

SCHOOL PLANT BURNED

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INDIAN Day School No. 82 burned on the night of February 10, 1914. The fire was discovered about 11 P. M. Heroic efforts were made to save the building, but it was past saving when the fire was discovered. It was so intensely cold, and had been for several days, that even the water in the government wells was frozen and the pump was frozen in the school well. Also the fire extinguishers, most of them, had frozen right by the side of the stove in the houses where each was kept charged, so were useless. The thermometer stood at 52 degrees below zero at the nearby town of Tower that night, according to published weather reports from that place. So there was no possible chance to fight the fire. Further, the fire had got such headway that it was impossible to go near enough to it to use the fire extinguishers that were in working condition. When discovered the fire was consuming the kitchen and sewing-room and had burned through the wall and was running back in through the garret over the school-room and smoke was issuing in great volumes from the garret window at the opposite end of the building, so it was all afire in the loft.

The lunch supplies for the school, also the goods and supplies (ready-made clothing and material to be made into clothing) to be issued to the children was also stored in the building and practically everything burned, even the school books. The total loss will aggregate between six and seven thousand dollars.

As a result of the fire 73 children will have very poor school accommodation till a new plant can be erected. A part of the children will be taught in the old log school building that was used before the new plant was erected last year. The assistant teacher's pupils will use the abandoned store-room of J. C. Clark and company as a school room temporarily. Efforts are being made to get a new plant erected to replace the one burned before the close of the fiscal year.

The burning of the school building is a mystery. There had been no fire in the building after 4 P. M. The fire started in the kitchen, but the cook stove was taken out of the room in a cold condition (it was the only stove in the room) by the fire fighters. When the fire fighters broke open the room they found that the woodbox had burned and the floor had burned beneath it, but the rest of the floor in the room had not burned. From this woodbox the fire had run up the wall and had attacked the sewing-room above the cook-room. How a fire could have got in the woodbox 7 hours after school had closed and everyone had left the build-