

BURNING OF MAIN SCHOOL BUILDINGS. 1916

A Week of Loss, Love & Labor. By Mrs. J.H. House

On April 19th. Dr. House cables: "Accidental fire burned school house. Housed in farm buildings. School continues. All well."

A brief record of the interesting week that followed:

Saturday, April 15th:

The fire started through the carelessness of a young workman who was to repair the eaves troughs. Without reporting himself, he took a pan of coals to the roof. (To heat his soldering iron) Somehow the roof took fire. A terrible wind was blowing and once started, nothing could save the building. French soldiers from a camp near by came very soon, and, thanks to a few moments of hard work, a good many important things were saved, but nothing remained of the building except the walls. While the fire still raged, two Red Cross Ambulances arrived with provisions, also the first gift of 100 francs from a young American private from a French hospital camp.

Sunday

The American Consul and his wife with other friends from the city came to express sympathy and remained for a service under the trees.

Monday

Before breakfast, Dr. House and the boys started on the foundations of the cream separator which had been saved, so that the work of the farm might go on with as little interruption as possible. In the afternoon three representatives of the Scottish Woman's Camp came to express sympathy, and the nurses from the Canadian Camp sent notes of sympathy and fifty francs besides food.

Tuesday.

A meeting of the executive committee with the following decisions: The burned building to be rebuilt at once, first, because it was necessary for the continuation of the School and also that the standing walls might not become useless with exposure. That more silk worms be purchased to replace those burned. In the afternoon came a loan of 25 blankets and three cots, beside a big bag of clothing for the boys, who had lost all but what they had on at the time of the fire.

Wednesday.

The settling of all in new improvised quarters. The offer

IV/19/16 Sunday School 1916