

# YOUNG LAD SUFFOCATED IN FLAX BIN AT HAMAR

## Arne Knapp Meets Tragic Death While Employed in Brother's Elevator at Hamar.

Binford residents were shocked to the extreme Tuesday by the news of the death of Arne Knapp by suffocation in a bin of flax, while employed by his brother, Peter, in an elevator at Hamar, the town west of Tolna on the G. N. Aneta extension.

The accident occurred about noon on Tuesday. The young lad had been engaged in loading a car with flax, and owing to the fact that some of the grain was unthreshed at the time of the first snowfall, and later uncovered and threshed, it was quite raw when hauled to the elevator. By lying in the bin it became crusty and would not run out of spout as rapidly as it should. Young Arne asked his brother the reason why it wouldn't run and was told it was because it was raw and had formed a crust. He then said he would go up in the bin and loosen it up, but was warned not to. He paid no heed to the advice, however, and went up when his brother was in the car. After the elder Mr. Knapp had returned from the car he asked another man, who was in the elevator, if Arne had gone up and was informed that he had, but he had not seen him come down again. Mr. Knapp thought that sufficient time had elapsed for him to go up and come down again, and he was then struck with the idea that something had befallen the lad. Going up to the top of the elevator, he investigated, but could see nothing in the bin, so he returned to the ground floor and reached up into the spout and felt the feet of his brother.

There was no other alternative in getting him out except in emptying the grain in the bin and this could not be accomplished very quickly owing to the condition of the grain, and also because of his feet obstructing the flow into the spout. With the aid of a crowbar his feet were pried apart which allowed the grain to come through. There were about 200 bushels of flax in the bin.

A doctor was summoned as

soon as the discovery was made and arrived just when the body had been released and carried to the ground floor. About 40 minutes intervened during this time. Upon examination it was found life was extinct.

The remains were taken to Pe-kin, and from there were brought to Binford, where the funeral will be held on either the second or third day of Christmas—the exact date not being definitely decided at the time of this writing.

This is, indeed, a tragic ending of a young life, and what makes it doubly sorrowful is that his brother, Martin, met his death by much the same strange hand of Fate, by drowning in Stump lake in Nelson county, only a few miles from the scene of young Arne's death, while on a hunting expedition with two companions from Binford. This occurred about seven years ago.

Arne Knapp was born in Vestre Toten, Norway, 17 years ago on October 31 last, and was the youngest of nine children. Besides the mother and father to mourn the loss, there is John, who lives in Binford, Otto of Pe-kin, Peter of Hamar, Ella of Cooperstown, and Ole, Even, Clara and Johanna, who are living at home in Norway. He came to Binford direct from the old home last March. Since then he has worked at various jobs here and about three months ago went to Hamar, to help his brother in the elevator.

Arne made many friends here. His disposition was of that degree of excellence that soon attached itself to others and made him a faithful and true companion.

To the bereaved relatives we can only offer our sincere condolences. Only the memory of the boy is left. This life has passed into the joy of his Lord, and the memory must prove a perpetual inspiration.

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