

The farm house of Western Houghton, who lives two miles west of town, together with all the contents, burned to the ground Monday morning and Mr. Houghton and family barely escaped with their lives. The cause of the fire is not positively known. Some think it was caused by a defective chimney while others think that a lamp exploded and set fire to the house. Mr. Houghton got up that morning between four and five o'clock and lighted the kitchen fire, as he was going away for wood and wanted to get an early start. After lighting the fire he jumped back into bed and fell asleep and was awakened by smoke pouring into his room. He jumped up and found the kitchen entirely enveloped in flames and the outlets to the outside blocked so that it was necessary for him to break out a window before he could get out of the house with his family. Nothing was saved and they had to leave partly dressed. Wilmot Houghton saw the fire from the ranch and got over to Western's as fast as possible but by the time he got there the house was gone. Western and his family were taken over to Wilmot's in the meantime. We understand that the building was insured also the furniture.