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The MALLEABLE Range
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Red Cloud, Nebraska

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Issues Statement on Redistricting Schools

State Superintendent W. H. Clemmons has issued the following suggestions to county redistricting committee and interpretation of the school redistricting law passed by the last legislature, according to the State Journal:

At all times keep in mind the education of the child.

Two things are absolutely necessary for a good school: 1. Number of children in the school district. 2. Physical valuation of the property for the maintenance of the school.

The committee should meet and discuss the best plans of procedure, bearing in mind the following points:

1. The topography of the country.
2. The physical valuation of the property.
3. The feasible transportation routes.
4. The proper location of school sites.

Make a map of the country after studying the physical features of the county and decide on the number of districts needed to meet the school needs of the county.

Comply to the letter of the law as nearly as possible as regards the size of the district, the boundary lines and the proposed school site.

Investigate county conditions before putting out your redistricting map.

Set a time for hearing all appeals. Discuss the matter but little—let your good judgment be in the lead at all times.

Keep an exact record of all your proceedings and give careful and courteous attention to all complaints.

Make final drafts of redistricting maps and distribute properly.

Don't forget the child and the future welfare of the community.

Seek co-operation at all times in your dealings.

Number your districts as follows: consolidated district No. 1, consolidated district No. 2, etc.

Carrying out the wishes of the redistricting conference, the department of education is sending out in condensed form the opinions of the deputy attorney general relative to the redistricting law.

Opinion and law.—Mr. Ayers appeared before the conference at the request of Mr. Clemmons. He expressed himself as wanting to be understood that his opinions are not law, and that if the same questions come up in the courts, they may not necessarily hold the same views.

Potential district.—The proposed district is potential only. It will take a vote of the majority of the electors of the proposed district to make it an organized district. The committee should redistrict all the territory of the county, leaving no part as no man's land. The people will have the final say as to whether the proposed districts shall become organized districts.

Boundary lines.—As far as practicable the boundary lines should be half-section lines as stated in the law. The committee is given wide discretion. They may use section lines if in their judgment it is for the best interests of the people.

Formation of districts.—Upon the petition of 25 per cent of the voters of a proposed district (including the voters of an organized high school or consolidated district) to the county superintendent, said county superintendent shall call an election for all such voters. If a majority of all the voters in the proposed district, whether outside or within the included consolidated or organized high school district, vote favorably, such district shall become and be an organized district. The county superintendent may then give notice for an election of a school board for such district.

The 51 per cent provision.—This was evidently inserted to provide a more expeditious way of forming the proposed district into an organized district. Only the voters living outside the consolidated or high school may petition the county superintendent to be annexed to said consolidated or high school district. If 51 per cent of such voters petition to be annexed, the county superintendent shall declare such territory to be annexed, when approved by the board of the consolidated or high school district. This would in all probability be the more satisfactory way of consolidating.

Notice for appeal.—Due notice for a time of appeal should be given so that all concerned may have a hearing. The law limits time of appeal to ten days.

Numbering districts.—Any good way of numbering may be used, making sure that a distinction is made be-



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tween the proposed and the original districts.

Location of site.—It is the duty of the committee to locate the school-house site. They should use their judgment as to whether it should be in the center of the district or at a place more available to the majority

of the pupils in the district. The site should not be placed nearer than twenty rods from a dwelling unless across the road from the dwelling.

Transportation.—It is made the duty of the district to provide comfortable transportation of the pupils. It is not necessary, however, to con-

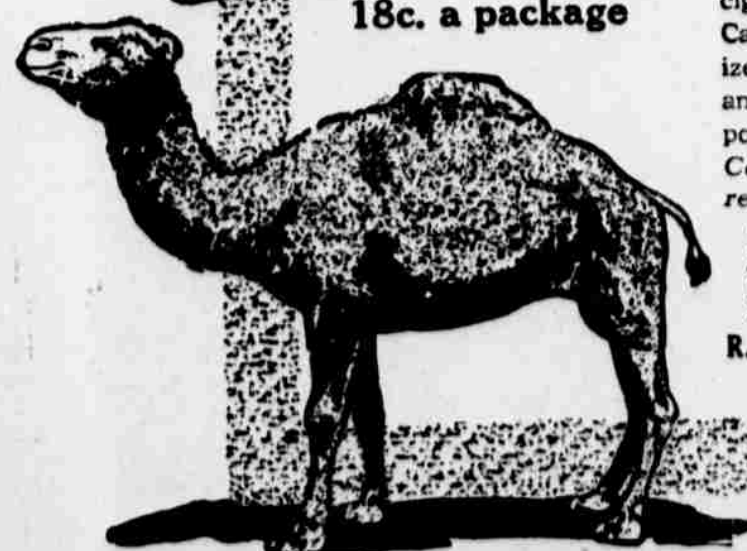
strue this clause to mean that all pupils should be transported. The school board would have the right to fix a certain distance as a limit, using reasonable judgment at all times.

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