warrant under which the publishers have undertaken the work.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY.

Preliminary to the general historical features of this work, the writer desires to call the attention of the reader to certain conditions, physical and otherwise, peculiar to Polk County and differing vastly from those found elsewhere in the Red River Valley. If one hundred residents of this county were questioned as to the location of Polk County, one hundred would answer, "In the Red River Valley," and not one would give the correct answer.

Polk County is geographically centrally located more largely and particularly in the valley of the Red Lake River, than in the valley of the Red River of the North. Red Lake River is the outlet of Red Lake, the largest body of fresh water within the boundaries of any one of the United States of America. This lake is located centrally in a basin of about two million acres in the northwestern part of Minnesota, having a large number of small rivers entering the lake from various directions, and but one outlet, the Red Lake River. Red Lake River receives, in addition, the flow of two important rivers: the Clearwater, coming from the southeast and joining Red Lake River at Red Lake Falls, and the Thief River, coming from the north and joining the Red Lake River at Thief River Falls.

The natural physical conditions of the Red Lake River Valley have no harmony with the conditions of the Red River of the North. Red Lake River, after reaching the prairie at Red Lake Falls, has a continuous average fall of four feet per mile, to within a few miles of Grand Forks. The Red River of the North, as shown by the records accepted as correct, has an average of only a major fraction of a one-foot incline per mile from Breenridge to St. Vincent. A rapid current clarifies the stream, while a slow one tends to a sluggish and unwholesome condition.

The occasional floods that have occurred in the Red River are mentioned in the "History of the Red River Valley," published in 1909, as follows: "These floods attain a height of only a few feet below the level of the adjoining prairie where that is highest, and along the greater part of the distance between Fargo and Winnipeg, the banks are overflowed and the flat land on each side of the river to a distance of two to four miles from it, is covered with water one to five or more feet in depth."

Compare the above with the conditions found in the valley of the Red Lake River. The Red Lake River flows through a well-defined valley ranging from one-quarter to three-quarters of a mile wide—from the prairie level on one side to that on the other. At Crookston the width is fully three-quarters of a mile. The business part and three-fourths of the residence portion of the city are located between these banks, upon the table lands somewhat peculiar to this river. These table lands vary in height, and generally slope gradually toward the river. The lowest portion of the city has a few residences which have been troubled with the high waters, as had been anticipated at the time of building. The highest water known in Crookston has not risen to a point within twenty feet of the prairie level.

For thirty years the pine logs cut upon the Red Lake Indian Reservation were floated down the Red Lake River to the T. B. Walker sawmill, at Crookston, and manufactured into lumber to be distributed through the Red River Valley for building purposes, furnishing employment to one hundred or more men during the process of manufacture.

The first dam in Crookston was built in the early eighties, and later rebuilt by the Crookston Waterworks, Power & Light Company. The power obtained from this dam was used for furnishing light, water, and power for the city. During the past year the Crookston Waterworks, Power & Light Company have, by the addition of another and much larger dam, reharnessed the water power of the Red Lake River, giving it a capacity for service many times greater than before. This company has a wire already running from their power plant near Crookston to Grand Forks, which will soon be in service furnishing power to that city. Arrangements have also been made for