little over $1,000,000. This expenditure, while it may seem large, represents a little over $1 per acre for the lands benefited.

GOOD RESULTS OBTAINED.

The rise in farm land values from $25 per acre in 1900 to $60 and $75 per acre in 1915 is, in a large measure, due to the extensive drainage work which had been carried on during this period. Nearly all of the drainage work done in Polk County consists of open ditches. Tile drainage has just begun. The tile drains that have been constructed fully demonstrate the practicability as well as the great benefits that will result from this kind of drainage.

I am convinced that tile drainage will now supplement open ditches wherever additional drainage is required. The open ditch was necessary, not only for the purpose of removing storm water, but also to furnish an outlet for under drainage, and under drainage is necessary in order to get the greatest returns from the land. The effect of tile drainage on the lands of Polk County is just as marked as on lands in other States. A well-drained, well-cultivated farm in Polk County should give fully as good returns to the farmer as the best lands of Iowa or Illinois.

SOME OF THE DITCHES CONSTRUCTED.

Among the most important county and judicial ditches are the judicial ditches numbered 1, 3, 4, and 60, and the county ditches numbered 2, 9, 12, and 66.

Judicial Ditch No. 1 is one of the largest ditches in the county. It has an average width of 50 feet, an average depth of 10 feet and is 12 miles long. It drains the northwestern part of the county. Judicial Ditch No. 3 drains the southwestern part of the county. It is 16 miles long, has an average width of 30 feet, and an average depth of 9 feet. Judicial Ditch No. 4 drains a large area in the eastern part of the county. It is 18 miles long, has an average width of 35 feet and an average depth of 8 feet. Judicial Ditch No. 60 drains the territory northeast of Crookston. It is 16 miles long, has an average width of 30 feet and depth of 8 feet.

County Ditch No. 2 drains the territory between Angus and the Red River. It is 12 miles long, has an average width of 35 feet and depth of 8 feet. County Ditch No. 9 drains the territory south of Russia village extending west to Sand Hill River. It is 11 miles long, 30 feet wide and 7 feet deep. County Ditch No. 12 drains the territory north and west of Beltrami. It is 16 miles long, 26 feet wide and 7 feet deep. County Ditch No. 66 drains a large area north and northeast of Crookston. It is 8 miles long, 25 feet wide and 6 feet deep.

State Ditches numbered 6, 23, and 61 are in Polk County. No. 6 is known as the Sand Hill River Ditch. It is 12 miles long, 6 to 8 feet deep and 40 feet wide. No. 23, known as the Grand Marais State Ditch, is 5 miles long, from 5 to 15 feet deep, and 40 feet wide. It consists of opening the outlet of this old river bed. No. 60, known as Lost River State Ditch, and is an improvement consisting of opening up and straightening the channel of Lost River. It is 21 miles long, from 5 to 8 feet deep and 36 feet wide.

The work done by the Drainage Commission is and has been of incalculable value, especially to the lands on the west side of Polk County. The reclamation of so many thousands of acres of these lands from watery and swampy conditions, forbidding cultivation, to areas of fine, fertile, and highly productive fields, has been a work of the greatest benefit to the county, the region, and the State. In its scientific character it is a very rare and unsurpassed piece of drainage engineering, and the best proof of this assertion is that the ditches have done the work assigned to them and expected of them. In some instances the sandy nature of the soil forming the sides and bottom of the ditch has been responsible for its washing away and its enlargement, but there is no danger of destruction, or even great damage from this cause. The damages to the entire ditch system will not be serious or consequential; the benefits from the great enterprise will be magnificent and perpetual.