killing and scalping seven Sioux. He was a Red Laker and his name was given to the lake on which he lived, and which is a dozen miles south of Red Lake and is the source of Black Duck River. In recent years a railroad station on the Minnesota & International was established near the lake and a town laid out called Black Duck. The Sioux, too, retreated during the night, and thus there was a military spectacle, often seen where white men’s armies were the actors, of two hostile forces running away from each other after a battle. The Sioux soon returned and cared for their dead and sent scouts after the Chippewas without results.

It would not be practicable to detail all of the battles and other hostile and sanguinary encounters between the Chippewas and the Sioux while they were fighting for the control of the Red River Valley and the rest of the country embraced within the northern part of Minnesota. The narration of these incidents which occurred in other counties belongs in the histories of those counties. Except those here mentioned, it must be said regarding the old Indian fights which took place in what is now Polk County, that no reliable data regarding them can be found by the present writer. Plenty of mention is made of fights and hostile campaigns made in the valley by the two tribes, but no dates can be fixed when they occurred, and no localities determined; nor can it be stated positively and under conviction that these affairs took place within Polk County, and therefore belong solely to this history. Doubtless there was many an Indian fight in Polk County which will never be noted. Yet the history of the county will not suffer by such an omission, for, really, three-fourths of the fights between hostile bands of the Sioux and the Chippewas in Minnesota were inconsequential, and of no more importance than the combats between packs of ravenous wolves on the prairies in the days long gone by. The incidents here narrated are derived, in by far the greater part, from Warren’s History of the Minnesota Chippewas; and Warren’s presentations are based upon the statements made to him by the renowned Chippewa chieftain and warrior, Esh-ke-bug-e-coshe, or Flat Mouth.

AN OLD-TIME INDIAN BATTLE ON RED LAKE.

It may be well, however, to give one tradition of a great Sioux-Chippewa battle which is said to have occurred at some time between 1785 and 1800 on the east side of Upper Red Lake. There is no written record of the affair that the compiler can find; and the only evidence that there was such an affair is the testimony of Indians or mixed bloods long since dead, and such testimony is almost altogether legendary or traditional. And yet this evidence is not to be altogether disregarded or despised, when the character of the testimony and of those delivering it is considered. Writing to the compiler under date of January 8, 1916, Hon. Wm. Watts, than whom there is no one more interested in or a better authority upon early Polk County history, says:

“After being driven from this part of the Red River Valley, the Sioux made several attempts to recover it, until they were finally defeated in a great battle by the Chippewas on the east side of Upper Red Lake. I have never seen a description of that battle. * * * “I do not think this was a battle identical with that described as taking place on Thief River when the Sioux band hid themselves, etc. Battle River, which flows into Upper Red Lake from the east, is said to get its name from being near or on the site of this battle. I have heard it frequently spoken of, but cannot get anything like a definite description of it.

“According to what I have heard it was fought about 125 years ago, and was the last great battle between the two tribes in northwestern Minnesota. I have heard that Pierre Bottineau frequently told of what he had learned about it from participants. The story is that it was a very bloody battle and that the Chippewas were victorious. I think Paul Beaulieu, of Mahnomen, Minn., would be able to give the traditional account. The father of Moose Dung, the latter a signer of the ‘Old Crossing treaty’ of 1863, was one of the Chippewa chiefs engaged in the battle, and Moose Dung often told what he had heard about it.’’

Neither Warren’s History of the Chippewas nor Prof. Winchell’s ‘‘Aborigines of Minnesota,’’ both excellent authorities on the wars and feuds of the two tribes, make any reference whatever to the alleged