

TEACHER WINS SCHOOL FIGHT

Miss Horton Held Not Guilty of Maltreating Student.

Miss Edith Horton was declared not guilty of maltreating a pupil while teaching at the Duck creek school, after a trial before Justice of the Peace William Gallagher which occupied nearly the entire day Saturday.

The case drew a large crowd which filled the corridors of the basement as well as the justice's court room in the morning. The afternoon session was held in the district court room and the room was packed. The jury was out just a little more than five minutes when it returned with a verdict in the defendant's favor.

Gerald Brings, the lad whom Miss Horton was accused of maltreating, was the principal witness of the state. He admitted making one or two defiant remarks when the teacher had slapped him and later told him to go home but claimed that he had offered no physical resistance except to ward off blows. He claimed that she struck him with a piece of kindling wood several times until it broke and that afterward she struck him over the head with a coal shovel. He said that the blows caused several large lumps to form on his head.

A younger brother of the boy and four other children corroborated his testimony as to its main points except that all of them had not seen the teacher strike him with the shovel.

Miss Horton, testifying in her own behalf, said the attitude of the lad was defiant from the time she had first corrected him for whispering and that when she slapped him he kicked at her and made other threatening moves. After she had told him to go home he continued his threatening attitude and swore at her. She picked up a piece of kindling wood and started for him and struck him several times while he tried to grab the stick. She said that after the stick broke she picked up the stove shovel but laid it down again and denied hitting the boy with it.

Three of the students backed up her statements as to what took place. A number of witnesses including the county superintendent and several school trustees were called to show Miss Horton's standing as a teacher.

Miss Horton was represented by H. C. Crippen as attorney. Rockwood Brown, as attorney for Mrs. Anna Brings, mother of the boy, assisted the county attorney in the prosecution. ***

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