He also cultivates his brother Thomas’ old farm, thereby conducting the operations on 1,090 acres. He raises grain and live stock, producing about 18,000 bushels of wheat, oats and barley a year in nearly equal quantities and keeping 80 to 90 head of cattle regularly and fattening many head of steers for the markets every season.

In addition to his extensive farming and live stock operations Mr. Ryan carries on an active dairy business, milking 24 cows and selling cream by wholesale to the ice cream factories. He also raises horses for his own use, requiring fourteen to work his land, having three four-horse teams and keeping them busy, and he employs two men all the year round and others as he needs them. For twelve years past he has filled the office of township assessor and is still filling it, and for many years he has been the treasurer of the school district and a trustee and the treasurer of the Sacred Heart church and school in East Grand Forks. In addition, he is treasurer of the Huntsville Mutual Fire Insurance company, which does business in twenty-two townships in Polk county.

On December 27, 1899, Mr. Ryan was united in marriage with Miss Luella M. Dinnie, a native of Morrisburg, Ontario, who was brought to Grand Forks when she was two years old by her parents, John and Ellen (Schwerdefeger) Dinnie. The father was a leading contractor and builder in Grand Forks and mayor of that city for eight years in the nineties. He died there in December, 1910, and his widow is still living there, Mrs. Ryan being the only member of the family residing in this county. She and her husband are the parents of two children, Mary Louise and Charles John. Mr. Ryan is administrator of his brother Thomas’ estate and guardian of his children, and they also have their home with him and his family.

THOMAS BARLOW WALKER.

Many events, seemingly unimportant in themselves and some of them even accidental on surface appearances, have contributed largely to the rapid settlement and development of Polk county since its great virgin natural resources and vast industrial and commercial possibilities were first seen and made known by a few master minds. Like Caesar, in his campaign in Asia Minor, these men of broad vision and daring nerve could claim they came, they saw, they conquered; but, unlike him, they did not subjugate peoples and put them under the yoke of a foreign government. They subdued only the wild forces of nature and helped to turn the enormous wealth those forces held in useless thrall into marketable shape and make it serviceable on a gigantic scale to the children of men.

One of these events, to which no special importance was attached at the time, even by the chief actor in it, was the arrival in this region of Thomas Barlow Walker, of Minneapolis, as a member of a United States surveying party. Mr. Walker, who now enjoys world-wide renown, was then in the dawn of his manhood and unknown to fame. But he had the forces of giant creative and productive genius slumbering within him and only waiting for a proper occasion to awaken them and call them into action. He was born, reared and educated in Ohio, had taught a district school in that state, and had then come into the northwest as a traveling salesman of grindstones, wooden bowls and wagon wheel spokes.

Mr. Walker’s engagement as a surveyor occupied him only a part of each year, but he continued in it for a long time, and during his connection with the party he helped to survey a considerable part of Northern and Western Minnesota and divide it into townships and sections. His experience in this work proved to be of great advantage to himself and the country in general in business lines, and it was of special benefit to Polk county and the upper Red river valley in helping to open up the country to settlement and prepare the way for the great industrial and agricultural development that has since been wrought out in the region.

In his work as a surveyor Mr. Walker acquired