Compendium of History and Biography of Polk County

87 thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). This plant is being run at capacity (500 barrels per day) the year around and employs twenty-five men. The value of the Crookston Milling Company’s products aggregates one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) annually. The Bridgeman-Russell Company manufacture at its local plant over one million pounds of butter each year. Among the other manufacturing industries of the city are numbered bakers, two; blank book manufacturers and binders, one; bottlers, two; box and tank manufacturer, one; brewery, one; brick and tile, two; cereal, one; cigar manufacturers, four; foundries, machinists, and boiler makers, three; ice cream and confection manufactures, five; machinery manufacturers, two; marble and granite works, two; printers, four; sash and door manufacturers, two; sign and motor car enameling works, one; silo manufacturer, one; tannery, one; tent and awning, one; upholsterers’ tow, one; wagons and sleighs, two. The city also has two substantial wholesale grocery houses and three grain elevators.

Crookston is fortunate in having a big supply of water power (electrical). This is derived from the Red Lake River at two points, one station situated within the city limits and the other about four miles to the east. Cheap electrical power, excellent railroad facilities, and plenty of labor at reasonable wages make Crookston a desirable location for manufacturing industries.

Crookston City Schools.

One of the chief problems to solve in any community is the provision of adequate educational facilities for its young people. Crookston believes that every child within its borders is entitled to a school environment which is conducive to its highest development, mentally, morally, and physically. One will be convinced of this fact by a visit to the new $150,000 Central High School, with its equipment for all departments of secondary education, which are in the hands of well trained and experienced instructors, and also note that another $150,000 is invested in five grade buildings located in various sections of the city, which care for the pupils below the seventh grades.

The upper grades are organized on the junior-senior high school plan, which is now being followed in all the leading schools. Beginning with the seventh grade, three courses are offered—academic, industrial, and commercial, which afford the boy or girl an opportunity to select what will be of the greatest value to him or her, if it be not possible to complete the high school course. Other advantages are that promotion is made by subject instead of by grade, thus bridging over the gap between the eighth grade and the high school, which previously was the means of preventing many from continuing their work in the higher grades. In the Crookston schools last year only eleven per cent did not enter the senior high school from the eighth grade.

The Senior High School is directed by a principal who has sixteen assistants. Complete courses are offered in the following: Academic subjects, teacher training, commercial, industrial, art, and public speaking. Specialists in music and drawing supervise these subjects throughout the entire system.

The following statistics will be of interest as indicating the extensiveness of our school system: Total enrollment is as follows: Senior High School, 300; Junior High School, 250; grades below the sixth, 850. Fifty persons are on the faculty, whose annual salaries amount to $35,000. Adding to this money paid for janitor and office help, the total salary schedule for the year amounts to nearly $45,000. School property is valued as follows: Grounds, $35,000; buildings, $300,000; furnishings, $10,000; equipment, $5,200, or a total of $350,000.

Other Schools.

In addition to the public schools, Crookston has also the Cathedral School, providing various grade work and full high-school courses. The high-school enrollment is forty and the grades one hundred sixty. The school is under the superintendence of the Bishop and directed by a principal who has eight assistants of the Sisters of St. Benedict, of Duluth.