

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

BY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT CROCKER.

Following is the Regular Annual Circular Letter to Directors

TO THE DIRECTOR:—

Annual Meeting June 26th.

New officers assume charge July 10th, and the only business that can be done legally during the period beginning June 27th and ending July 10th, is the annual settlement of the directors with the county superintendent. New officers' acceptance must be filed by July 6th.

A district treasurer selected to succeed himself must file a new bond. The treasurer's bond must be filed with the director not later than July 6th. It must be approved by the director and moderator and when approved shall be filed by the director in the office of the county clerk.

Use Pen and Ink.

The enclosed tablet of legal school forms contains all the forms needed for your annual reports.

Please read very carefully subject matter printed on the back of the tablet.

The tablet contains:

1. **4 Blank Notices of Annual School District Meeting.** (Only 3 are needed.)

2. **Appointment to Fill Vacancy.** (See Sec. 11, Sub. 5.) When a vacancy occurs, it should be filed at once and notice sent to the Co. Supt.

3. **Acceptance of Office.** (See Sec. 3, Sub. 3.)

4. **Certificate of Amount of Money Voted.** House Roll 180, which became a law March 29, 1905, reads in part as follows:

"The trustees of each school district within the state of Nebraska shall, prior to the annual school district meeting each year prepare an estimate showing the amount of money required for the maintenance of schools during the coming school year, and the legal voters at the annual school meeting each year shall determine the amount of money required for school maintenance during the coming school year. * * * The amount of money so voted as being necessary for the maintenance of the school for the coming year shall be certified by the district school board to the County Clerk of the county in which the said school district is located and said amounts shall be levied by the County Board on the assessed value of the school district and be collected as other taxes." O5 course, 25 mills is the limit. Fill out each item, then give the total. Note that estimate for payment of school bonds and interest is omitted. This matter is disposed of by the County Board and not by the school district. This tax was voted once and for all when the bonds were voted.

One copy is to be sent direct to the County Clerk and one given to the County Superintendent.

5. **District Treasurer's Bond.**

6. **Annual Report of the Director.** 2 blanks. One for the Co. Supt. and one for the director. I must not fill out certain parts of this report for you as I have in the past because this would make the tablet first class matter, necessitating an additional expense of about \$15 for postage. But if you have required your teacher (or teachers) to leave the classification record with you as the law requires, you should have no trouble in filling all blanks.

Please be sure to have every item carefully and correctly filled out. Of course, you cannot fill out the item numbered 18. Read carefully the notes (N. B.) under the words "Receipts" and "Expenditures."

On the filing page of this report, write the names of school officers and postoffice addresses for the coming year.

7. **Pupils Compelled to Attend School.** This report is to be filled out by carefully copying from your census report.

8. **Census Report of Director.** This blank should explain itself. One copy is made for the Co. Supt. and one for the director. Be sure to fill out every blank carefully. Be sure to fill out the columns headed **Section, Township, Range.** Our school census has been decreasing steadily and rapidly for the past ten years. Be sure to get the name of every person of school age in your district.

In addition to names of parents and guardians, write at the bottom of the report the names of all other **tax payers** living in the district.

In taking the census, please remember that you should not take pupils transferred from your district, but that you should enumerate pupils who are transferred to your district for school purposes.

9. **Teachers' Contracts.**

10. **Notice of Employment of Teachers.** (Three postal cards.)

As soon as you secure a teacher for your school, please let me know. Remember that you cannot legally contract with a teacher who does not hold a certificate in force.

At the time of annual settlement, you are required to make the following reports to the Co. Supt.: Certificate of Amount of Money Voted; Annual Report of the Director; Pupils Compelled to Attend School; Census Report; and Notice of School if you have employed your teacher

(or teachers). These reports must be made within ten days after the annual meeting.

Of course you know that the moderator and treasurer, as well as the director, should each have a record book and each should keep a record. (See Business Calendar, page 5, School Laws.)

NOTE.—It is well for the board to meet just before the annual meeting to settle up all business and to balance their books.

It will not do for the school officers to leave the care of the school and school property to the teachers alone. Our teachers are conscientious young people, but the teaching force changes too rapidly, and the schools change teachers too often.

Of the 152 teachers employed in the county at the time I assumed the duties of this office, less than 30 will be teaching in this county next September. 16 of our teachers have been married since school began last September. We had 33 beginning teachers last year. It seems that we shall have about 40 beginners this year. Yes, school officers should take more direct interest in the school. As it has been in the past, but few ever go near the school when it is in session. Can you not take time to look after the trees and shrubs that your pupils planted last spring? When you mow the grounds please be careful not to destroy them. Are the text and library books being taken care of this summer? If there are any repairs to be made on the school building, please do not wait until the last minute but have them done before school begins.

You should remember that the school laws require that **two separate water closets or privies** should be kept in good condition on the school premises. (See Sec. 6a Subdiv. 5.)

