

# SCHOOL HOUSE BURNED

## TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE SATURDAY NIGHT ABOUT 12 O'CLOCK

One of the Old Land Marks of Griggs County, Built Twenty Odd Years Ago.

The burning of our school house has settled two very important facts, viz: That we have got to build a new school house right away and also to build one not only adequate for present needs but for a great many years to come. There is also another important fact to be considered and that is location. We firmly believe that a majority of the tax payers will agree with the **COURIER** in the statement that it would be foolish to erect a modern building on the old site if there is any possible way to avoid it. It is in the extreme corner of the town and too far for small scholars living in the south half of the town and that part of the city is growing faster than any other. When the new building is built there will be no primary school and the little folks will have to go to the big school. If the building is brought this way if only a couple of blocks it will make a big difference to them, two or three times a day. We don't think \$2500 should be considered very long when we are building for future years. Let us locate the school where it won't be a reproach to us in after years. There is no show for the town to grow beyond the present site—it will grow away from it. Why put a good building away out in the country. The **COURIER** would rather see a good building on the old site than a poor one on a new site, but we don't believe this will be necessary. We feel as if the difficulty can be overcome. The matter is up to the tax payers, and they will have to decide the matter. The board has a hard job before it and the ways and means to build will come hard. The **COURIER** is in favor of harmony for the best good for the whole town and in advocating a new site is simply voicing sentiments that have been expressed by the heaviest tax payers for years past. We have an opportunity to remedy a big mistake made when the school house was first built, while we have this chance let us accept it—no build on the old site and regret it afterwards.

The old school house is nothing more now than a heap of charred ruins and ashes. About 11:30 Saturday night a member of the Greenland family turned in an alarm to the effect that the school house was on fire and the fire alarm soon called out the department. It was discovered on reaching the building that the entire basement underneath the new part on the northeast corner was a seething mass of flames and at no time was there any chance of saving the structure.

It takes about 2000 feet of hose to reach the school house, and with only one stream playing, it was impossible to subdue the fire. No one knows how the fire started, but it was very evident that it was in the basement on the northeast corner of the building. Everything in the building, including a very fine library, all school books, laboratory, fixtures, organ, etc., went up in smoke. An effort was made to save the library and other things but the smoke was too dense and nothing could be done. The old school building was built in the early eighties and cost the district a big sum of money. Every stick and piece of material was hauled from Sanborn by team before the railroad reached Cooperstown. It was not a beautiful building, but it had a great history—one of the old land marks of this section.

This school district is not in very good shape for building a school house, but we have a conservative board of education and we are positive that each member will work for the best interests of the town and a building will be built commensurate with the needs of the community. It is to be regretted that the school house burned at this time with all the books and fixtures, but it cannot be helped. Temporary quarters will have to be secured around town and the school will probably be started up again next week. Insurance to the amount of \$5,800 was carried on the building, fixtures, etc., distributed as follows: \$1,200 on fixtures in the Springfield Fire and Marine Company; \$600 on furnace, fixtures, etc., in the Palatine of London, Eng.; \$2,000 on building in the German American of N. Y.; \$1,000 on building in the North American Insurance Company of Philadelphia; \$1,000 on building in the Greenwich, New York.

Commenting upon the recent decision of the supreme court in the Merger Case, Collier's Weekly, which is an independent paper, has the following to say: "Three Democrats and one Republican formed the minority small comfort for the so called but, on the other hand, we can not allow individuals so to use their property as to become essentially despotic. Experience has shown that combinations of capital may contain grave dangers to American ideals, and therefore must be watched. We