COMPENDIUM OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY OF POLK COUNTY


E. M. WALSH'S REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER LIFE IN POLK COUNTY.

Edmund M. Walsh will always be fairly distinguished for his prominent connection with the early history of Crookston and Polk County. He came here when but 20 years of age. His personal sketch, which appears elsewhere, shows that he was born in New York State in 1851, and when six years of age was brought by his parents to Henderson, Sibley County, Minn., where he was reared to young manhood. In 1870 he took charge of his father's general store at Henderson, but closed it the following year and set out for the Red River Valley, which became the future scene of his successful operations.

At the time Mr. Walsh left Henderson the old St. Paul & Pacific Railway Company was operating its line at that time from St. Paul to Willmar, and constructing the balance of the line to Breckenridge. A four-horse stage line was running from Willmar to Fort Garry and carrying passengers, express, and mail, and the freighting was done by Red River carts drawn by Indian ponies and oxen, one pony or ox being harnessed to each cart; sometimes there were