Richard J. Reis was appointed County Superintendent of Schools for Polk County. The real beginning of the schools, however, came in 1876, when District No. 1 was organized at Crookston. The same year, by action of the county board, Christopher Steenerson, who now resides at Climax, this county, was duly appointed Superintendent of Schools with a salary of fifty dollars the first year. He served in that capacity until the next election, when he was chosen by the people to serve two more years. In view of the unauthorized proceedings mentioned above before the county was duly formed, and in view of the fact that Mr. Steenerson was the first person that was either appointed or elected to the office under authorized proceedings, he too, has been termed the first County Superintendent of Schools in Polk County. He served until the close of the year 1879.

The following are the first educational reports sent to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction from Polk County. They are reproduced here, as we may gather from them the first intimate knowledge of the beginnings of the Polk County schools.

COUNTY SCHOOLS IN 1877.

"Of the fourteen organized school districts in this county, seven have had school during the past year.

"District No. 1, Crookston, had four months of summer school. This district also voted bonds in the amount of $2,000 for the erection of a schoolhouse. One new schoolhouse has been built and one is in course of construction. The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod has a schoolhouse in District 4 and the North Dakota Conference one in District No. 6. Portions of this county are settled by Scandinavians, many of them coming direct from the old country, wholly unacquainted with the English language. These I have tried to assist in organizing districts and in conducting school meetings.

"A great obstacle to the progress of English education among the Scandinavians is the indifferent, and in many cases hostile, attitude toward our schools of many of the better educated among them, particularly among the clergy. These enemies of secular education have for some time been crowding the Scandinavian press with the most virulent and heedless attacks on the public schools of this country. But these enemies of the public schools are perhaps not very numerous and they have many able opponents among the more enlightened and liberal-minded Scandinavians, which probably accounts for the fact that the violent discussions of the former do not seem to have very serious effects upon the mass of the people.

"This county is increasing in population very rapidly, and we hope next year to be able to report similar progress in educational matters.—C. STEENERSON, County Superintendent."

COUNTY SCHOOLS IN 1878.

"There are in this county at present seventeen organized districts, eleven of which had school during the past year.

"Competent teachers have hitherto been very scarce, but the rapid influx of intelligent immigration has partially supplied the deficiency.

"There are only five schoolhouses in this county. One of the reasons for this neglect of erecting suitable school buildings, is the size of the districts. Many of them comprise a whole township, and in some cases districts are twelve miles in length, these having been organized by the first settlers who took the timbered claims along the streams. Some of the inhabitants of such districts are in favor of dividing the district; others think it wiser to build two or three schoolhouses in one district and others think that one good school is all they can afford, but they cannot agree on the location. Many of the residents of the county have settled on railroad lands which are not yet in the market, and the settlers feel unsafe to incur heavy expenses until they can obtain title to their lands.

"The Scandinavians, who constitute the majority of the population of the county, have also parochial schools, and I think nearly all their children attend these from four to eight weeks during the year. These schools are, however, not taught in the English language and but little instruction is given in secular branches. Crookston has nearly completed its new school building, pleasantly situated, and will cost when completed nearly $4,000.—C. STEENERSON, County Superintendent; P. O. Address, Frog Point, Dakota Territory.

The year 1876 saw the formation of not only the first district in the county, but also five other districts, as follows: Districts No. 2 and No. 3, embracing East Grand Forks and some of the surrounding country; District No. 4, in Bygdland Township; District No. 5, in Hubbard Township, and District No. 6, in Vineyard Township.

Just as Miss Harriet E. Bishop, a teacher from the far-off East, came, under a commission from the Board of Popular Education, to teach the first school in Minnesota, in 1847, so came a young lady from Wiscon-