

CHICKEN HOUSE IS REFUGE OF FAMILY AFTER HOME BURNS

East Kildonan People Come to Help of Mike Sobotawich And Wife

If chicken thieves had stayed away from his henhouse, Mike Sobotawich, his wife and their six children, would not now be living in the chickenhouse at the rear of the blackened ruins of their modest home at 864 Munroe avenue, East Kildonan.

Last summer the Sobotawich family owned a brood of 60 hens. Someone stole their flock last fall, another and smaller flock was procured, and this was stolen some months ago. Last Thursday afternoon, while Mr. Sobotawich was in Winnipeg trying to get some baby chicks with which to start his third flock, his house caught fire. Before the flames could be extinguished, the kitchen and all their bed clothes and spare clothing were destroyed, and most of the furniture in the living-room irreparably damaged.

While the family carried \$800 insurance on the house and \$700 on their furniture, this helped not at all when night approached and found them with no place to sleep.

The chickenhouse was cleaned out, straw and sacks, procured from neighbors and friends, were laid on the floor and the family went to bed, but not to sleep. No amount of cleaning could remove the odors that lingered after the stolen hens.

When visited by the Free Press Friday afternoon Mrs. Sobotawich had made a bed of rags on the ground on the shady side of the house for her baby and two-year-old daughter. The family is on relief and most of the groceries were destroyed by fire. While the neighbors have been unable to find them a place to live in they rallied round with food, and are sustaining the family until the next relief day rolls around and the insurance company fixes the kitchen for them.

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