a strong influence in determining the territorial elections. A subsidiary book-binding and job-office establishment was built up with the newspaper and proved remarkably successful. Record books for the use of government clerks were prepared with exceptional care and the results were not slow in vindicating the pains which had been expended. Competition was practically driven out of the field. Mr. Murphy's legal experience was invaluable to him in the preparation of these books which would have been worthless had any technical errors been permitted to creep into them.

It was about this time that he became affiliated with the Gas Company in Grand Forks. He sold out the "Plain Dealer" in 1889 and then took complete control of the Gas Company. He improved it and developed it with such success that he was enabled to dispose of it at a handsome figure in 1910.

In 1890 Mr. Murphy bought the controlling interest in the Crookston Water Works, Power & Light Company, Crookston, Minnesota. At that time the company was in the near state of bankruptcy. The machinery was delapidated and outgrown and the buildings ready to tumble down. Instead of trying to repair them he decided to rebuild the plant entirely in a new place, which was accomplished in 1892 at a considerable cost. At that time Mr. Murphy lived in Minneapolis but visited Crookston at least once a month. After the completion of the building operations, he set about to increase the market for water and electric service even to the extent of giving consumers free installation of service. This policy was continued for several years until the business was built up to the extent that it would compare favorably with the most improved plants of its kind. In 1898 he sent representatives East to investigate the new system of central station steam heating and after receiving a favorable report from the representatives, he decided to install such a plant in Crookston in connection with the steam reserve necessary for the water works and electric light plant. This was a new innovation and of great benefit to the community, giving as it did heat on tap at any time of the day or night to the business portion of the city.

In 1905 Mr. Murphy started to look up suitable locations on the Red Lake River between Thief River Falls and Crookston for the construction of dams and water powers and in subsequent years acquired title to several locations including the dam, water power and electric light plant at Red Lake Falls. Several of the water powers, including the Red Lake Falls Water Power & Electric Light plant was sold at the same time as the Grand Forks Gas & Electric Company but he still retained title to several others. In 1912 he began operations to construct a dam and water power five miles east of Crookston. This plant was completed and put in operation in the spring of 1914, having a capacity of 3000 H.P., part of which has been sold to the Crookston Water Wks. Pr. & Lt. Co. and the balance over a transmission line to the Red River Power Company of Grand Forks.

These activities in Polk county have been an important factor in its development. The high class of service furnished the City of Crookston has been much commented on. It has made Crookston a better place to live in because of it. Mr. Murphy's foresight in developing latent water powers along the Red Lake River has effectively benefited a large number of the residents of the county. The land values in the neighborhood of the completed development five miles east of Crookston has increased the price of the land probably as much as $10 per acre and besides the farming community adjacent to the dam and transmission line are enabled to receive electric power and light service the same as the people living in the city.

Mr. Murphy has made a lasting impression on the life of Crookston and Polk county that will survive for generations to come.

In 1891 he went to Chicago intending to take a short rest before going to New York where he expected to resume the practice of law. Mr. Lowry, of this city, who had heard of him through Senator Pierce, met him in Chicago with a proposition that he take charge of the business affairs of The Tribune. Mr. Murphy