

FIREMEN HAVE NARROW ESCAPE

Virginia Men Charged With Having Too Much Gasoline Stored in Barn and Face Arrest.

(Range Bureau of the News Tribune.)

VIRGINIA, Minn., April 30.—Jacob and Reuben Latz, two business men of Virginia, will be arrested for alleged violation of the gasoline ordinance and Deputy State Fire Marshal Sam Fullerton will be requested to make an investigation as the result of a fire which occurred yesterday in the barn in the rear of Latz brothers residence at 222 Hickory street.

It is stated that but for the mere accident that a driver of the Standard Oil wagon happened along the street just a few minutes after the arrival of the fire department and warned the chief that the big tank which stood in the midst of a pile of the burning hay contained a large supply of gasoline, the whole department present might have been hurled into eternity.

The matter is considered of sufficient importance to warrant investigation and City Attorney D. D. Morgan stated today that the Latz brothers would be arrested.

When the fire department responded to the alarm, they found the barn and shed one mass of flames. Two horses were taken to places of safety by the firemen and the hose lines were played at close range on the burning bales of hay which filled a portion of the shed. Underneath the hay was a 100-gallon galvanized iron tank.

"Is there anything in that tank?" asked the chief of Mr. Latz, who was present.

"No, nothing at all," replied Mr. Latz.

Just then the Standard Oil driver appeared, and said: "Look out there boys, there's gasoline in that tank. I put 50 gallons in a couple of days ago."

The iron tank was surrounded by a mass of burning hay and the ground around was littered up with a quantity of planing mill shavings used as bedding for the horses in the barn. When the great danger of the gasoline exploding was known to Chief Thayer, he immediately detailed a man to play a stream of water on the tank, and the danger was eliminated, although the heat had melted off the cover of the tank in places.