

Two Fires

In Sutton

Retzlaff Elevator Burned Saturday. Minnekota Coal Sheds Destroyed early Tuesday Morning

This place was visited by another bad fire Saturday afternoon, this time it being A. H. Retzlaff's elevator that was destroyed. He had been elevating grain and grinding feed all day, and about four o'clock Harold Davidson saw smoke issuing from the extreme top of the building. He gave the alarm, but the fire had gotten such a start that it was seen at once the elevator could not be saved. Willing hands got busy and removed the office furniture, safe etc. as well as the grinding mechanism of the feed mill, which was all that could be accomplished. The fire burned slowly, and the wind being in the north, there was no great danger at any time of any other buildings catching on fire. The Minnekota coal sheds which were but a few feet from the elevator were saved at that time by water from the tank of a locomotive that was brought from Glenfield. We, of Sutton, can thank our lucky stars that the wind was not blowing from the south, for if it had been the town would surely have gone

up in smoke.

The cause of the fire was due no doubt to something going wrong with the machinery in the cupola, a hot box, loose pulley or something of a similar nature.

The elevator contained about nine thousand bushels of grain, principally wheat which was fully insured. Mr. Retzlaff carried \$10,000 insurance on the elevator, but none so we hear, on the feed mill part. The loss he feels most is that of the fine two-cylinder, 25 horse gas engine, which could not be replaced for less than \$1,500. He has not made any plans for the future, of course, but at present thinks he will rebuild some time.

Coal Sheds Burn

Once more the alarm was sounded about 2:30 Tuesday morning, the Minnekota coal sheds having caught fire. H. S. Taylor was on duty as watchman at the elevator ruins, and at one o'clock everything appeared safe, so he went to the farmers elevator office, set his alarm clock for 2:30. When he awoke he found the entire roof of the shed had burned off except a few boards at the west end. The shed contained about three car loads of coal, 15 or 20 tons being hard coal. This is all on fire, and it is possible that it will burn for a week or two. The hazard from this may not be great, but we shall all feel easier as long as there are no strong winds from the south.