

# Mercantile Store

## Burned Saturday

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Sutton was visited by a disastrous fire Saturday evening which completely destroyed the Sutton Mercantile store. About seven o'clock Mr. Hoff started to fill the gas light tank when suddenly there was a terrific explosion. He ran and closed the door into the grocery department, and then went down in the cellar to see if any children were playing there. By the time he returned to the main floor the alarm had been given but the flames were getting in their deadly work, and it was seen that there was no chance to prevent their spread. The fire gained such headway that, within half an hour nothing but a heap of ruins remained of what had been one of the finest stores in the state.

It is thought there was a lighted cigar stub on the floor near the tank, and that the fumes from the gasoline came in contact with it sufficiently to start the trouble.

The building and stock were insured for about \$25,000 but this will not near cover the loss as the company had almost twice that amount invested.

It is not known at present whether the company will rebuild or not.

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