

Struck by Lightning. ✓

Last Saturday night this section was visited by a severe electric storm and about 10 p. m., R. C. Cooper's new elevator was struck by lightning and was burned to the ground, together with 3,000 bushels of wheat and 4,000 bushels of barley. The fire started right in the roof at the northwest corner and burned very slowly and had anyone been able to get up there with a fire extinguisher the elevator could have been saved. It was some time after the building was struck before an alarm was turned in and the sound of the fire bell and the mill whistle soon brought the terrified citizen to the fire. An unfortunate accident occurred to the engine on the start which knocked out the fire department for at least half an hour, and when water was finally secured the fire had too much headway and the only thing that could be done was to save surrounding buildings. A box car belonging to the N. P. was also burned up. The fire department succeeded in saving the brick engine house with the engines belonging to the elevator. It was a hot fire and the fact that it rained just previous undoubtedly saved other elevators and the lumber yards. Mr. Cooper had \$2500 insurance on the grain and \$4550 on the building. He has already wired for lumber and material and will build again just as fast as he possibly can. Mr. Cooper's loss above his insurance will be between \$2000 and \$3000.