

## Annals of Iowa [Sale to American Emigrant Company; Prairie Fires]

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dren's forms. With chattering teeth we are "spooned up," three in a bed, hoping to keep from freezing. It was in fact to steam and sweat until frost fringed the edges of our covering.

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IN 1862 the board of supervisors of Wright county contracted to sell to the American Emigrant Company the swamp lands belonging to the county for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. This contract was submitted to the people at the general election in 1862 for ratification and nearly all of the voters of the county voting, voted for the contract. In fact, only one vote in the entire county was against the proposition. In pursuance of the vote, deeds were executed conveying about eighteen thousand acres of land, which today must be worth not less than half a million dollars, and probably a million dollars is nearer its actual value. In those days swamp lands were not regarded as valuable. They were looked upon very much as some of our people regard franchises. However, the people of Wright county afterward recognized the enormity of their folly and after long and expensive litigation, recovered a part of the property they had so recklessly given away.—*W. J. Covil, in Webster City Freeman-Tribune, July 13, 1904.*

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PRAIRIE FIRES.—There have been prairie fires in all directions, for the past two weeks, which have done an immense amount of damage in some localities. As far as we can learn, the fire which occurred on the west side of the river, last Monday, extended for a distance of 25 miles down the river, stripping nearly every farm of its fences.—*Fort Dodge Republican, Nov. 5, 1861.*

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