all helped pave the way for the school reorganization for the communities in the county that desired to merge with the larger school districts. In compliance with the School Reorganization enabling Law, Chapter 421, Laws of Minnesota, in 1947 a School Survey Committee was formed with representatives from each of the village and town schools.

Quoting from the Final Report of the School Survey Committee submitted on November 1, 1948, regarding school districts in Polk County: “At the present time there are 210 school districts in Polk County. There are nine districts which maintain high school and 200 which maintain ungraded elementary schools. If the proposals made by the Survey Committee are approved by the voters in the areas affected, 28 districts will be eliminated, leaving nine districts maintaining high schools and 153 maintaining ungraded elementary schools.”

The report continues, “In the 1947-48 year 101 rural districts maintained their own schools. Six of them employed two teachers each, three employed three each, and the remaining 92 employed one teacher each, making a total of 113 teachers in the ungraded elementary schools. One hundred districts closed their own schools and transported their pupils to other schools. The open schools had an enrollment of 1,833 pupils, or an average of 17 pupils for every teacher employed. Enrollment varied in the one-teacher schools from 3 to 37 pupils. A total of 770 pupils were transported to other public schools from the 100 closed schools; an average of 7.7 pupils per district. In these districts the variation in the number of pupils ranged from a low of one in each of three districts to a high of 27 in one district. On the “Per Pupil Cost,” the report continues, “In the 1947-48 school year the cost of maintenance in Polk County rural schools was $189.22. In the nine high schools the average per pupil cost was $174.74, and in the latter both grade and high school pupils were included. Rural schools received an average of $77.56 per pupil from state funds, and the high schools received $81.92 per pupil. Rural schools spent an average of $111.66 per pupil received from local taxes. As may be expected, schools having a small enrollment had the highest per pupil cost. The cost per pupil varies from a low of $75.10 to a high of $647.70.”

With these facts you can see why the voters in school districts have exceeded the recommendations of the Survey Committee in hastening this latest phase of educational advancement. While some counties in northern Minnesota are fully reorganized so that every boy and girl has access by bus to a city or village high school, yet in Polk county the geography of the county makes complete reorganization of the county difficult at this time.

As a matter of historical interest, School District No. 1 at Crookston was organized in March, 1876. The eight other high schools of the county are: East Grand Forks, Fisher, Climax, Fertile, Mentor, McIntosh, Erskine, and Fosston.