

—Last Friday afternoon, at about 3 o'clock, a large crowd of excited people might be seen rushing toward the northern portion of our town, carrying weapons of every conceivable kind—mops, brooms, carpets—anything available. The cause of the commotion was a huge prairie fire which was swooping down upon the town from the north and which threatened to annihilate it. The fire fiend was fought fiercely for about two hours and was quenched just before it reached the buildings in the north part of town. Several parties lent their energies and that of their teams in the efforts to stop the flames. Some noble efforts were made by the fighters to save the hay stacks in the wake of the fire, but they were all burned but one—entailing a loss of several hundred tons of hay. The old Hope House, which has stood for so many years north of town, was enveloped in flames several times but was saved from destruction. It is said that fire has burned several times in late years all around that old house, but each time it has been saved. Some say the reason is that the old house is haunted and will not burn. The citizens, together with a number from the surrounding country did valiant service in fighting the flames, and but for their prompt action the town would have been in ruins. The fire is said to have started on Mr. J. A. White's tree claim, from a burning straw pile, and gradually worked its way with the aid of a strong north wind through the stubble upon the said land to the tall grass upon the prairie. Great caution should be used in burning straw at this time as the grass is so dry that it is easily ignited and the fire from it is not easily checked.