

NEARLY LOST A LEG

FRED SWENSON BOARDS MOVING ELEVATOR WITH BAD RESULTS.

Gets Caught Between the Carriage and Floor at Freimuth's Department Store and an Axe is Necessary to Release Him—Had Been Admonished to Keep Away But Paid no Heed.

It was a close call for Fred Swenson, aged 16, a boy employed in the store of I. Freimuth last night, when he became gay with a freight elevator in the store. The boy got his leg caught between the elevator and the first floor and had assistance not arrived in time and stopped the elevator he might have been a leg short today. Young Swenson, who has been in the store but a short time, had been admonished, together with the other boys, to keep away from the elevator, but, boy-like, he contrived to steal a ride occasionally. Late yesterday afternoon Swenson had to go upstairs and feeling that a ride was easier than a walk, jumped on the elevator which was then ascending. He caught it just as it was passing the first floor. His left foot caught somehow, he does not exactly know how, and the moving elevator began to crush his leg. He shouted for assistance and Joseph Medley, an employe of the store, responded, stopping the elevator. It is declared that had this not been done when it was, young Swenson would have been dreadfully crushed. As it was it proved necessary to chop away the wood of the elevator from around his leg in order to get it out without crushing it.

The leg was squeezed badly and the boy may be lame for some time, but beyond that and getting a bad scare, he is all right. Swenson lives on Fifty-ninth avenue west.