having decided to move to the Red River Valley, and Elias was eager to follow Greeley's advice to "go West and grow up with the country."

In September, 1876, he started for the Red River Valley with a team and a covered wagon, several head of horses, cattle, and sheep, belonging to his father, who had taken a homestead in the town of Vineland in 1875, and who was establishing a new home in the west where all his sons and daughters could become land owners if they wished to. He arrived at Sand Hill River, town of Vineland, November 3, 1876, after a six weeks' journey in the then modern prairie schooner. Few men are more intimately identified with the settlement and development of Polk county than the subject of this sketch.

In the winter of 1876-1877 he taught school in District No. 5, Polk county, a territory embracing nearly two townships. The school was held at the homes of the scattered settlers along the Red river, between Marsh and Sand Hill rivers, at periods of two weeks at each place, so as to get all children of school age enrolled.

He applied to purchase the east half of the southeast quarter and the east half of the northeast quarter, section twenty-five, township one hundred forty-eight, range forty-nine, from the railroad company, and also pre-empted the southeast quarter, section six, township one hundred forty-seven, range forty-eight. He secured the title to these lands by purchase from the railroad company and by homestead from the Government. He still owns these lands and takes pride in the fact that there is no mortgage on them. He has added some to this acreage, and through a renter farms six hundred acres near Climax; he calls his farm Walhalla.

In 1879 he was selling machinery in Caledonia, North Dakota, and in 1880 in Grand Forks. In 1881 he established himself with his brother as the firm of Steenerson Brothers at Fisher and Crookston, dealing in Walter A. Wood's harvesting and other machinery. He claims the distinction of selling and delivering the first twine binder in Polk county. The firm distributed forty-two twine binders from Fisher, and forty from Crookston in that year. The same year the firm opened a general store at Fisher. He was mayor and postmaster of Fisher for several years.

In 1887 the firm retired from machinery and mercantile business and our subject moved to Crookston, where he opened a real estate and insurance office, devoting a large portion of his time to farm insurance, which carried him all over the county and gave him an intimate acquaintance with the farmers such as few others enjoy.

He has been identified with the farmers' movement in many ways. In 1892 he instituted the famous Steenerson Grain Rate Case which established the principal of State control of Railways. He has been delegate to various farmers' and marketing conventions. He helped to create the sentiment which brought about legislation for the Railway and Ware House Commission; for grain inspection and grading; for the reclaiming of swamp and overflow lands by a system of state drainage; and for extending the College of Agriculture by establishing branch agricultural schools throughout the state as part of the University—in particular in the Northwest School of Agriculture, located at Crookston. He is an advocate of placing boards of trade and chambers of commerce under control of the state.

In 1900 he traveled over the Northwest as special agent for the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company. In 1901 he was interested in lumbering near Blackduck, Beltrami county, and furnished the lumber that built the first houses in that village. In 1904 he was appointed postmaster at Crookston by President Roosevelt, and was re-appointed in 1909 and served with distinction until succeeded by a Democrat, in July, 1913. During his incumbency the Crookston postoffice was raised to a high standard of efficiency and cleanliness. The rural delivery system was increased from two carriers to six, giving service to within a mile of every farmer within a radius of sixteen miles from Crookston. A Federal building was built during his term, the furnishing of which