ceeding in doing so. For two years he lived in a dug-out in the hills, and worked for other settlers, as he had very little money. At the end of two years he put up a little log cabin, and in that the family lived until 1913, when the present dwelling house was built, the fine barn on the place having been erected earlier.

Mr. Spokely bought eighty acres of railroad land adjoining his homestead, with a rebate provision for $2.50 an acre when he should have sixty acres plowed, and an allowance of fifty cents more for every acre seeded in grain. He came to this county from Houston county with a yoke of oxen, and with these he broke up most of his land. He also sold cord wood to the settlers on the prairie. For a time the hardships and privations of his life in this country made him long earnestly to return to his native land, but it was long before he had the means to gratify his wish in this respect, and by the time he got it he was over his longing and well satisfied here.

At times Mr. Spokely worked in the lumber woods, where the labor was very hard but the wages were good, and after coming to Polk county he was employed on Red river boats going to Winnipeg and back. But in time he became a prosperous farmer and devoted his whole time to the cultivation of his land. For years he raised grain principally, but about ten years ago he began to give up a great deal of ground to potatoes, being the first man in his part of the county to raise them on a large scale. He devotes 50 to 100 acres a year to this product and it forms his leading crop. He usually sells his potatoes as he digs them.

Mr. Spokely has taken a great interest in school matters. He served as school treasurer of his district as long as he was willing to hold the office. In 1870 he was married in Houston county to Miss Gunvor Simon, and they had one child when they came to Polk county. Eleven were added to their offspring later, and of the twelve six are living: Albert, of Neilsville; Julius, of Crookston; Adolph, his twin brother, of Fargo; Alexander, of Neilsville, and Annie and Sophia, at home. Julia, Theresa and Mollie died in young womanhood and the other three in childhood.

In religious connection Mr. Spokely belongs to the United Lutheran church at Neilsville, but he was one of the organizers of the Conference church at Neby. One year after his arrival in the United States his father, Salva Olso Spokely, came over and took a homestead in this county, on which he died at the age of sixty-six. Gulik's brother Ole also took up a tree claim on the prairie and passed the remainder of his days on it, dying when he was about fifty years old.

W. G. MURPHY.

It is not the purpose of this work to give a complete narrative of the life of Mr. Murphy. But his fruitful connection with the early history and development of this region, especially with the development of the water powers along the Red Lake River have been so potential for good to this community that they are deserving of special mention in a work devoted exclusively to Polk county. Indeed so productive of large consequences have his activities been that no history of the county could be written without some account of them.

Mr. Murphy was born in Hudson, St. Croix county, Wisconsin, July 23, 1859. Shortly after his birth his parents moved to a farm in Troy and later to a farm in Hammond. It was on this farm in Hammond that he chiefly spent his boyhood. He was educated in the country schools of the neighborhood and at Notre Dame, Indiana, and the University of Wisconsin.

He went to Grand Forks in 1880 almost immediately after taking his degree from the law school and opened a law office. He had practiced law but a short time when the opportunity was presented him of taking over the Grand Forks "Plain Dealer." He took control of the paper and applied himself to the management with such energy that he soon had it in prosperous condition. It became a political power and wielded