



\* INDEPENDENT \*

LACONIA, N. H., FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

## \$50,000 FIRE.

## Gilmanton Iron Works Swept by Conflagration.

Nearly one-half of the little village of Gilmanton Iron Works was wiped out by fire during the early hours of last Friday morning, the property destroyed including the Charles Dockham business block, the Arthur Chase store, the Free Baptist church, a schoolhouse, a wood-working mill, and about a dozen dwellings. The total loss is estimated at \$50,000, and only a small insurance was carried in most instances.

The property destroyed was as follows: Buildings of Osborne Price, loss \$2000, small insurance; buildings of Lizzie Connell, \$1000; Mitchell & Cutcliff, furniture, automobiles and stock, \$8800, small insurance; buildings of Jennie B. Witham, \$800, small insurance; Mrs. Jennie Keys, \$2500, small insurance; old tannery, used as storehouse, \$1000, small insurance; residence of Angeline D. Edgerly, \$2500, small insurance; business block of Charles Dockham, where postoffice, public library and selectmen's rooms were located, \$5000, small insurance; Hutchins wood working mill, \$2000; Arthur Chase's store, \$6500; Free Baptist church, \$6000; schoolhouse, \$2000. All town records were burned.

Mrs. Jennie Keys, owner of one of the houses destroyed, was awakened about midnight and put out a fire in the rear of her home by dousing it with a few pails of water. It was about two hours later that Mrs. Keys discovered the fire at the Osborne Price buildings, which were the first to go.

From the Price buildings the flames were swept by the high wind which prevailed and could not be checked until they reached the Suncook river. The townspeople fought the fire with buckets of water, but the flames made such rapid progress that all efforts were useless, and it was impossible to even save the contents of the residences and buildings.

It is probable that only a few of the buildings will be rebuilt, as there are practically no industries at Gilmanton Iron Works and most of those rendered homeless will locate elsewhere.

There are strong suspicions that the fire was incendiary, as it was evidently started twice and a kerosene can was found near the spot where the second blaze originated.



**Gilmanton Iron Works  
before the fire**

**Gilmanton Iron Works  
after the fire - June 1915**



**Gilmanton Iron Works  
1996**

*Photos and newspaper article courtesy  
of Gilmanton Historical Society*