

GREAT WESTERN ELEVATOR BURNED

Coal Sheds and Contents of the Great Western and Acme Companies Go.

Fire was discovered in the Great Western elevator shortly after midnight last Friday and the clang of the fire bell brought out the citizens in double quick order.

The fire is thought to have started in the driveway at the west end and had gained such headway that the attention of the fire boys was turned to saving other buildings in the path of the devouring flames. Fanned by quite a strong wind burning bits of lumber was carried the entire length of the street and buildings in the extreme north part of town were not out of danger. The bucket brigade made a gallant fight against the mad flames in protecting nearby dwellings, and with the wind blowing that way, that they managed to save them attests the efficacy of their struggles.

Fire caught in the coal shed adjoining the elevator and spread to the shed of the Acme Grain company. Both were burned with their contents—amounting in all to about 200 tons. Ed Rhodes lost between 30 and 40 ton of soft coal that he had unloaded into the Acme shed just the day before. The Great Western office was also consumed with all the books of the company and personal belongings of Buyer Evers amounting to at least \$100.

About 300 bushels of grain was in the elevator.

Though the exact origin of the fire will never be ascertained, it is thought that some hobos were sleeping under the driveway and carelessly dropped a match or a spark from a cigarette or pipe.

The debris is being cleared away and a force of men will be here tomorrow to commence operations for a new and much larger and more modern structure than the one just burned.

The fire brings to mind the pressing need of better fire protection for the village. The chemical is sufficient in a case where a fire has just started but where it has gained a headway it becomes inadequate. And the bucket brigade is handicapped when it comes to fighting a fire at close range. Another thing that may be timely is to have those weeds cut and raked away. THE TIMES is of the opinion that we got away lucky and that an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

More Land for Settlers.

By a recent order of the department of the interior, the large tract of land along the Missouri river in Williams and McKenzie counties, which was withdrawn for irrigation purposes on June 18, 1902, will be restored to settlement and entry this fall.

In order to secure 160 acres of this land, it is necessary to live upon it and improve it for five years, or if the homesteader desires, he may make commutation proof at the end of fourteen months by paying the government \$1.50 an acre.

The land is very desirable, and it is expected it will be eagerly sought when opened to settlement. All filings must be made at the United States land office in Williston.