

Elevators Burn.

Three Large Grain Elevators Burned Up Tuesday.

The Monarch, Cargill and Hammer-Halvorson-Beier Co. elevators in this city were totally destroyed by fire Tuesday morning. The fire started about 3:45 a. m., and the most peculiar thing is that one started at one end of the elevator yards and the other at the other end, some 700 feet, at the same time, or within a very few minutes, which would lead people to suspect that they were purposely set on fire. The Monarch elevator was first noticed to be on fire and the flax mill gave the alarm. Immediately after the second elevator was discovered to be on fire and both were burning fiercely before the department got out and by that time were beyond any hope of saving, in fact with our limited fire apparatus nothing could be done toward saving the elevators. The fire quickly spread to the Hammer elevator and then started in a hard fight to save the electric light plant from destruction. Something happened to the fire engine and things began to look bad for it but the flax mill people came to the rescue in fine shape and just as soon as the hose could be attached to that plant a good stream of water was furnished and the plant was saved. It was a hard and valiant fight from start to finish and Mr. Piatt can congratulate himself on having his business saved. The flax mill boys deserve great credit for the work done to assist the town in fighting the flames. Several times the roof of the Great Western elevator caught fire but was put out by some of the boys crawling out on the roof and pouring water on the fire. The lumber yards were also threatened and for a time it looked as if we would have a fire of much larger scope, but the weather conditions were favorable for us, not a bit of wind, and the sparks and burning lumber was not carried very far. There was some grain in each elevator burned but not a very large amount. The Hammer Company's house contained some 5,000 bushels, the others we have not learned. All of them were undoubtedly insured. It seems to be the general verdict that the buildings were purposely fired but just why anybody should want to destroy property and endanger others is hard to fathom. Some advance the theory that spontaneous combustion did it but it does not look reasonable to us as the two fires were 700 feet apart. At least fifty thousand dollars worth of property was destroyed by this fire. The Hammer-Halvorson-Beier Co. will rebuild at once.