

shot at a coyote, + I at another but we didn't get any. West stretched the camp again. Move my overleaves for the first time today. Jim and Brown wrapped up their feet in gummy sackings. A bitter cold day. I rode old John. The way he headed for camp at night was pleasant to see. Mack's dug-out works well now, + he is comfortable in it. The fireplace draws all right.

At night we had a grand pow-wow about our prospects for more buffalo, + decided to start day after tomorrow for a trip West. 8 or 9 days, to new country? The opinion is that there are not over 20 or 30 buffalo left in this country. At present we know of about 30 having been killed in this country during the last year. (1886), including all.

### Wednesday, Nov 10.

In camp all day, preparing to go away tomorrow. Fixed up clothes, guns, ammunition, etc. etc.

### Thursday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>

Went over to the Musselshell River, on the trail which runs east + west within a mile of our camp. Got an early start, + left West with Mack. Cold day, in the morning. Russell + I drove 3 horses. Brown drove the wagon, + Bost + Jim went by the STV to get some syrup + sugar. Road is good all the way. Got to the top of the divide the other side of Calf Creek about an hour before sunset. There then about 3 mi. from the river in a straight line, but 6 as the road winds to get there. Scenery looks very wild. High bluffs on both sides of the river, level bottom about half a mile wide, with patches of cottonwood timber + patches of red willows. In the breaks higher up are big patches of stunted pine and cedar + juniper. Taken as a whole the landscape was bold in outline, varied in color, + fine to look upon, - totally different from anything I ever saw before.

Jim + I left the road on the left, + turned down into a patch of pines to look for bear. Saw some mighty fresh tracks, but no bear.

The descent from the top of the divide to the river is very steep in places.

The wagon reached the bank of the river just about dark. Between two deep cordons, + it was too late to look down from a canyon.

Had to dig steps in a perpendicular bank 15 ft high so that the horses could get down to the water and up again. Had a lot of trouble.

Grass very poor & hard to find. Camped on the level. Plenty of good dry wood close at hand. & we had a roaring fire. While eating supper we heard the cry of an elk near camp.

Friday, Nov. 12.

Jim & I froze out last night & got up at 3 o'clock to build up the fire and sit by it. Russell got up & kept him company. & the made a roaring fire, made & baked bread, cooked dried apples & had breakfast ready by 5 o'clock.

We rolled out, ate, & sat by the fire until daylight, then pulled out. The horses went nearly up to the divide for grass.

Jim & I went together, into the pines E. of camp. These patches of evergreen timber are peculiar. The ground is a succession of little knolls and ridges & ravines, perfectly bare of grass & weeds, soft, "bad grounds" in fact, over which we ride or walk in without making the slightest noise.

It is capital ground to still-hunt in. The pines and cedars grow in little clumps, stunted, gnarled and twisted, bristling with dead limbs & exposed roots ready to snap at the slightest touch. Often when a pine or cedar is on a knoll the dirt falls away from around it like so much loose sand, & leaves the roots sticking out helplessly into the air, where they are soon dead & dry. Many of the stunted cedars that have died and lost their bark are twisted from root to topmost bough as if some terribler had made them of wire & torn.

Before starting out this morning we saw a flock of wild geese on the ice 300 yds below our camp. I went down and killed one fine big old fellow with No 6 shot, on the wing. In the evening we found the ice melted, & the same flock of geese swimming in stream. Jim went, loaded with big shot, killed one dead, on the ice, & winged one, which we got with much trouble.

This seems to be a fine country for game, to judge by the tracks.

Brown went out on foot, & saw 2 fine white-tailed deer, one buck.

Had black-tail steaks for supper.