

# CLOSE CALL FOR BIG FIRE.

Toynton & Clark and Charley Frank  
Scorched, Smoked and Flooded.

The Fire Company Entitled to Great  
Credit for Efficient Work Done.

What promised to be the most disastrous fire Edgerton has seen for many years started about 7 o'clock Wednesday evening in the basement of Toynton & Clark's grocery, by the explosion of an oil lamp which was kept burning for the purpose of ripening a large quantity of bananas. The scattering oil immediately communicated to the oil tank used for kerosene and sooner than it takes to tell, dense volumes of smoke and flames were issuing from the basement filling the entire store. Mr. Toynton was seated at the desk at work on his books at the time and devining the cause ran to the cellar door, saw the flames and returned to notify his family living in the rooms above. By this time the store room was so filled with smoke that he had no opportunity to gather up his books or close his safe or even remove any of his stock. The alarm was quickly sounded by people standing in front of the store, the engine placed at the cistern opposite and in a remarkably short time water was ready to be turned on to the fire. Dense volumes of burning oil poured out from every window and crevice of the block, so stifling that the firemen could not enter the building at any point. Water was turned into the basement windows from both front and rear, but the fire being located about the center of the long basement was difficult to get at. After a while the flames worked up into the partition between Chas. Frank's saloon and the store where it could be gotten at with the hose and held in check. The firemen fought the fire from every point for nearly two hours, all the time it being a question whether they would be able to hold it down. About 9 o'clock the smoke began to diminish and a few moments later firemen were able to get into the building and the fire was got under control. In view of the large amount of property in danger, Mayor Heddles thought best to ask the fire department of Janesville to have ready an extra engine in case the fire got beyond the control of the home facilities. Fortunately, however, it was not needed but Chief Spencer showed a willingness to assist us that was commendable.

Our steamer never worked better nor the department harder else the result might have been different. The department was put to a severe test and were found equal to the emergency, for which every citizen is thankful.

The block in which the fire occurred is owned by H. R. Lidicke and the Hausman Brewing Co., of Madison, on which insurance of \$6,000 is held by both parties, covering all losses. Toynton & Clark have insurance of \$1,500 on the stock, \$150 on fixtures, and Toynton \$350 on household goods which is believed to cover their losses. Chas. Frank was also fully insured on his saloon stock and fixture by \$2,400 insurance. It is probable that the total loss will not exceed \$2,000 or \$2,500 so that none of the parties need suffer greatly by the fire. Considerable property was removed from the adjoining building during the fire to places of safety and damaged somewhat in the hurry of removal.