

PRAIRIE FIRES.

On Saturday a prairie fire south of Page burned the ties in the Great Northern Ry. so that a train could not come up until it was repaired. It burned quite a number of telegraph poles and broke the wire. The wire was repaired at once.

There was a fire, also, just south of town that burned over a large part of the country and endangered many places. It required hard fighting to save the buildings of different farmers. Willis Gray and Frank Gray each lost 30 tons of hay, Frank Algeo lost about 2,000 bushels of wheat and Al. Algeo, 1,000 bushels of oats.

The fire that, came nearly being disastrous for Hope, came upon us yesterday from a south-west direction. Had it not been for hard work and the railway line acting as a break, in all probability there would not have been a place left to mark the site of Hope. Last night the Pioneer staff rang up the citizens, just before midnight, to face a fire that came rolling in from the Northwest.

The fire yesterday made a header through the Cemetery and the destroyed shrubbery, the blackened tombstones, the destroyed G. A. R. monument and the delapidated fences tell of the awful march of the fiery element.

Talk as you may, the Pioneer sounded the fire warning long ago and asked for a fire-break to be made. No notice was taken. This is twice, now, since 1800, that our town has had a hair-breadth escape from destruction, by prairie fires. Will the people never learn? Some of our people seem to be, "penny wise and pound foolish" about this matter and they generally have their way, while the majority plead in vain for safety. Our town was incorporated and we elect trustees to secure us against just such dangers. Some say it will cost a dollar or two, each, for a break. What if it does? Is it not a premium on a good assurance? We all pay from \$20 to \$50 per \$1000 insurance from inside dangers but when a paltry dollar or two is required for safety, of our all, from outside dangers a howl goes about expense. We hope to never be called upon again to witness such carelessness and be required to return the childish arguments raised.