

Destroyed By Fire!

The Great Western Elevator Burned Up Last Friday Night.

The toot-toot toot of the Northern Pacific engine followed closely by the clang of the fire bell, last Friday night about 7:30 p. m., told only too truly that the dreaded fire fiend had broken loose. It did not take many seconds to find out that the Great Western elevator was in flames and that the fire had a good headway before the alarm was turned in. The fire department turned out promptly and steam was up long before the hose was laid across the railroad track a distance of over fifteen hundred feet. It was seen on reaching the fire that it would be impossible to save the elevator and a steady stream was turned on the surrounding buildings and lumber piles. It took hard and valiant work on the part of the department to keep the fire confined to the burning elevator, the lumber piles and some of the other buildings catching fire repeatedly. The wind, though not strong, carried burning cinders a distance of several blocks, and these burning cinders and pieces of flying boards and shingles threatened to burn up the town, fortunately, however, the people were on the alert and no other fires occurred. Had the fire spread to some of the lumber sheds every elevator, the lumber yards, depot, and possibly Cooperstown, would be in ruins today. It was nothing more or less than the fire engine and a good supply of water that saved the whole thing. The little engine was well handled by the engineers and she paid for herself ten times over last Friday night. The firemen and citizens worked like beavers and it is also due to their hard work that no further fires occurred. For a long time the fate of the yards and elevators hung in the balance but luck was on our side and the burning elevator fell in small sections and gradually settled in one pile instead of scattering. Twenty thousand bushels of wheat were in the building, most of which of course is ruined, while some of it can be used for feed. The fire originated in the lean-to or dust room of the elevator, and as no one was in the building and everything was locked up and no fire of any kind had been in the building, it is hard to say what started the fire. The theory is that a spark from the N. P. engine might have got into the building and ignited the dry material inside. Agent Stewart was making out his reports at the hotel when the alarm was turned in and says he cannot account for the fire as there is no machinery in the room where the fire originated so that friction could not have caused the fire. In addition to the loss of the elevator, Crane & Johnson lost between 30,000 and 40,000 lath, several cords of woods, some two by fours and considerable lumber damaged. Agent Stewart did not know the amount of insurance carried but says his company is fully insured. It was a lucky fire for Cooperstown, if there is any luck in fires at all, and we apprehend that none of our citizens are kicking on the town being so far from the railroad track and lumber yards, neither is anybody kicking on the Cooperstown fire department.