

## Suffers a

# Heavy Loss

NELS JOHNSON LOOSES BIG BARN  
AND CONTENTS BY FIRE  
TUESDAY MORNING

Early Tuesday morning the large barn of Nels Johnson, located on his farm, northwest of Courtenay, was discovered on fire, which had gained such headway by the time of discovery, that it was impossible to save any of the contents.

The barn was a large handsome structure, and at the time contained 25 head of horses, 5 cows, 2 wagons, 900 bushels of oats, 600 bushels of seed wheat, about 50 tons of hay, all the harness, a large belt worth \$100, and many more things, all of which were consumed. The animals perished in their stalls, not one getting out.

Mr. Johnson awoke about five o'clock in the morning and went to the window and looking toward the barn, saw a mass of flames. Immediately help was summoned, but nothing could be done, and within a short time, what was a few hours before, one of the finest built barns in that part of the country, was in ruins, together with contents.

The time the fire started is not known, but it must have started early in the morning. Mr. Johnson was in the barn at 10 o'clock in the evening and everything seemed alright. The cause of the fire is not known, but naturally the first cause advanced would be that someone set fire to the barn, and again such does not seem possible, for Mr. Johnson has never been known to have a real enemy, one who would take such means for getting even for a grudge he held, but if such was the case it is an awful thing to do, for the loss of the dumb animals, who had no chance of escape ought to have been considered, if nothing else.

The loss is not known at this time, but it will total in the neighborhood of \$8000. A number of hogs, sheltering in a straw pile, which caught fire, were lost, the number, Mr. Johnson was not able to state. The total insurance on the barn and contents was \$1500.