

SERBIN BARBECUE
AND SCHOOL CLOSING.

The school closing and barbecue at Serbin was well attended Friday of last week. A large crowd enjoyed the deliciously prepared meat and from a financial standpoint, a neat sum was realized for the day. The closing exercises of the school, Prof. Kasper in charge, were held in the afternoon with a varied program. Fred Moerbe was the salutatorian and Mary Paulick the valedictorian of the class of eight pupils. Prof. Kasper reports that Mary made a grade of 99½ which is the highest grade ever made by any of his pupils in his years of teaching.

Rev. Hm. Schmidt, pastor at St. Paul's church, Serbin, delivered two addresses, one to the public and another to the graduates. In his address he gave some history of the emigrants who came here in 1854 to settle in this country of free and equal opportunity. They built homes, tilled the soil and helped to change this section from a grazing to a farming country. They settled here principally because there was wood for lumber and fuel, which was not found in many other places. These people by their industry and frugality toiled through the years and passed to their descendants some of the precious heritage for which the first settlers sought, freedom in church, school and religious thinking.

Rev. Schmidt said that their parochial school system prepares for consecrated, Christian citizenship and teaches the children to love their country, that it is a distinction to be an American citizen. America is indeed a free country. The Pilgrim fathers came from England to America for religious freedom. In France democracy is hanging by its heels, in Russia the promised freedom under the new rule has brought that country into a worse condition than in which it was under the czar. Women are slaying there in the coal fields. Germany will be overrun by the same principles if Providence does not take a hand.

High taxes? Taxes in England are \$75 per capita a year, in Germany, \$35, in America, \$25. This is a blessed country. God has blessed it with material and intellectual resources so that England's national wealth is now one third that of the U. S.

In our schools, he continued, the English language is stressed.

More emphasis is placed on it than on the German because English is the language of the country and we do not neglect the English. Our pupils leave prepared to enter the 8th grade of a first class high school and we encourage them to continue their studies after leaving our private schools.