It is a little too early to tell definitely but it seems at present that **teachers** are going to be scarce during the coming year. I would advise that you contract as soon as you can secure a good teacher. If you have had a good teacher during the past year, don't wait for him to make an application, offer him the school again. Don't let a few dollars lose you a good teacher. You cannot pay a good teacher too much.

You know it is the duty of the school board to purchase all the **text books and supplies** necessary for the school. Sec. 1, Subdiv. 18, p. 119. Also IX Text Books, p. 181, School Laws of Neb. In a few districts the school boards do not comply with this free text book law. Please read the references I have just given. When school boards fail to comply with this free text book law it seems, according to recent decisions of the State Supt., that it becomes the duty of the Co. Supt. to apply to the district court in behalf of the district for a Writ of Mandamus, to compel the board to furnish to the children of the district, the necessary text books and supplies. If you have not been furnishing text books, you should take the matter into consideration in making your estimate of funds needed for the ensuing year.

You know we have been working during the past three years to secure **uniformity of text books** for the schools of our county. The work in our schools should be uniform. More than two-thirds of the districts have made an effort to secure uniformity of text books. Our schools should have the best text books published, especially when they cost no more than old and inferior texts. School people universally condemn Barnes' Histories, New Franklin Readers and Steele's Physiologies and still many of our schools use these old, old books. For the sake of your children and your neighbors' children, you should see that your school is in line with the majority of our schools in the county in the matter of uniform and up-to-date texts. Please urge the adoption of the list of texts recommended by the teachers of the county.

It is much better for the directors to meet the County Supt. for the annual settlement. By doing this you often save much letter writing, mistakes and delays. Please carefully notice the following:

Dates For Annual Settlement.

JUNE 27th—Barada, School House, 8 to 11 A. M.

JUNE 27th—Shubert, Hotel, 1:30 to 5 P. M.

JUNE 28th—Stella, Hotel 7 to 11 A. M.

JUNE 28th—Verdon, Hotel, 3 to 5 P. M.

JUNE 29th—Speicer, No. 65, 8 to 10 A. M.

JUNE 29th—Humboldt, Park Hotel, 1:30 to 7 P. M.

JUNE 30th—Dawson, Albright's Hotel, 8 to 11 A. M.

JUNE 30th—Salem, Hotel, 3 to 6 P. M.

JULY 3rd—Rulo, Geo. D. Kirk's office, 8:30 to 11 A. M.

JULY 5, 6th—Falls City.

Very truly yours,

GEO. CROCKER, Co. Supt.

A METHOD OF SOLVING TIME PROBLEMS.

I have used the following method of solving time questions for several years and claim for it two things, simplicity and originality. Many of the difficult time problems are hard for pupils to solve and understand.

Let w equal the degrees in the arc described by the minute hand in the required time, and t equal the time in minutes, then w equal $6t$ is a constant. Then form an expression for the arc passed by the hour hand and twice this expression always equals t .

Allow me to illustrate by some examples:

Ex. 1.—At what time between 3 and 4 o'clock will the minute hand be 5 minutes ahead of the hour hand?

Remember the constant relation w equals $6t$. Then $2(w$ minus $120)$ equals t . $12t$ minus 240 equals t . t equals 21 9-11 minutes after 3.

Ex. 2.—At what time between 5 and 6 o'clock is the minute hand midway between 12 and the hour hand?

$2(2w$ minus $150)$ equals t . $23t$ equals 300 . t equals 13 1-23 minutes past 5.

Ex. 3.—At what time between 3 and 4 o'clock will the minute hand be as far from 12 on the left side of the dial as the hour hand is on the right?

$2(270$ minus $w)$ equals t . 540 minus $2w$ equals t . $13t$ equals 540 . t equals 41 7-13 minutes after 3.

Ex. 4.—I look at my watch and find the time to be between 5 and 6 o'clock. I look again within an hour and find the hands have changed places. Find time when I first looked.

$2(360$ minus $w)$ equals t . t equals 55 5-13 minutes, time between observations. 60 minus 55 5-13 equals 4 8-13, distance between the hands. t divided by 2, plus 4 8-13 equals 32 4-13 minutes past 5.

J. W. WATSON,
Verdon, Neb.

Special Teachers' Examinations.

Special Teachers' examinations for the summer will be held in the Central school building, Falls City, June 16, and 17.

The following program of examination is given:

FIRST DAY—MORNING.

Arithmetic 8:00 to 11:30
Grammar 10:00 to 12:00

AFTERNOON.

Reading 1:00 to 2:00
Geography 2:00 to 3:30
History 3:30 to 4:30
Civics 4:00 to 5:30

SECOND DAY—MORNING.

Composition 8:00 to 9:30
Elements of Agriculture 9:00 to 10:30
Orthography 10:00 to 11:30
Theory 11:00 to 12:00

AFTERNOON.

Drawing 1:00 to 2:30
Physiology 2:00 to 3:30
Bookkeeping 3:00 to 5:30
Writing 4:00 to 5:00

Time for first grade branches will be given on examination days.

READ THE TRIBUNE—HAS LARGEST CIRCULATION