

Park County Bulletin, October 20, 1905

Alma Has a Blaze.

Alma had a fire Wednesday night, the first of any consequence in her life of a quarter of a century. The blaze started in the town hall, a large frame three story front, as perfect a kindling box as could have been selected to give impetus to a conflagration. The fine residence property of W. P. Stanley was next in the way of the flames and the contiguous row of frame dwellings and shops down to the St. Nicholas hotel were all destroyed, either by fire or were blown to atoms by giant powder in the effort made to get it under control. It has been often said that if a fire ever got fairly started in Alma, at a point to properly spread, that the whole town must burn. Under almost any circumstances other than those existing Wednesday night, this would doubtless, have proven true, and the upper t side of Main street would most likely have been swept of every ; building down to the school building at its lower end on this occasion, had it not been for the j struggle made to get the flames J checked. Giant powder was used j freely, whole cases being placed in a building and discharged, the j force being sufficient to send the entire structure high in the air in splintered fragments.

Then the little army of citizens, aided by citizens of Fairplay, who came up and worked like Trojans to clear away the debris ahead of the flames. By this means it was possible to check the flames in time to save the St. Nicholas hotel, but this was only made possible by there being about two inches of snow on the roofs of buildings, which made them burn more slowly and the roofs of adjoining buildings less quick to ignite than if they had been dry. A little snow was also falling at the time of the fire and the wind varied just enough from the northwest to protect the buildings on the opposite side of the street.

The limited water defense was of little avail. The tire engine has long been out of fix and could not be used. A bucket line was formed and at the close of the fight did splendid work. In the beginning, a little stream from the Eugene had it been in working order, would have prevented any spread to other buildings and perhaps would have saved the hall with moderate damage. Under all the circumstances, however, the checking of the flames with the the destruction of a block, was lucky and a splendid piece of work. Never did men work harder to accomplish an object than did the fire fighters on this occasion.

Owners of property destroyed are : W. P. Stanley, residence ; Charles Hagmau. residence : W. H. Hunter, two buildings ; J. J. Shuck, two buildings ; Jacop Gregory, old store building : McCoy, dwelling : G. W. Brunk 2 buildings Mrs. Stetzel, town hall ; J. E. Doliison, part of assay office equipment. There was very little insurance carried, the Stanley property, we understand, being the only one, and that for less than one-third of its value.

FIRE HEROS. The boys at Pork City ran the quarantine aud came over to help fight the fire. Good boys. The Fairplay men who came up and helped fight fire are entitled to high praise and have the thanks of Alma people for their aid. The railroad boys from the

station were up and did their full share of fire fighting, and miners in reach did the same
Everybody worked.

Regrets are useless. Censure for cause does not cure the effect. It is a good time to
think and to act, as far as may be possible, in a way to prevent a reoccurrence of 1 fires
with the losses and suffering they entail. j