles I instructs how to behave on railway as tomorrow morning I send him to Calgary, thence to find his way home some 200 miles. - As before stated this will be his first trip in 30 years & as good as if he had never made one before. -

I examine the quadruplex & other telegraph instruments under the charge of Mr. Draper, the A. station agent. At R. Denton I find very pleasant. - At 18-10 the train arrives and I speed eastward from the place that from which in the spring of 1884 I set out for my long journey to Hudson's Bay. Changes - and extreme ones have been so common with me for many years that no

particular surprise or sensation is caused by them. Everything is matter of fact & of course, whether seated in the Pullman or in camp, whether I am dressed in black & silk hat or in Halifax tweed. - - On the train I met Mr. Martin D.S. just returning from a survey in the mountains, he Mr. Macara & I spent some time chatting (the two were in the ordinary passenger coach).

Monday 24
cloudy
little rain

In the afternoon I make the acquaintance of S. Johnston of London Eng. He deals in geometrics. At 7-10 we are in Winnipeg & I again quarrel in the Classroom. A visit to the barber, then a bath & a general transmutation to civilization came over my personal appearance. The evening I spent at Mr. Kestler's where I met his niece Miss Laura Walker.

Tuesday 25
cloudy
raining

My first thought this morning was of Max - it being his birthday & I sent him a congratulatory telegram. - Busy writing etc. - The evening I spent at Levi's. I find them busy preparing for the approaching marriage tomorrow of Lily with Fred. G. Cox. -

Wednesday 26
raining

Being raining I did not set up my instruments. - On Sunday I forgot to mention that the quiet of the little hamlet Swift Current was only disturbed by the racing of about a dozen half-breed mounted on native ponies, making the dust of the dry prairie roll up in clouds behind the flight of the fleet horses. - One article of clothing is intensely characteristic of the half-breed, it is the sash; he never wears suspenders. In it is generally hung his "firebag" (cigar case for pipe & tobacco). I have met men whom I took to be white men - from their physique & speech but noticing the sash - that settled it - they were half-breed. - After dinner tonight Mr. Rowbottom got into conversation with me and he asked me many questions in astronomy, keeping me talking for nearly three hours & when I went to my room he said "never in my life have I learned so much in so short a time."

Thursday 27
cloudy, raining

In the afternoon Mr. Macara & I set up my instruments & at night I observed for their adjustment. -