

OBSERVATION TOWER AT FOX RANCH BURNED

All-Star Ranch, North Kildonan, Threatened With Destruction Last Night

Records of Valuable Stock Destroyed in Spectacular Conflagration

The observation tower of the All Star Fox ranch, North Kildonan, was last night utterly destroyed by a fire, the cause of which is unknown. The blaze, which it is presumed, commenced around 6.30 p.m., was not discovered until half an hour later when the men on duty at the ranch, emerging from the bunkhouse discovered the tower in a mass of flames.

Early efforts to combat the conflagration were confined to the staff of the ranch and the surrounding neighbors, who in a remarkably short time had a string of buckets and the pump operating very efficiently. Owing to the fact that the scene of the flames is situated outside urban limits, it was beyond the territory of the East Kildonan Fire department. All possibility of saving the tower was obvious when a detachment from No. 7 brigade arrived from Winaipeg, but by confining their attention to the barn they saved this structure, which at one time it was feared would also catch fire, owing to a stack of hay in the close vicinity being alight.

Fortunately none of the valuable stock on the ranch has been lost, but the sleeping quarters situated in the tower, and the chinchilla rabbit records along with the personal papers of Captain Jones, who is in charge of the rabbit department, are beyond recovery.

The tower which is 100 feet high presented an imposing spectacle at the height of the conflagration, lighting up the surrounding country for quite a considerable distance. The tower as are the other buildings on the ranch is covered by insurance.